Economies of Colonial America

Using Evidence

Aim	*What made the economies of the northern, southern, and middle colonies different?*

Analysis of the Economies of the 13 Colonies

Directions: The attached graphs illustrate the **exports [goods that are produced to sell for a profit]** of each colonial region.
1. Review each graph carefully.
2. Fill out the table below each graph to gather your thoughts.
3. Use the information in the graphs to answer the analysis questions that follow.

Use the map below as reference while moving through this activity.
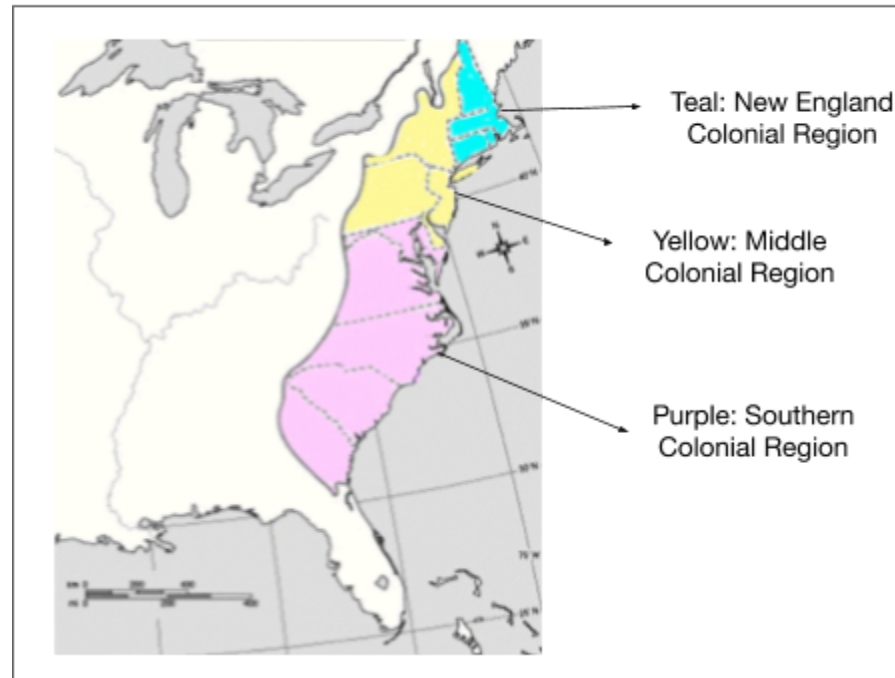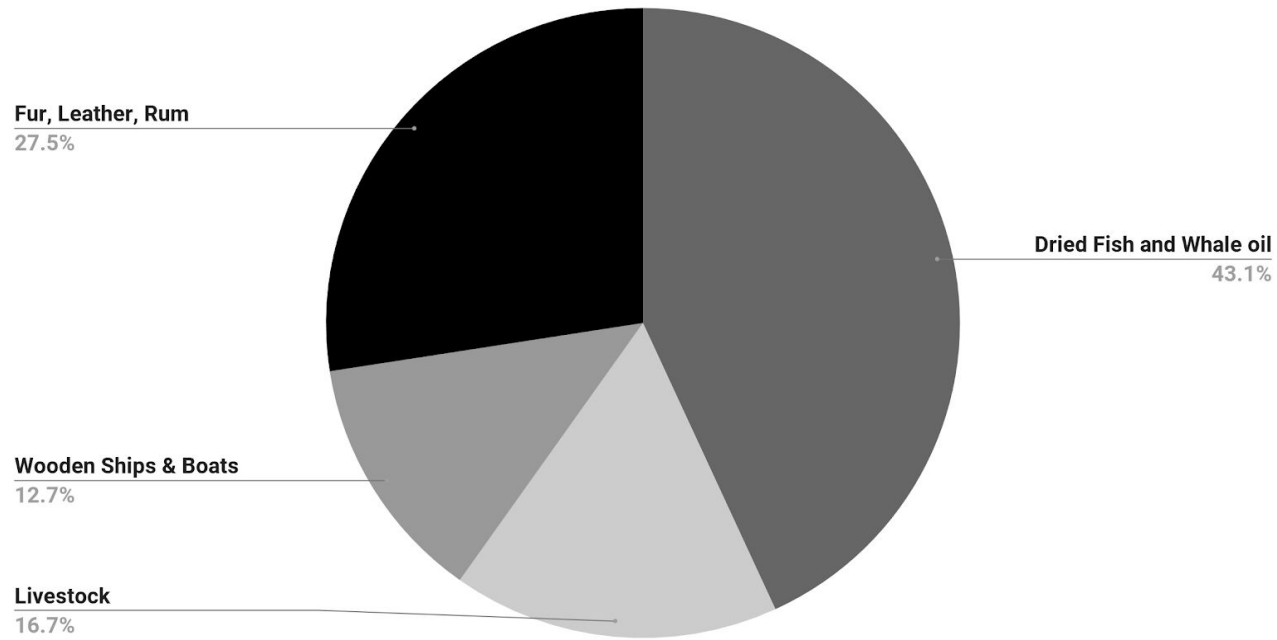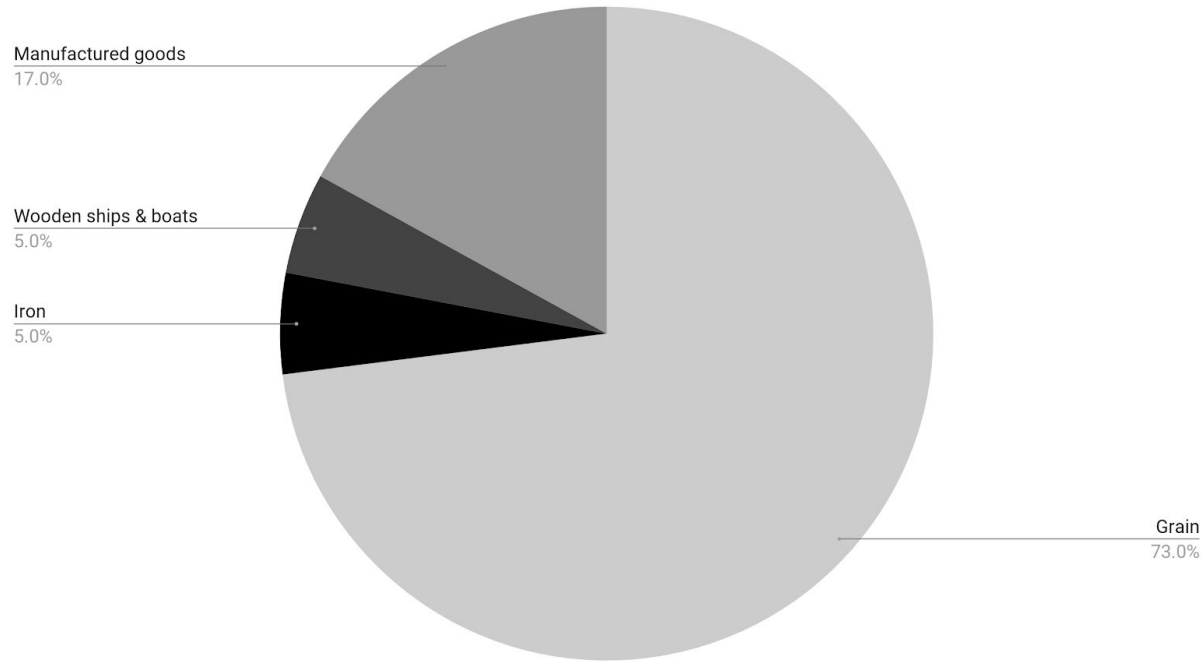
Three Colonial Regions

Teal: New England Colonial Region

Yellow: Middle Colonial Region

Purple: Southern Colonial Region

Figure 1: Exports from New England Colonies

Dried Fish and Whale oil 43.1%

Fur, Leather, Rum 27.5%

Wooden Ships & Boats 12.7%

Livestock 16.7%

* Source for data: James F Sheppard and Gary M Walton *Shipping, Maritime trade and the Economic development of colonial North America* (Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1972).

Describe: What do you see?	Question: What questions do you have?	Guess / Hypotheses: What educated guesses can you make as a result of what you see?
Jot down at least 2 observations I see…	*Jot down at least 1 question* I wonder…	*Jot down at least 2 hypotheses* Because I see_____ I think that….

Figure 2: Exports from Middle Colonies

Manufactured goods
17.0%

Wooden ships & boats
5.0%

Iron
5.0%

Grain
73.0%

* Source for data: James F Sheppard and Gary M Walton *Shipping, Maritime trade and the Economic development of colonial North America* (Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1972).

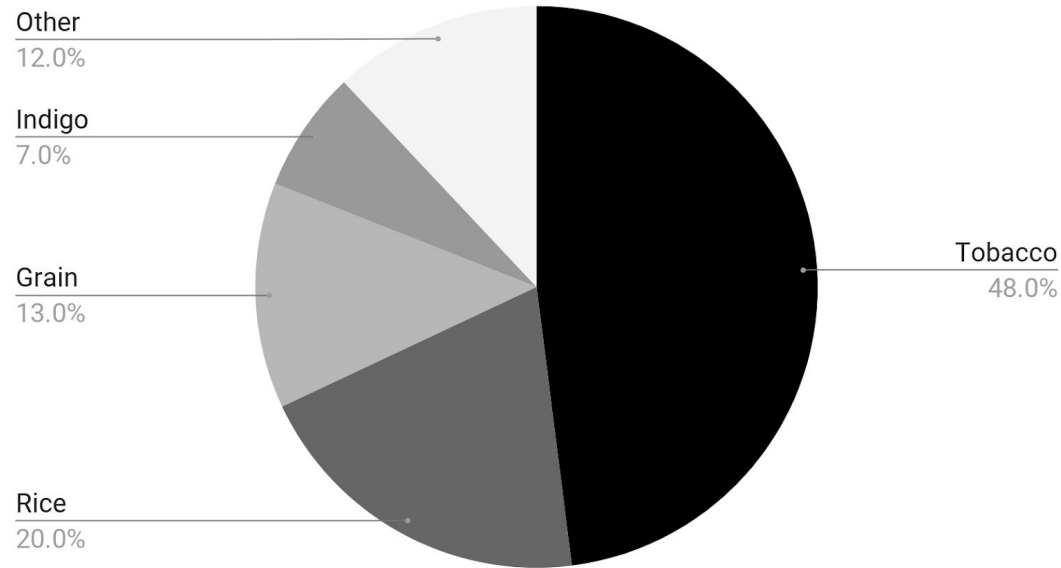| Describe: What do you see?	Question: What questions do you have?	Guess / Hypotheses: What educated guesses can you make as a result of what you see?
Jot down at least 2 observations I see…	*Jot down at least 1 question* I wonder…	*Jot down at least 2 hypotheses* Because I see_____ I think that….

Figure 3: Exports from Southern Colonies

Other
12.0%

Indigo
7.0%

Grain
13.0%

Rice
20.0%

Tobacco
48.0%

* Source for data: James F Sheppard and Gary M Walton *Shipping, Maritime trade and the Economic development of colonial North America* (Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1972).

Note: Indigo is a plant that is used to dye clothing.

Describe: What do you see?	Question: What questions do you have?	Guess / Hypotheses: What educated guesses can you make as a result of what you see?
Jot down at least 2 observations I see…	*Jot down at least 1 question* I wonder…	*Jot down at least 2 hypotheses* Because I see_____ I think that….

Analysis Questions

1) Which colonial region do you think had the most access to rivers, lakes, bays, waterways, and oceans? *Cite evidence from one graph to support your claim.*

2) Which colonial region do you think was known as the "breadbasket" of the 13 colonies (hint: bread is made from grains)? *Cite evidence from one graph to support your claim.*

3) Which colonial region do you think had the most wildlife such as bears, deer, beavers, etc.? *Cite evidence from one graph to support your claim.*

   a. What do you think the climate, environment, and geography is like in this colonial region? Why?

4) Which region had the highest percentage of exports that were agricultural (related to farming)?

   a. Keeping in mind that this region has a high percentage of agricultural exports, which word do you think would best describe this region: **rural** or **urban**? Why?

5) In order to grow cash crops such as tobacco and rice, you need year long growing seasons, including plenty of sunshine and humidity, rain filled springs and summers. Which colonial region had the highest percentage of exports of cash crops?

   a) What does that tell you about this region's environment, climate, and geography?

Matching: *Using your answers to the five questions above, and the three graphs, match the statements on the left to the colonial region it most likely describes on the right. You may match multiple statements to one colonial region.*

1. _____ Colder, longer winters   A. Middle Colonies

2. _____ Dense forests with lots of trees
                                                                          B. Southern Colonies
3. _____ Wide open plains, good for planting crops like grains

4. _____ Humid and hot summers and moist soil, best for planting cash crops   C. New England Colonies

5. _____ Rocky soil, not good for planting any crops