

Geography in the North • four distinct seasons • jagged New England coast with rocky soil • thick forests in New England • plains with rich soil in New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey • a large, forested region in the Central Plains • region is undergoing deforestation

Geography in the South • mild winters and long, hot, humid summers • fertile coastal plains with swamps and marshes • rolling hills and mountain hollows • thick pine forests in North Carolina • broad, flat rivers

Economy in the South • economy based on agriculture • Agrarians favored a way of life based on farming and policies that supported agricultural interests. • Most whites worked their own small farms. • Plantations used slaves to raise cash crops, especially cotton. • With Eli Whitney's cotton gin, cotton became the South's most important crop.

Economy of the North • center of the Industrial Revolution, the shift from hand manufacturing to machines • The economy was spurred by industrialists, people who owned large factories and other businesses based on manufacturing. • New inventions and manufacturing methods, like steam-powered engines, made goods cheaper and more plentiful. • Industrialists favored a strong national government.

Transportation in the North • The National Road connected the new western states with the East. • Steamboats made river travel faster and cheaper. • The Erie Canal linked the Central Plains to East Coast cities. • 20,000 miles of rail linked Northern factories to cities hundreds of miles away.

Transportation in the South • River travel was the main form of transportation. • Cities sprang up along waterways. • Southerners opposed federal funding for internal improvements. • In 1860, the South had 10,000 miles of rail.

Society in the South • Wealth was measured in terms of land and slaves. • a rigid social structure with rich plantation owners at the top, white farmers and workers in the middle, and blacks at the bottom • Wealthy plantation owners dominated the economy and politics. • Most white families worked their own fields. • Free blacks worked as craftspeople, servants, and laborers. • Most blacks in the South were slaves.

Society in the North • More Northerners were moving to towns and cities. • Cities lacked sewers and paved streets. • African Americans were free but not equal. • Immigrants settled in cities.