**Sample Essay on Comparing North vs. South Colonies**

"Explain how the American colonies were different in the North vs. the South"

Though the northern and southern colonies both have a similar patriarchal and hierarchical social construct, they are different in their economic structure and treatment of African Americans.

While the southern colonies base their economy on plantations and single cash crops such as tobacco, indigo and rice, the northern colonies have a more diverse economy, ranging from grinding wheat, harvesting fish, sawing lumber and making iron. This causes the south to become a rural and self sufficient society while the north becomes a urban society based on commerce and trade. The economic boom in the north was conspicuous, as the profile generated during 1640-1750 was twice as much as Great Britain, the large cities in the North lacked adequate public services - firewood and clean water hard to find and garbage was abundant.

The main purpose of the establishment and expansion of colonies were also different. While a lot of immigrants who came to the South were Joint-Stock Companies, wanting to make fast money through cash crops, most european immigrants went to the North for religious freedom, establishing new branches of Christianity.

Though both the South and North colonies did not treat African Americans as equal human beings, North’s treatment towards African Americans were slightly better. While in the South, most slaves underwent brutal and inhumane treatment; if any slave was beaten or tortured to death, no one would have batted an eye. The African Americans in the North could at least sue and be sued and had the right of appeal to the highest courts. Though they are still considered as property, and laws forbade them to gather or to carry weapons.

**What does Mr. C mean by "Evidence"?**

Chart:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | South | North |
| Economy | * Plantation * Single cash crops   + Such as **tobacco, rice, indigo and cotton** * Rural and self sufficient society | * Urban society based on commerce & trade   + **Grew twice as much as GB during 1650 -1750** * Diverse   + **Several food crops**   + **Grinding wheat, harvesting fish, sawing lumber, iron…** |
| Life in | * White farmers   + Controlled economy, political & social institutions   + Luxury life     - **Numerous balls, banquets, dance recitals and parties** | * Cities   + **Philadelphia**      - **2nd largest city after london**     - **Grid Like street plan**   + No adequate public services   + Firewood & clean water hard to find   + Garbage abundant |
| Role of women | * 2nd class citizens   + Few legal or social rights     - **Cannot vote**   + **Bowed to their husband’s will** | * Extensive work responsibilities but few legal rights   + Once married     - **Can’t enter contracts, buy/sell property, keep own wages** * Religion used to oppress women to obey * Witchcraft hysteria   + False accusations highlighted social and religious tensions   + Usually against women that are “too independent”   + **150 imprisoned** |
| Other Minorities | * Indentured servants   + Young white man traded a life of prison/poverty in Europe for a limited term of servitude in North America   + # declined & $ grew * NA   + Escape easily | * Immigrants   + **Germans, Scots-Irish, Dutch in NY, Jews…**   + Most feeling economic distress   + Some religious freedom     - Quakers’ opposition to war |
| African American | * Benefits of using AA   + lifetime , save $   + Dark skin - sign of inferiority   + Physically stronger & can work under heat * 1750 - 200,000   + 1690 - 13,000 * Slave trade   + 1690 - x3 of the white population   + Triangular trade   + Middle passage     - **Sickening cruelty**     - **Whippings, beatings, diseases**     - **20 +% died on the way** | * Treated slightly better   + **Could sue and be sued**   + **Right of appeal to the highest courts** * Though still as property   + Laws forbade them to gather or to carry weapons   + No laws to protect them from cruel treatment |