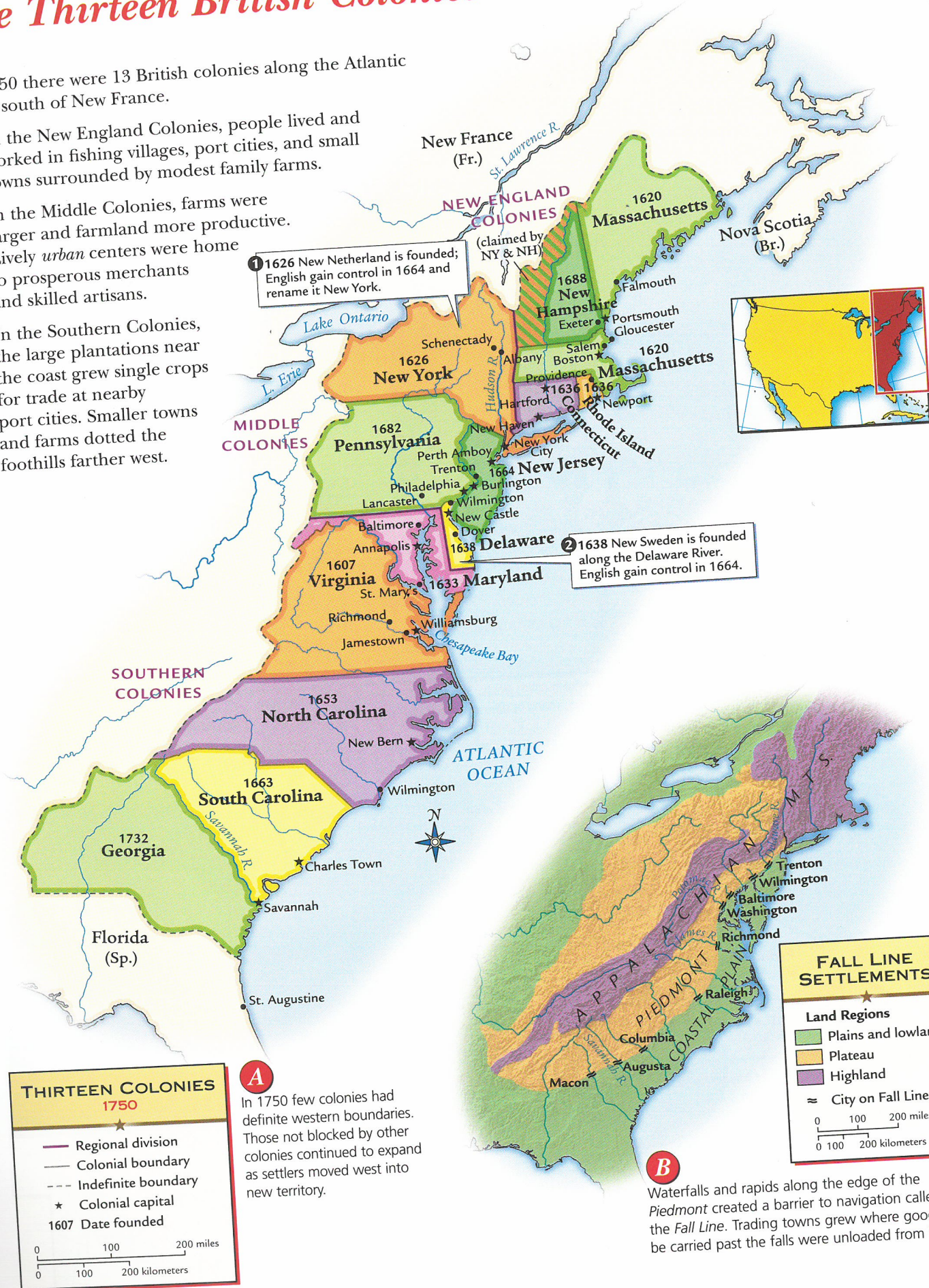


# The Thirteen British Colonies

By 1750 there were 13 British colonies along the Atlantic coast south of New France.

- ★ In the New England Colonies, people lived and worked in fishing villages, port cities, and small towns surrounded by modest family farms.
- ★ In the Middle Colonies, farms were larger and farmland more productive. Lively *urban* centers were home to prosperous merchants and skilled artisans.
- ★ In the Southern Colonies, the large plantations near the coast grew single crops for trade at nearby port cities. Smaller towns and farms dotted the foothills farther west.



1 1626 New Netherland is founded; English gain control in 1664 and rename it New York.

2 1638 New Sweden is founded along the Delaware River. English gain control in 1664.

**THIRTEEN COLONIES 1750**

- Regional division
- Colonial boundary
- - - Indefinite boundary
- ★ Colonial capital
- 1607 Date founded

0 100 200 miles  
0 100 200 kilometers

**A** In 1750 few colonies had definite western boundaries. Those not blocked by other colonies continued to expand as settlers moved west into new territory.

**FALL LINE SETTLEMENTS**

★

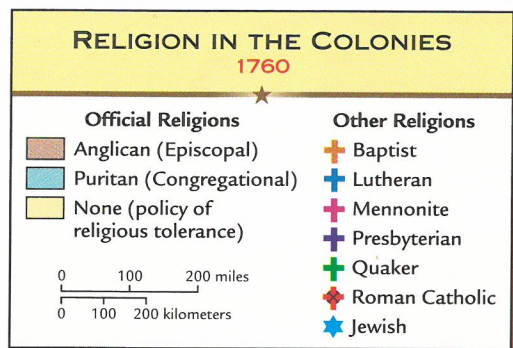
**Land Regions**

- Plains and lowland
- Plateau
- Highland

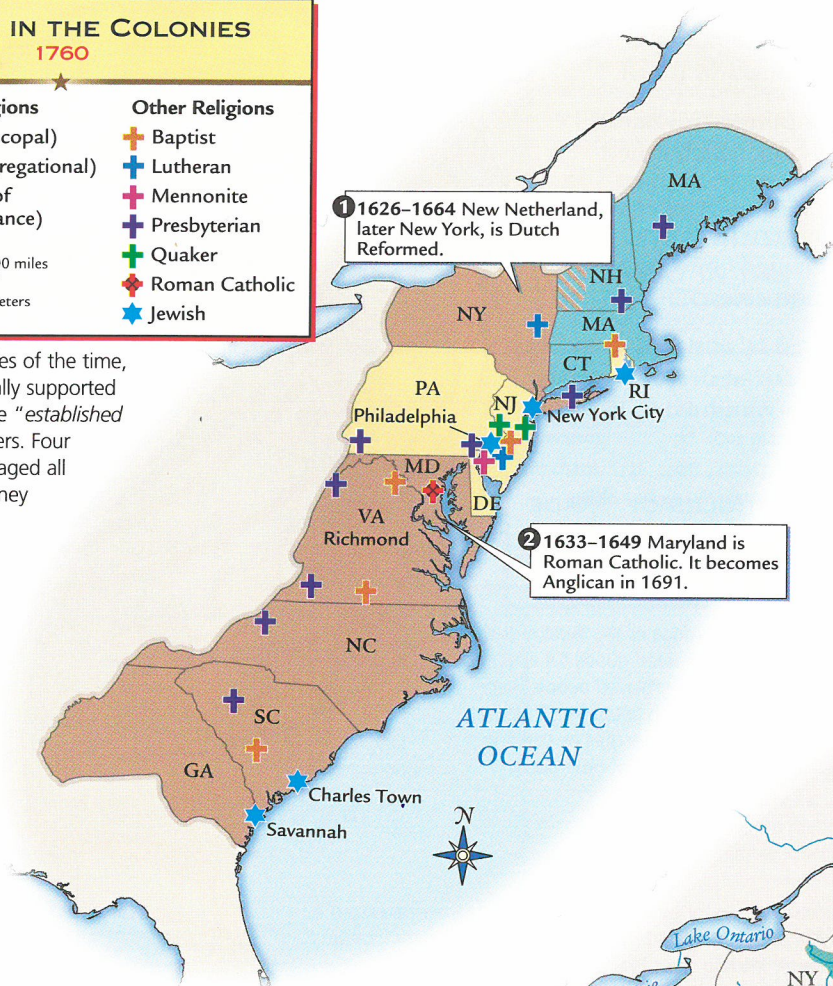
≈ City on Fall Line

0 100 200 miles  
0 100 200 kilometers

**B** Waterfalls and rapids along the edge of the Piedmont created a barrier to navigation called the *Fall Line*. Trading towns grew where goods to be carried past the falls were unloaded from boats.

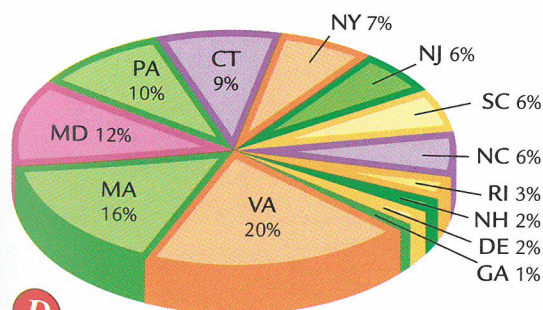


**C** Like European countries of the time, most colonies financially supported one religion, called the "established church," and not others. Four other colonies encouraged all religions but gave money to none.



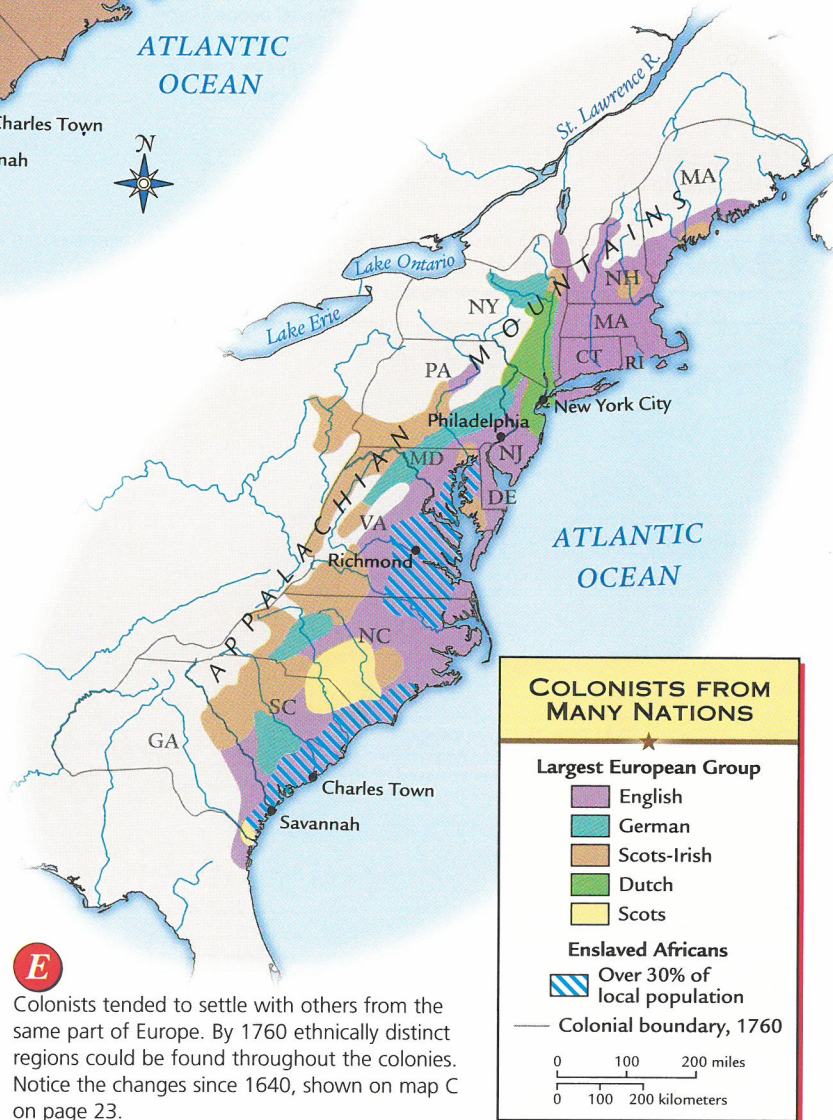
*"...foreigners of different languages have ... ventured over wide and stormy seas to come hither..."*

—PETER KALM, SWEDISH IMMIGRANT DESCRIBING PENNSYLVANIA, 1738

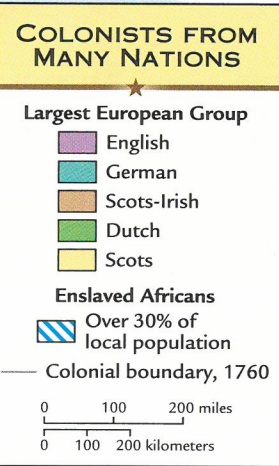


**D** POPULATION BY COLONY, 1750

By 1750 there were a million settlers and enslaved people in the 13 colonies. The two earliest colonies had the largest populations.



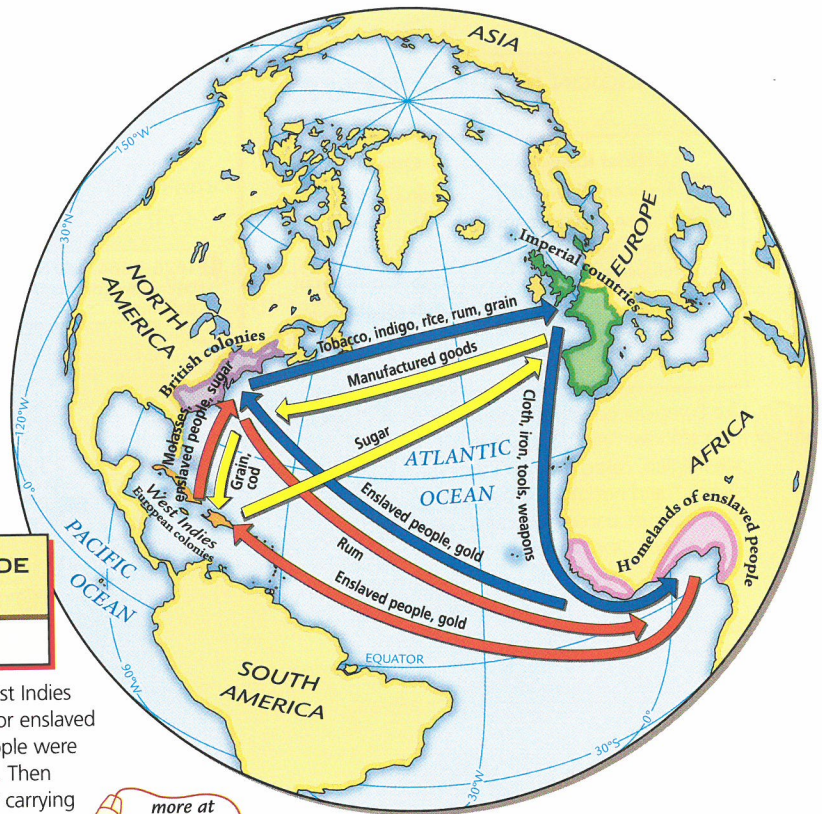
**E** Colonists tended to settle with others from the same part of Europe. By 1760 ethnically distinct regions could be found throughout the colonies. Notice the changes since 1640, shown on map C on page 23.



# Slavery in the Americas

More than 11 million Africans were sold into slavery in the Americas. Most were put to work on plantations in the West Indies and Brazil.

- ★ In North America, the Southern Colonies copied the plantation system, which relied on slave labor.
- ★ By 1760 enslaved people were held in all 13 colonies, but slavery remained concentrated on plantations and in large cities.
- ★ Although far outnumbered by enslaved people, many people of African descent gained their freedom and continued to live in the colonies.



**TRIANGLES OF TRADE**  
1505-1770

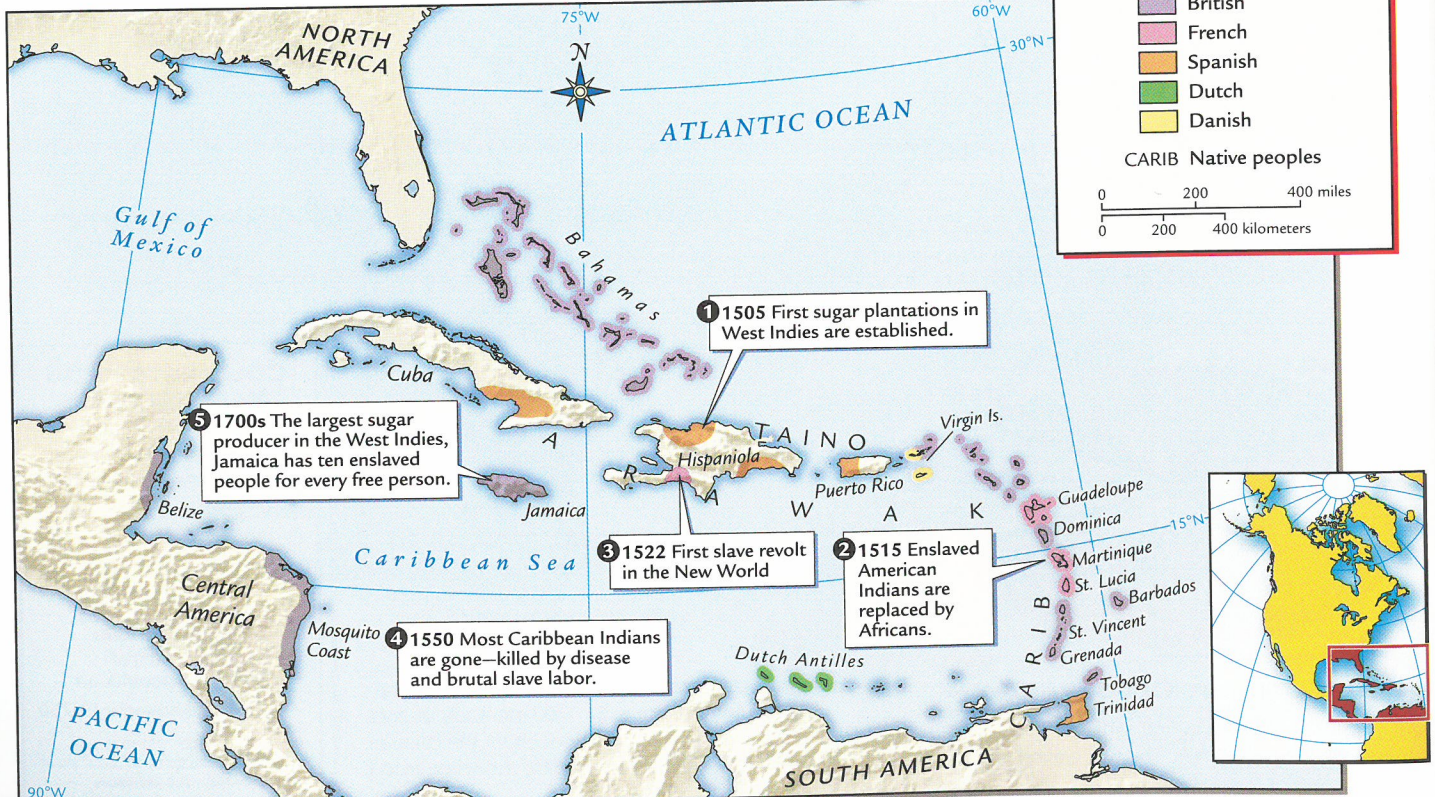
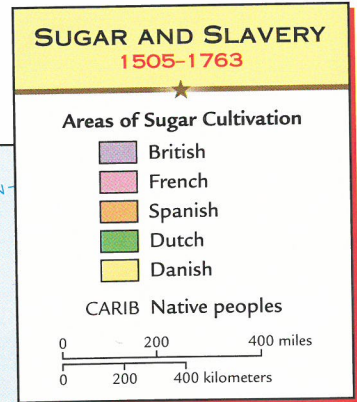
→ Trade route

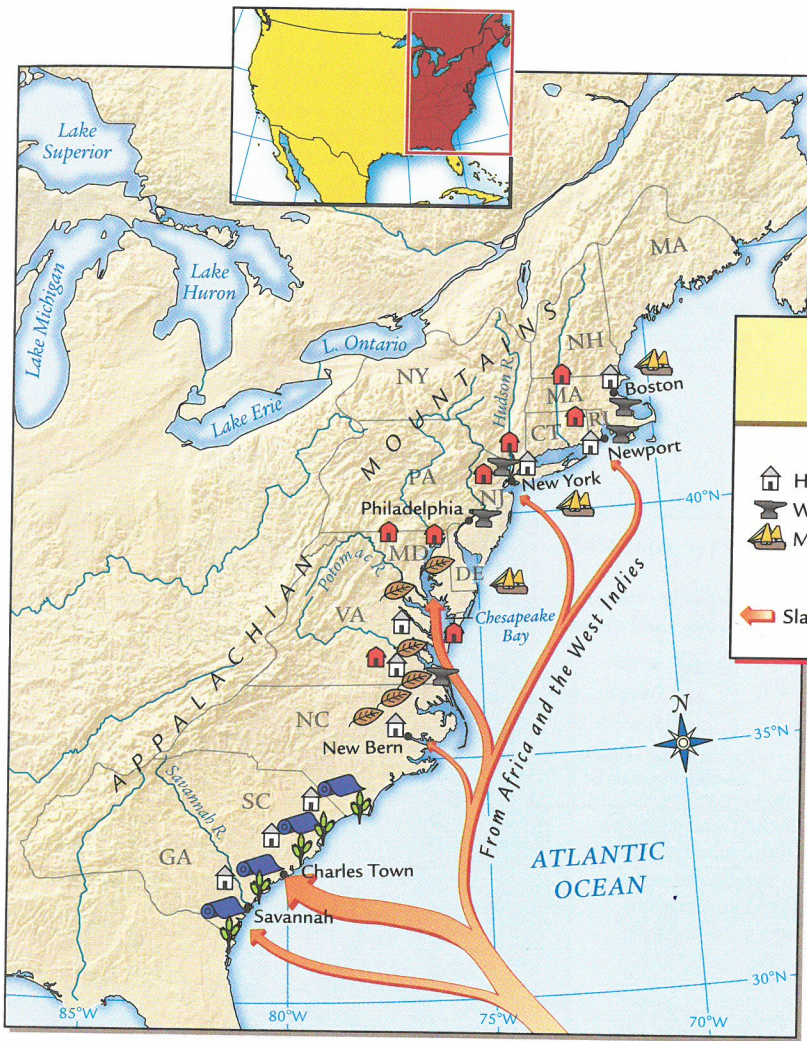
**A** Ships sailed to Africa or the West Indies to trade manufactured goods for enslaved Africans. Next the enslaved people were taken to ports near plantations. Then ships completed their routes by carrying plantation crops to their home ports.

more at [USHAAtlas.com](http://USHAAtlas.com)

**B** Enslaved people on plantations dug pits for planting sugar cane and later harvested it with large knives. Then they crushed and boiled the cane in mills where temperatures reached 140°F. Millions died after leading short lives of brutal labor.

more at [USHAAtlas.com](http://USHAAtlas.com)





**C**

Rice was a familiar crop to many of the African farmers brought directly to Southern slave markets. Most enslaved people in Northern colonies arrived by way of the West Indies.

more at  
[USHAAtlas.com](http://USHAAtlas.com)

**SLAVERY IN THE BRITISH COLONIES**  
1750

**Where Enslaved People Worked**

Household	Small farm
Workshop	Rice plantation
Merchant ship	Tobacco plantation
	Indigo plantation

Slave trade route

0 100 200 miles  
0 100 200 kilometers

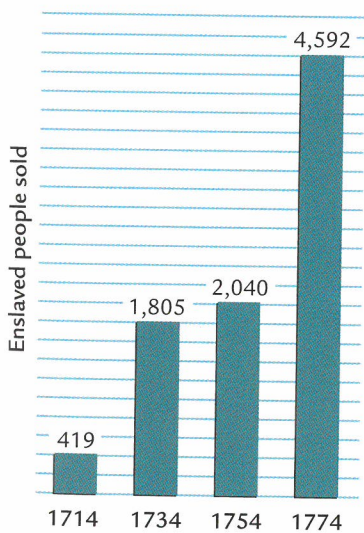
**E**

Slave ships carried nearly 13 million people across the Atlantic Ocean. One in eight died during the terrible journey.

more at  
[USHAAtlas.com](http://USHAAtlas.com)

**DESTINATIONS OF ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE**

Slave trade mid-1400s to mid-1800s



**D SLAVE TRADE AT CHARLES TOWN**

The demand for slave labor in the 13 colonies grew with the demand for the plantation crops of rice, indigo, and tobacco.

