

The South Is a Divided Agricultural Society

RETEACHING ACTIVITY

Chapter 2, Section 1

Directions: Use the diagram below to complete the chart. List the characteristics of each group on the lines provided. You will then better understand the class divisions in Southern colonial society.

Tidewater Plantation Owners

Wealthy plantation owners became increasingly rich. Their farms were on fertile soil bordering rivers. Huge tobacco yields allowed them to use more indentured servants. (Indentured servants were people who worked for a term without wages. In exchange, their employers paid their passage to the colonies.) Indentured servants in turn produced even more tobacco for the plantations. The plantation owners were the lawmakers and the only voters in the colony. They voted lower taxes for themselves and passed laws that favored their own life style. To maintain a thriving fur trade, they protected Indian land rights.

Piedmont Farmers

Farmers who were not able to settle in the Tidewater area had to be content with smaller, less productive tobacco farms located in the Piedmont, an area of forests and hills bordering the Appalachian Mountains. Piedmont farmers had few indentured servants. They could not afford many servants because their farms yielded lower profits and they had to pay high taxes. Piedmont farmers had no say in their own government because only landowners with large holdings had the right to vote. Piedmont farmers were desperate for more land and fought with Indians over land rights.

Bacon's Rebellion

Conflict between these two groups over several issues, including voting rights, fairer taxes, and treatment of the Indians, resulted in the first revolt by the people of the colonies—Bacon's Rebellion. In 1676 a young man named Nathaniel Bacon led white settlers in an attack on Indians. Though the rebellion failed, it caused plantation owners to change from indentured servants to black slaves for labor.

	Tidewater Plantation Owners	Piedmont Farmers
1. Size of land holdings		
2. Location		
3. Source of labor		
4. Involvement in government		
5. Amount of taxes paid		
6. Treatment of Indians		
7. Major crop raised		