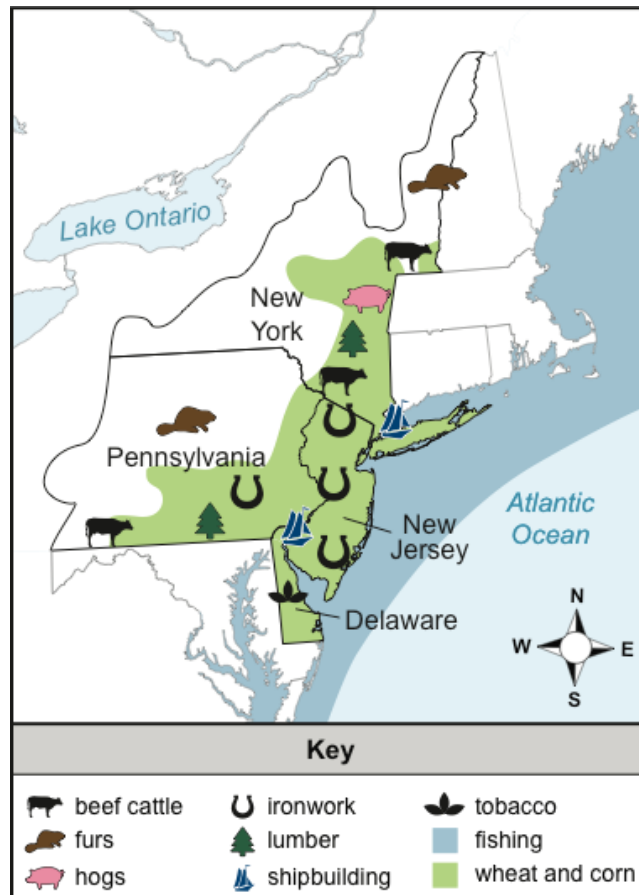


## SAMPLE ASSESSMENT ITEM SET (Grade 5)

Read and study the sources about the geography and economics of the Middle colonies. Then use the three sources and your knowledge of social studies to answer the questions.

### Source 1: Products of the Middle Colonies



### Source 2: Adapted from *Positive Information from America* (1683) by Francis Daniel Pastorius

*German immigrant Francis Daniel Pastorius described his impressions of Pennsylvania upon his arrival.*

Every day Philadelphia increases in houses and residents. Soon a prison will be built so that those who are not willing to live in a Philadelphian manner may be disciplined. In Frankfort, they have built a mill and a glass factory. Not far from there lies our Germantown, where already forty-two people are living in twelve dwellings. They are mostly linen weavers and not very skilled in agriculture. These good people spent all their money to pay for the journey here. If William Penn had not advanced supplies to them, they would have become servants to others. Germantown lies on black, rich soil and is half surrounded with pleasant streams like a natural defense. The main street there is sixty feet wide and the cross street is forty feet wide. Every family has a house lot of three acres.

### Source 3: Adapted from *a Letter* by Maria van Rensselaer (1675)

*Maria van Rensselaer lived in the Dutch colony of New Netherland, which became New York Colony in 1674 after war between England and Holland. Richard van Rensselaer was Maria's brother-in-law.*

To Richard van Rensselaer, December 1675:

As to the government here in this country, it is good. Trade is carried on as before to Boston and the West Indies. Trading with the Indians goes on as it did while you were here. The past summer there was a lively trade. As to

agriculture, it has during the last two years become so much worse, on account of high water and the increase of weeds, that the farmers demand a reduction in the rent. The honorable governor has prohibited the exportation of wheat flour for six months, but allowed that of bread.

As to my house and the land, they are in the same condition as when my late husband was living. May it please the Lord that we may possess them in peace and have the mill for making wheat into flour and the sawmill also, so that I may be able to support myself. But we live here in great fear on account of the great war between the English and the Indians around the north and of New England. The Indians have raided many villages and killed many.

1. Using all of the sources, which motivation for settling the Middle colonies was shared by England and the Netherlands?
  - A. They hoped to find allies among Native American tribes against the Spanish.
  - B. They wanted to discover and use natural resources that were scarce in Europe.
  - C. They wanted to provide a place where criminals could rebuild their lives.
  - D. They hoped to introduce and spread Roman Catholicism.
2. Based on all of the sources, which statement **best** describes settlement and land use in the Middle colonies?
  - A. The climate and geography of the Middle colonies allowed settlers to grow sugar cane and produce molasses.
  - B. The location and environment of the Middle colonies allowed settlers to establish farms and grow grains.
  - C. The lack of coastal cities in the Middle colonies prevented settlers from making a living harvesting fish from the ocean.
  - D. The lack of animals with pelts in the Middle colonies prevented settlers from engaging in the fur trade.

3. Read the quotation from Source 3.

“May it please the Lord that we . . . have the mill for making flour into wheat and the sawmill also, so that I may be able to support myself.”

Which statement describes a similarity between the economies of the New England colonies and the Middle colonies?

- A. Grain was the main export from both areas.
  - B. Factories employed many settlers in both areas.
  - C. Bread had to be imported into both areas.
  - D. Timber was an important natural resource for both areas.
4. Complete the table by writing one motivation from the list next to **each** economic activity in the Middle colonies. Only **four** motivations will be used.

**Motivations:**

satisfy local demand

create new opportunities

obtain personal glory

expand the empire

participate in the transatlantic fur trade

establish a transatlantic grain trade

Economic Activity	Motivation
“In Frankfort, they have built a mill and a glass factory.” (Source 2)	
“These good people spent all their money to pay for the journey here.” (Source 2)	
“Trading with the Indians” (Source 3)	
“The exportation of wheat flour” (Source 3)	