

Sample: 2A

Circle the question number for Part B that you are answering on this page.

Part A — Mandatory

1

Part B — Circle one

2 or 3

As sailing ships carried goods across the Atlantic from the old world to the new and vice versa, labor systems in the colonies were changed. Naturally, as the number of people grew in the colonies there was more change than continuity; this was largely due to cost and also a change in the goods produced in the colonies and the desires of the old world for American goods.

The old world craved American furs throughout the colonies' histories. First, the French went deep into the Louisiana and Canadian territories, seeking out beaver and bears. The high demand then persuaded British colonists to go west. This means that men went out in small groups or by themselves on search of unique furs, therefore they formed a system where each man was his own solitary provider and seller. This system of artisan-like labor was a constant throughout the colonies existence. Early Puritans arrived on Massachusetts in the mid-1600s, and began to farm just enough to provide for their families. The independent subsistence farmer or fisherman defined the agriculture on the North unlike the South which relied on massive amounts of forced labor. Because no food was arriving from Europe, the early northern colonists had to "live off the land" that they settled, but they never mass produced goods because Europe

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required no American food. These systems of solitary trappers and subsistence farmers persisted from the founding of the colonies through the 1760s.

However, changes in transatlantic trade reshaped the South as well as northern industry. Initially, the South's labor came in the form of indentured servants, and most died before their term was served. Eventually though, the servants began to survive and because of their survival, the plantation owners looked for a new labor source. So, as the ex-indentured servants went to farm their own small plots of land, the plantation owners began the importation of slaves. This dramatic shift was caused in part by the mass production of tobacco, along with a more sophisticated slave trade. So when demand went up and the opportunity for labor that only had initial cost arose, the plantation owners took off. As products from the Caribbean colonies trickled up the Atlantic coast, some northern merchants set out to create massive merchant empires based out of New York and Boston. Starting much later than the initial founding of the colonies, the northern colonies began to build industrial economies, causing a shift from subsistence farming to an industrial workforce.

As the colonies grew and prospered, and the demands for goods changed in Europe, while the

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Caribbean colonies and Africa became exploited, changes were made in who was working where and in what fashion. However much change there was, though, it was a constant throughout the colonies for poor white families to be farming just to feed themselves. And the changes from European indentured servants to slaves didn't disrupt their subsistence farming.