

## Investment Opportunity

Don't Miss Out!!!

1740

*Want to double, triple, or quadruple your money within 1 year? Invest in one of these five regions of the NEW WORLD: New England (Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut), Mid-Atlantic (Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey), Chesapeake (Virginia, Maryland), New Netherlands / New York, or the South (Carolinas and Georgia)*

**The Setting:** 1740 in colonial America. The colonies are all thriving, economically prosperous and serving their purpose within a mercantilist framework, buying manufactured goods and exporting raw materials in order to enrich the mother country (England). At this juncture; each colony is very different and separate from each other in terms of their respective histories, economies, and cultures. In fact, in the year 1740, the average Virginian had more contact / familiarity with London than they had with colonists from other regions. This was of course all about to change in the coming decades in the lead-up to the American Revolution and War for Independence. But for now, in 1740, all is serene (most Native Americans have been pushed aside by now – see King Philip's War) and the colonists of the five regions are generally happy loyal, and proud British subjects. For now, we are going to disregard French settlement / economic activity in the interior (fur trade, etc.) of the country and the continuing dominance of Spain in the region to the south of the present day United States...not to say it was unimportant!

**The Project:** In today's business world, a prospectus is defined as " a document describing the chief features of something, such as a business, an educational program, or especially a stock offering or mutual fund, for prospective buyers, investors, or participants." Your job is to, as part of a group, to create a Regional Prospectus for those who might wish to invest in or even immigrate / emigrate to your assigned region. Essentially, your job is to "sell" your region as the most alluring place in the British colonies to invest in or relocate to. But you must be honest and thorough, detailing both the positives and negatives of your region. In today's world, corporations must routinely disclose (make public knowledge) information about their business goals, actions, and financial success or lack thereof. Corporations that are found guilty of improper or false disclosure of the facts surrounding their business enterprise and the risks associated with investing in it face strong sanctions from the Securities and Exchange Commission in Washington, D.C.

**The Process:** You will be randomly placed in a group of 4 to 6 students. Your group will be assigned one of the five regions identified above. Within your group, you will specialize in researching and writing on one or two topics about that region, which will be combined with the other group member's work to create the Regional Prospectus.

The regions are as follows:

1. New England (Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut – main focus on Mass.)
2. Mid-Atlantic (Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey – main focus on Pennsylvania)
3. Chesapeake (Virginia and Maryland – main focus on Virginia)
4. New Netherlands / New York
5. South (North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia – main focus on North Carolina)

The topics are as follows:

1. Overall History of the Region (its origins / major historical developments over time)
2. Political / Governmental History and Heritage
3. Culture and Peoples of the Region
4. Geography and Economics
5. Famous People

6. Religious History and Heritage
7. Current Status (1740) and The Future (what the region needs to work on in the future)
8. Visual / Poster advertisement to prospective investors / settlers which sells the region (should be the cover page to the prospectus and be on 8.5 x 11 paper)

**Logistics:**

1. Homework packets for Chapters 2 and 3 are optional and are for extra-credit. If you complete the standard homework packet for either / both chapters (crossword and practice test), you will receive a grade of 100%, the variable being how many points it is worth (up to 40/40). For any other work completed during this project (timelines, outlining, online study questions), the normal extra-credit caveats apply.
2. Day 1: Introduce the project and organize the groups / divide the labor (students should be reading Chapter 2 and 3 on their own over the next few days)
3. Days 2 and 3: Library research work to research your topic and finish reading Chapters 2 and 3.
4. Day 4 and 5: Lesson by Mr. Ruppert on "The Maturing Colonies". Your individual paper(s) are due by the end of class on Day 5.
  - a. Each of the seven "mini-papers" should be anywhere from  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 1 page in length. Thus, your prospectus should be about 5-7 pages total length (not including the cover advertisement artwork or bibliography). In no cases should your paper be longer than 1.5 pages in length (double spaced, one inch margins, size 10-12 font). Clearly, at the top of your paper, should be your name, your region, and your topic of coverage
  - b. The last page of the prospectus must be a properly formatted bibliography that utilizes at least five resources besides your textbook. In this instance, there is not distribution requirement in terms of types of sources used.
  - c. You should make multiple copies (or just share files electronically) of your section of the paper, in order that each group member has access to the finished prospectus. On night five, your assignment is to fully read your group's finished product.
5. Day 6: In class, you will read / skim each group's regional prospectus, taking notes about likes / dislikes for each. For homework, you will write a short essay, explaining which region you have chosen to settle / invest your money in. **YOU MAY NOT CHOOSE YOUR OWN REGION.**
6. Day 7: We will tally the results, have a bit of discussion on your decisions. The region which WINS (gets the most votes for portraying their region) will get +4 points extra credit added to their grade.
7. This assignment will be graded out of 50 points, based on following instructions properly (5) historical accuracy / comprehensiveness of content (30), the visual portion (5), grammar and punctuation (5), and proper bibliography (5).

The Investment Decision – 1740: Where The Money Goes

**Context:** You have read chapters 2 and 3 of your text, become a specialist in one of the major regions of colonial America, and become even further acquainted with others by surveying the prospectuses of other groups. Your job...

**Assignment:** Write a 1 to 1.5 page paper where you answer the following questions.

1. From the vantage point of placing yourself in the year 1740, which region is the one you would choose to invest your money in. In a sense, this may seem strictly an economic decision which would be based on which region you feel has the best / most profitable economy. There may be other factors you wish to consider however. (There are for instance, today, “socially conscious” investment funds)
2. Is your choice of which region you would invest in any different than the colony you would choose to settle in if given the choice. Explain why or why not.
3. Being that for questions 2 and 3 you are not able to choose your assigned region of specialization to invest in or settle, if you were instead allowed to choose it, would it change your perspective or choices? Why or why not?
4. Be prepared to put your “mouth where your money is” as we discuss / vote on your decisions.



**MAP 2-3**  
**English North American Colonies, c. 1685** After the establishment of "barbarous" (sic) several other proprietary colonies across parts of all 50 states by the end of New England and the Chesapeake. Rhode Island, a colony of 1639, and the southern colonies of Virginia, close to the Maryland coast, from Maine then east of Massachusetts Bay (1630) to the southern shore of the Chesapeake.