

# Comparing the North & South

*Directions: Read the following passages and complete the graphic organizer comparing the North and South. As you read, highlight important information.*

## North

### *Climate and Geography*

The North had warm, humid summers and cold, snowy winters. This region had rocky, hilly, and often infertile land. These conditions, along with the short growing season, made farming difficult. The many forests of the North served as a source of timber for shipbuilding. There were many fast-moving rivers. The coastline of the Atlantic was full of sheltered bays and inlets. Settlers found that ships could sail along wide rivers into many of these bays. Soon people realized that the waterfalls were a cheap source of energy, and the waterpower began to be used to run factories.

### *Population*

From 1800 to 1860, the population of the North grew from about 5 million people to 19 million people. One reason was massive immigration. From 1830 to 1850, over two million Irish, Germans, and other northern Europeans arrive in the United States. Most of them settled in the North.



New York, 1851

# North

## Cities

After 1800, cities in the North thrived as centers of commerce. Set up along the Atlantic coast, cities served as centers of trade between the North and Europe. They were also hubs of manufacturing of textiles. More and more people in the North lived in cities. In 1800, about 5% of the population lived in cities. By 1850, nearly 15% did. People came to the cities looking for work in factories.

Cities were often crowded and dirty. It wasn't until after the 1830s that harbors and streets were improved, sanitation systems were started, and police forces were created. Then, public services such as education began to take root. Cities became important as centers of art, culture, and education.

## Economy

Northerners embraced the Industrial Revolution and developed a manufacturing-based economy. Even though most people lived on small family farms, agriculture in the North was difficult. Textiles, iron, and ships were manufactured in great quantities. The goods were then traded around the world. In order to protect its industries from foreign competition, the North favored high tariffs and taxes.



Philadelphia, 1850

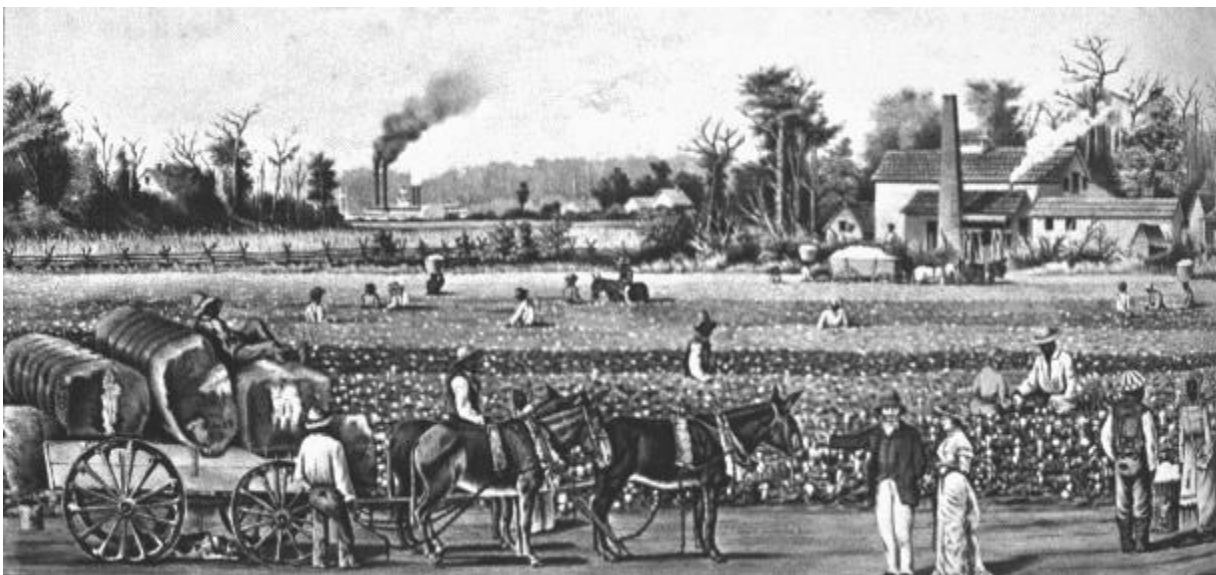
# SOUTH

## Climate and Geography

The South was generally warm and sunny. Summers were long, hot, and humid. Winters were mild. There was heavy rainfall. This climate was ideal for agriculture - the rain and long growing season enabled farmers to grow many different crops in large amounts. The Southeast bordered the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. It had many broad, slow-moving, navigable rivers. Cities developed along these rivers and as ports along the Gulf and Atlantic coasts.

## Population

The population of the South was mostly whites and enslaved black Americans and Africans. By 1860, the population of the South reached 12 million. Four million were slaves. The South was mostly made up of people who farmed as their occupation. Most farmers lived on medium-sized farms, while a small number of planters ran large farms called plantations. Many people think that all farmers in the South owned slaves. However, only 25% of the Southern population owned slaves. Most of these were the planters. The rest of the white population were independent farmers, tenant farmers who rented land and paid the landowners in crops or money, laborers, or frontier families.



# SOUTH

## Cities

Most Southerners lived on farms that were spread out from each other. Because the economy was based on agriculture, industries and towns developed at a slower pace than in the North. There were many small towns which grew along the banks of rivers and the coasts. Only a few large cities developed as trading centers in the South. Plantations were so large and so distant from each other that they became almost self-sufficient like small towns.

## ECONOMY

The Southern economy was based on agriculture. Cotton, tobacco, rice, sugar cane, and indigo were grown in great quantities. These crops were known as cash crops, ones that were raised to be sold or exported for a profit. They were raised on large farms, known as plantations, which were supported by slave labor. Slavery was very important to the success of the Southern economy.



Cotton plantation, Georgia

# How does where we live determine how we live?

**North**

**SOUTH**

What was the geography like?

Describe the climate.

What was the economy based on?

Where did people live?

Describe the population.

Describe the culture.