The Chesapeake region of the British colonies in America included Virginia (Jamestown), Maryland, the New Jerseys and Pennsylvania. The first permanent English colony in America was in Jamestown Virginia where a group of 105 English men travelling in three ships, the Susan Constant, Godspeed and Discovery set foot in America. They had been send by the Virginia Company of London that was a group of investors who were planning to profit themselves from the venture. They selected that particular location because of its deep waters that allowed the ships to dock easily. The land there was also arable and the site gave them an advantage of sight over incoming enemies. At the time, Britain was competing with Spain and thus enemy attacks were always expected. They were also in search of gold and silver as the area was thought to contain more wealth than discovered.

The New England was situated at north of the Chesapeake and included Rhode Island, New Haven, Plymouth, Bay colony and Connecticut. Most of the settlers were Puritan Separatists, who sought religious freedom. It all started when the Church of England separated from the Catholicism. The Protestants were not free in England as they embraced Calvinism. They thus though coming to New England would give them the much needed religious freedom. Hence their motives of coming to this British colony was not economic but largely religious. They did not engage in farming activities but rather invested largely in artisan industries like printing, carpentry and shipbuilding.

Conclusively, the two regions attracted different types of settlers. The farmers were more interested in the Chesapeake regions where they could largely practice their skills and venture into profitable farming while the settlers in New England were more religious and artisan in nature.