

NEW HAMPSHIRE INDUSTRIES IN THE COLONIAL PERIOD

Fish



The first Europeans came to New Hampshire for the huge schools of fish in the Atlantic Ocean, mostly cod. Fishing was New Hampshire's main industry from the early 1600s until the American Revolution. Millions of tons of fish were caught off the coast of New Hampshire and shipped to Europe, where it was a popular food.

Fur



Beaver pelts were in high demand in Europe, where people wore them as various types of clothing like hats and cloaks. Europeans caught millions of beavers in New Hampshire, sometimes trading with the Abenaki. Beaver were nearly hunted to extinction in southern New Hampshire.

Forests



New Hampshire's thick forests of birch, maple, pine, and other trees made it a great source for lumber and mast trees. Early settlers created thriving businesses supplying other American colonies and many European countries with timber. New Hampshire also supplied more than 4,500 ships masts for the British navy.



Farming

Most of the English settlers to New Hampshire were farmers because they needed to grow their own food to eat. They didn't have grocery stores back then! New Hampshire farms produced all sorts of products, like corn, wheat, berries, apples, milk, dairy products, leather, and maple syrup. The settlers had to grow or make almost everything they needed.