

Boston Tea Party

Colonies in America

In 1760 America was a much different country than it is today. The population was only about 1½ million. (Today's population is about 200 times that number!) Half a million of the population were black slaves. Almost all these people lived in 13 colonies that covered a 1500-mile strip along the Atlantic Ocean: Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia.

Geography Challenge

Have students find the 13 original colonies on a current map; then compare and contrast them with one another. Which is the largest? The smallest? The farthest south? The farthest north?

Have them look in an atlas to find out more about these 13 states today. Which has the greatest population? The least?

Copy page 6 and hand it out to students. Have them write the name of each colony on the correct shape.

When students have completed the page, check the answers together as a class and have students correct any mistakes so they can use their pages to play the following game.

Who Am I? Colony Identification

Give two clues about one of the colonies. (Example: I am the most southern colony. Right above me is South Carolina. Who am I?) Have students raise their hands to name the colony you described. When the first one has been identified, give two clues about a second colony. Continue the game until all 13 colonies have been described and identified.

Historic Coins

Have students cooperate in taking to class new quarters featuring each of the 13 original colonies. Tell them to look at the quarters carefully. Discuss the symbols on the quarters. What do they symbolize? For more information, check out: www.usmint.gov/kids.



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| Connecticut: | Charter oak tree (The Connecticut Charter was hidden from the British in this tree.) |
| Delaware: | Caesar Rodney (signer of the Declaration of Independence) |
| Georgia: | Peach |
| Maryland: | Maryland State Capitol building |
| Massachusetts: | Minuteman soldier |
| New Hampshire: | Old Man of the Mountain (famous tourist site) |
| New Jersey: | Washington crossing the Delaware |
| New York: | Statue of Liberty |
| North Carolina: | Wright Brothers' "First Flight" airplane |
| Pennsylvania: | State Commonwealth statue from the top of the Capitol dome |
| Rhode Island: | Sailboat (Rhode Island is known as the "sailing capital" of the world.) |
| South Carolina: | State bird and tree |
| Virginia: | Jamestown (first English settlement in America) Living in the Colonies |