The Thirteen Colonies

Use The Nystrom Atlas of Our Country's History to learn about the characteristics of the three colonial regions.

1. The United States began as European colonies. By 1732 there were 13 of them.
   b. Fold your Activity Map in half so that only the eastern half of the United States is shown.
   c. Give your Activity Map a title. Across the top of the map, write THE THIRTEEN COLONIES.
   d. Along which ocean were the 13 colonies located?

2. The 13 colonies were divided into three colonial regions. What were the names of those regions?

3. The New England Colonies were the northernmost of the colonies.
   b. On your Activity Map, outline the New England Colonies.
   c. In the upper right corner of the map, write and underline NEW ENGLAND.
4. Many New England colonists, like the Pilgrims, came to the Americas looking for freedom to practice their own religion. However, they often did not allow other colonists to practice their religions.
   a. Look at graph C on page 25 of the Atlas. What was the most common religion in the New England Colonies?

   b. On your Activity Map, below the regional name, write the name of that religion.

5. In New England, farms were small and the soil was often rocky. Most farmers only were able to grow enough food to feed their families.
   b. Colonists in all three colonial regions farmed, made and sold goods, and used natural resources. What was unique about the New England Colonies was the amount of fishing and whaling that was done. On your Activity Map, below the regional name, draw a fishing symbol ⚓ and a whaling symbol 🐳.
   c. Ship building was also a big industry in New England. On your map, add a shipbuilding symbol ⛴️.

6. The Middle Colonies were located between the New England and Southern Colonies.
   a. Look at map A on page 26 of the Atlas. Use your finger to outline the Middle Colonies.
   b. On your Activity Map, outline the Middle Colonies.
   c. West of the region, write and underline MIDDLE.

7. Most of the Middle colonists were allowed to practice their own religion. This religious freedom attracted settlers from the other colonies and from Europe.
   a. Look at graph C on page 27 of the Atlas. What were the seven most common religions in the Middle Colonies?

   b. On your Activity Map, below the regional name, write RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.
8. Farms were larger in the Middle Colonies than in New England. Trade was active in the Middle Colonies. Iron making was also a large industry in this region.
   a. Look at map B on page 27 of the Atlas. Identify the land uses in the Middle Colonies.
   b. On your Activity Map, below the regional name, draw an iron making symbol 🏛.
   c. Wheat farming was also common in the Middle Colonies. Below the regional name, add a wheat farm symbol 🌾.

9. The Southern Colonies were the most populated of the 13 colonies. They were located south of the New England and Middle Colonies.
   a. Look at map A on page 28 of the Atlas. Use your finger to outline the Southern Colonies.
   b. On your Activity Map, outline the Southern Colonies.
   c. West of the region, write and underline SOUTHERN.

10. Most of the Southern Colonies were officially Anglican. But other religions were also practiced.
    a. Look at graph C on page 29 of the Atlas. What were the four most common religions in the Southern Colonies?

    ___________________________________________  ___________________________________________

    b. On your Activity Map, below the regional name, write OFFICIALLY ANGLICAN.

11. Farming was the largest industry in the South. Most Southern farmers grew at least one cash crop. These were crops that were sold for cash.
    a. Look at map B on page 29 of the Atlas. Identify the land uses in the Southern Colonies.
    b. Tobacco, rice, and indigo were the major cash crops in the South. Indigo is a plant used to make a blue dye. On your Activity Map, below the regional name, draw a tobacco symbol 🌾, a rice symbol 🌾, and an indigo symbol 🌾.
The Thirteen Colonies

Pulling It Together

Use the information from the Atlas, your Activity Map, and Activity Sheets 19a–19c to fill in the chart below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Colonial Regions</th>
<th>New England</th>
<th>Middle</th>
<th>Southern</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
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<tr>
<td>New England</td>
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<tr>
<td>Middle</td>
<td>GREEN</td>
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<td>Southern</td>
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<td>Colonies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Main Religions</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

What makes your colonial region different from the other two colonial regions? Write a short paragraph describing at least two differences.
Which were the New England Colonies?

The New England Colonies were Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire.

- New England settlers were mainly English Puritans. They came seeking the freedom to practice their own religion.
- Most New Englanders made a living by farming, fishing, hunting whales, or building ships.
- Many villages required settlers to attend religious services and pay taxes to support the churches.

Plymouth, Massachusetts, is founded by Pilgrims, a religious group that split off from the Puritans.

Which was the first New England settlement? Which rivers had towns far from the Atlantic coast? Use this map with map B to find settled areas that did not have large towns.
Religion in New England, 1775

Anglicans were members of the official Church of England. Puritans, Baptists, and Quakers were members of English movements that had split off from the official church.

Massachusetts was the first British colony to require its communities to establish public schools. Before that, lessons were often taught in a teacher’s home.
Which were the Middle Colonies?

The Middle Colonies were New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware.

- The first settlers in the Middle Colonies were from the Netherlands and Sweden. English settlers arrived later.
- Long after the English took over, the Dutch (from the Netherlands) outnumbered them in New York and New Jersey.
- No American colonies were founded by Germans, but German settlers were the largest group in much of Pennsylvania.

A Which cities in New York and Delaware were founded by Dutch and Swedish settlers? Which of the capitals of these colonies are state capitals today?
Religion in the Middle Colonies, 1775

The English made New York officially Anglican, but Dutch settlers belonged to other churches. The other three colonies were tolerant of all faiths. Compare this graph with the one on page 25.

Land Use

- **Settled by colonists**
- **Middle Colony boundary**

**Farming**
- Wheat
- Mixed farming

**Making and Selling**
- Crafts and shops
- Iron making
- Ship building

**Using Natural Resources**
- Fur trapping
- Fishing
- Forestry

New York, shown here, and Philadelphia were the largest cities in the colonies. Port cities were important centers of trade and manufacturing.
Which were the Southern Colonies?

The Southern Colonies were Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.

- The first Southern colonists were wealthy Englishmen who started large one-crop farms called plantations.
- Later settlers included Germans, Scots, and Scots-Irish who had smaller farms farther inland.
- Although the Southern Colonies were officially Anglican, most of the colonists practiced other faiths.

The Southern Colonies relied heavily on agriculture. Coastal port cities were busy with ships bringing slaves and leaving with cargoes of tobacco and other crops.

Steep Appalachian Mountains slow westward expansion.
Land Use
- Settled by colonists
- Southern Colony boundary

Farming
- Wheat
- Tobacco
- Rice
- Indigo
- Mixed farming

Making and Selling
- Crafts and shops
- Iron making
- Ship building

Using Natural Resources
- Fur trapping
- Forestry

Most Southern farmers grew at least one crop they sold for cash. But only plantation owners sold enough to become wealthy. The plantation crops were tobacco, rice, and indigo.

Total Houses of Worship: 1,119

Religion in the Southern Colonies, 1775

Many Southern Anglicans lived near the coast. Other faiths were more common in inland cities and towns. Compare this graph with the graphs on pages 25 and 27.

In the South, the wealthiest whites and most blacks lived and worked on plantations. Most white Southerners lived on smaller farms and did not own slaves.