



Day 1 Colonization Unit
60-80 Minutes

Learn the Map of the 13 Colonies

13 Colonies Map – LESSON PLAN (45 MINUTES)

Adaptable for Grades 3–9

TITLE:

13 Colonies Map

OBJECTIVE:

Students will be able to identify each of the 13 colonies on a map and will be able to identify the region each colony is a part of.

GRADE LEVEL:

Grades 3–9 (Differentiation included)

MATERIALS:

- 13 Colonies Maptivation Activity
 - 13 Colonies Printable Outline Map
 - 13 Colonies Online Colony Identification Map
 - Colored Pencils
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INTRODUCTION (10 MINUTES)

Today we are learning to identify the 13 Colonies on a map. This skill is essential because throughout the unit, I will refer to the geography and location of each colony and region. Geography shapes history and affects how people live, so it's important that you know where each colony is on the map. Show the 13 colonies map using the link below.

<https://learnaboutamerica.com/american-history/13-colonies/13-colonies-online-map-maker/13-colonies-maptivation>

Ask students:

1. How many original colonies do you think there were?
2. Does anything look unusual about the colonies? Students may say that many of the colonies look different from the states they'd become. Tell students that the western portions of the current states, especially the Appalachian regions, were not part of the original colonies, but would be acquired later.
3. You might also explain to students that neither Vermont or Maine were original colonies.

13 COLONIES MAPTIVATION (20-30 MINUTES)

<https://learnaboutamerica.com/american-history/13-colonies/13-colonies-online-map-maker/13-colonies-maptivation>

You can use this map to either guide students in designing the map as a printable, or, you can direct them to the Maptivation map and have them create on their computers as you do on the whiteboard.

If you'd rather have them use the printable, direct them to take out a pencil, and red, green, and blue colored pencils.

The printable 13 colonies map is located at:

<https://learnaboutamerica.com/american-history/13-colonies/13-colonies-online-map-maker/13-colonies-printable-blank-map>

Project the blank 13 colonies map on the whiteboard. Explain to students they will be using the fill tool to color in various colonies.

1. Show students how to see the fill color, and color the New England colonies red. Name the colonies as you color them. The New England colonies are **New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut**. Fill them in red first and then use the text tool in Maptivation to label them.
2. Next, fill the Mid-Atlantic colonies green. The Mid-Atlantic colonies are **New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware**. Follow the same procedure you used for the New England colonies.
3. Lastly, fill in the Southern colonies blue. The southern colonies are **Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia**.
4. Finally, show students how to create a key on Maptivation, or, if you're having them use the printable version, have them create a key. The key should show the colors of each region. Use the custom color key in the map tool of Maptivation to populate the key.
5. If practical, students should print the maps out in color.
6. When students have completed the map, tell them that they can use this map as an important reference throughout the unit.

13 COLONIES MAP IDENTIFICATION (10-15 minutes)

<https://learnaboutamerica.com/american-history/13-colonies/13-colonies-online-map-maker/13-colonies-online-label-me-map>

1. Demonstrate for students how to use the map in the above link. They can use the fill tool to color in the map, and can choose a font to design the colony labels.

2. Students must drag the colony names to their correct places on the map.
3. The map will give immediate feedback and will prompt students to continue until all are labeled correctly.

Wrap-up (5 minutes)

1. Explain to students that we classify colonies by regions because colonies within the same region usually share more similarities with one another than with colonies in other regions. Let them know that in tomorrow's lesson, they will learn about the first attempted English settlement in the New World—Roanoke Island—which was located in the Southern Colonies.