The 13 colonies — 1700s
from the Esri GeoInquiries™ collection for U.S. History

Target audience – U.S. History learners
Time required – 15 minutes

Activity
Explore climate and latitude relative to the settlement of the original 13 colonies.

C3 Standards
C3: D2.Geo.2.9-12. Use maps, satellite images, photographs, and other representations to explain relationships between the locations.
C3: D2.Geo.7.9-12. Analyze the reciprocal nature of how historical events and the spatial diffusion of ideas, technologies, and cultural practices have influenced migration patterns and the distribution of human population.

Learning Outcomes
- Students will use geographic data to analyze climate characteristics of the 13 American colonies.
- Students will analyze population growth of the 13 American colonies.

Map URL: http://esriurl.com/historygeoinquiry1

Ask
Where was the best place for England to invest in the American colonies?
- Click any colony in the map.
  - What is the colony’s name, the sub-region it is located in, and its economic activity? [The answers should reflect the information in the pop-up that displays when you click a location on the map.]
- Click one more colony in a different color sub-region.
  - What is the colony’s name, the sub-region it is located in, and its economic activity? [The answers should reflect the information in the pop-up that displays when you click a location on the map.]

Acquire
Would the same latitudes of the areas in Europe where products were produced be a good indicator for where you could find them in America?
- Choose the England and New World Bookmark.
- Click the latitude lines at northern France and southern Spain.
  - What are their approximate latitudes? [They are approximately ~50N and ~37N.]
  - If latitude alone controlled weather and agricultural production conditions, compare the colony sub-regions to growing conditions in Europe. [New England would have been like southern France; the middle colonies would have been like southern France and northern Spain; the southern colonies would have been like central Spain and northern Africa.]

Explore
What important factor contributed to where resources were located in the 13 colonies?
- The warmer the sea temperature, the more water vapor becomes available for precipitation on land and influences the land temperatures.
- Hover over and click the Show Contents Of Map button, located above Contents.
- Turn on the Avg Sea Surface Temperature 2005 layer, and click its name to expand the legend.
  - Which colonies in the New World have comparable sea surface temperatures to the agricultural growth areas of France and Spain (more rain and warmer temperatures on land)? [The middle colonies and the northern southern colonies have comparable temperatures.]
**Analyze**

What happened to population in the American colonies in the 1700s?
- Make sure the American Colonies layer is visible. Click the Show Table icon.
- Scroll across the table and click the Pop_1700 column title. Click Statistics.
- What was the total population in the 13 colonies in 1700? [The sum of values is ~306,000.]
- Repeat Step 1 and Step 2 to find out the total population in 1740 and 1780. [The population at these times were ~1,057,000 and ~2,940,000.]
- What happened to population in the colonies from 1700 to 1780? [The population almost tripled during each 40-year period.]

**Act**

How did latitude, weather, and climate affect population in the American colonies?
- Close the table, and click the 13 Colonies bookmark.
- Turn on The American Colonies Population Time Series layer, and click the layer name to see its legend.
- At the bottom of the map, click the Play button that shows the population by colony.
- What was the trend in population change in the 13 colonies from 1630 to the late 1700s? [Population shifted from the largest population in the southern colonies to the middle colonies. In the late 1700s, New England began to see population growth.]

**BOOKMARK**
- At the top of the map, click the Bookmarks button.
- Choose your bookmark; the map will take you there.

**TABLE SORT AND STATISTICS**
- Hover on the layer.
- Click the Show Table icon.
- Click the column header.
- Choose Sort Ascending/Descending or Statistics.

**Next Steps**

**DID YOU KNOW?** ArcGIS Online is a mapping platform freely available to public, private, and home schools. A school subscription provides additional security, privacy, and content features. Learn more about ArcGIS Online and how to get a school subscription at http://www.esri.com/schools.

**THEN TRY THIS...**
Perform a density or hot spot analysis for the different population periods to show the population shifts in the 18th century.
- Click Analyze Patterns.
- Choose Calculate Density or Find Hot Spots.
- For the Count field, choose Pop_1780.

**TEXT REFERENCES**
- Social Studies Alive! America’s Past – Chapter 7
- The Americans by McDougal Littell – Chapter 3
- America: Pathways to the Present by Prentice Hall – Chapter 3

This GIS map has been cross-referenced to material in sections of chapters from these texts.