



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.His.14.9-12. Analyze multiple, complex causes and effects of past events.
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.]*

more 

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

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

- *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