

An Overview of the 13 Colonies

Overview

Students will review and examine colonial North America's economic, social, and political life by participating in the *13 Colonies Competition*. This lesson will culminate with students focusing on one colony of their choice for which they create an advertisement for settling that colony.

Grade

5

Essential Questions

- For what reason(s) were individuals coming to America?
- Why did these individuals believe life would be better in America?
- What political, economic, and religious challenges faced the new settlers?
- How did the settlers combat these political, economic, and religious challenges?
- What was the Virginia House of Burgesses, and how did it serve to pave the way for self-government in the colonies?
- What was the purpose of the Mayflower Compact, and what democratic ideals did it establish?

Materials and Resources

- Internet access
- Images of Columbus and Jamestown, attached
- A Classroom Competition: The Thirteen Colonies in 1770 Handout, attached
- The Colonies, an advertisement activity, attached

Duration

50 minutes +

Preparation

This lesson is best placed after students have studied Jamestown and are ready for an introduction to the 13 colonies.

Procedure

Overview of the 13 Colonies: A Classroom Competition!

1. As a warm up and review, project the attached picture of *Columbus Landing* and discuss:
 - What do you see here? (Encourage to first just point out details such as people, clothing, colors, symbols, landscape, etc.)
 - Who do you think these people are, and what is happening in this moment? What evidence in the picture makes you think this?
 - What do you think this person is thinking right now? (Point to various figures, including the Native Americans crouched in the darker left side of the image.)
 - What was the purpose of Columbus's explorations? What was the effect of his 1492 landing in the "New World"?
 - In what ways did Columbus and the Spanish begin the trans-Atlantic slave trade? How did this open the door for colonial slavery?
 - How did this open the door for future English colonization?

2. Next, project the attached image of the arrival of settlers at **Jamestown** to facilitate further review. Again, discuss:
 - What do you see here?
 - Who do you think these people are, and what is happening in this moment? What evidence in the picture makes you think this?
 - Where might this scene be taking place? Again, cite evidence that leads you to this conclusion.
 - What do you already know about the settling of Jamestown?
 - How were Native Americans affected by settlers throughout the 13 colonies?
 - How did Jamestown's eventual success pave the way for future colonization?

3. Next, tell students that with the success of Jamestown, other groups of colonists continued to venture to the New World. Explain to students that they will be participating in *Classroom Competition: The Thirteen Colonies in 1770* for an overview of the 13 colonies. Break up students into pairs or groups of three and project/explain the rules of the competition:
 - This assignment is a competition.
 - You **MUST** have every square complete and correct to win.
 - You may use the internet, your text book, your prior knowledge, and any other books or textbooks in the classroom to complete this assignment. You may not converse with another group.
 - The first group to accurately complete the assignment wins and will receive...<let students know the prize being offered.>
 - All groups should continue working even if a group appears to be done. Remember, this assignment is graded for accuracy.
 - All handouts will be collected at the end, so please put your names on your papers.

4. Distribute the attached handout upside down and ask all students to begin working at the same time. Circulate while students work in their pairs and/or small groups. Remind students to keep working even if another group finishes, since the competition will be based on accuracy. If you are giving a prize, let students know what to expect.

5. After a predetermined amount of time (i.e. 30 minutes or more), call time, award the winning party, and review the correct answers as a class.

Create a Colonial Advertisement

6. Next, tell students they are going to apply what they learned about the colonies by focusing on one of the thirteen in particular and creating an advertisement for that colony. Hand out the attached assignment sheet and explain the details to students. Let them know that working with a partner, they will create an advertisement with the purpose of attracting people to settle their particular colony during the Colonial Period.

Columbus Landing



Jamestown, VA

May 13, 1607: Arrival of 104 Male Settlers



**THE COLONIES:
An Advertisement**

In order to learn more about the colonies, **you will create an advertisement for one of the 13 colonies.**

Working with a partner, create an advertisement that will attract people to your colony. Your advertisement can take any written form you choose (a flyer, a poster or billboard, a pamphlet, a magazine advertisement, etc.). Final advertisements must include visuals and text, including information such as:

- physical characteristics of the land
- information about who settled there
- the political environment
- economic opportunities
- religion
- culture
- other interesting facts

You may design your ad as if it is from the colonial era or you may use a modern format. Be informational and creative!

Step 1: Research the colonies using each other's brains, your textbooks, and any other resources in the room. Make sure you look at the important characteristics (listed above) of each colony. Choose one colony that you want to advertise.

Step 2: Think about format. What form is going to make your ideas most clear? How will you most creatively and accurately advertise your colony? Sketch out some ideas then make a final decision.

Step 4: Draw, edit, and put the finishing touches on your work. You will be presenting these advertisements to the class.

GROUP MEMBERS: _____

Final Grade: _____

A Classroom Competition: The Thirteen Colonies in 1770

Directions:

- You must complete every square in the next twenty minutes.
- You may use the internet, your textbook, your prior knowledge, and other available texts, but you MAY NOT talk to individuals outside of your pair/group.
- This first pair/group to accurately complete the assignment wins.

Colony	Inhabitants	Economics	Religion	Politics	Fun Fact or Small Drawing Related to Colony
Rhode Island					
Connecticut					
Massachusetts					
New Hampshire					
Delaware					
Pennsylvania					

New York					
New Jersey					
Maryland					
Virginia					
North Carolina					
South Carolina					
Georgia					