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Grade 5

# U.S. History

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TEACHER'S GUIDE

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# U.S. History

A HANDS-ON ELEMENTARY  
MAPPING PROGRAM

FIRST EDITION





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## ACTIVITY 7

# Thirteen Colonies



Atlas pages 24–31

### Objectives

- Locate colonies and colonial regions.
- Identify characteristics of each colonial region.
- Contrast the three colonial regions.

### Materials

- ☐ Raised Relief Maps
- ☐ U.S./World Desk Maps
- ☐ map markers

### Getting Started

Introduce the lesson by writing the numbers 1–13 down the board. Say:

- By 1732 there were 13 European colonies in the Americas. How many of them can you name? As each colony is named, list it on the board beside one of the numbers. (List any incorrect answers too. These will be deleted in the next step.)



### Teaching

#### 1 Locate colonies and colonial regions.

- Have students turn to page 24 of the atlas. Say:
  - Let's see how many colonies you named correctly. What are the names of the 13 colonies? (Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia)
- As each colony is named, circle it on the board.
- If any names on the board are uncircled, have students check map A on page 24.
- Cross out any incorrect names and add any missing ones. Explain that students will learn more today about the 13 colonies.



## 2 Identify characteristics of each colonial region.

- a. Divide the class into pairs. Distribute a U.S./World Desk Map, a Raised Relief Map, and map markers to each pair. Tell them that today's lesson will focus on the eastern part of the United States. They can cover part of their maps to show only this half of the country.
- b. Say:
  - Give your U.S. Desk Map a title. Across the top of map, write **THE THIRTEEN COLONIES**.
  - Along which ocean were the 13 colonies based? (Atlantic Ocean)
  - On your Desk Map, underline the name of the ocean with wave symbols .
  - The Appalachian Mountains prevented many colonies from expanding farther westward. Along the Appalachian Mountains, draw mountain symbols .
- c. When students have finished adding these symbols to their maps, say:
  - How many regions were the 13 colonies divided into? (Three)
  - What were the names of those regions? (New England colonies, Middle colonies, Southern colonies)
- d. Ask students to glance through the maps and charts on pages 24–31. You can assign certain pages to different students to be sure they will choose a variety of elements. Say:
  - What are some of the characteristics of the New England colonies? Middle colonies? Southern colonies? (Answers will depend on what students choose to bring up.)
- e. Jot some of their answers on the board. Let students know you will be examining some of these characteristics more closely in today's lesson.



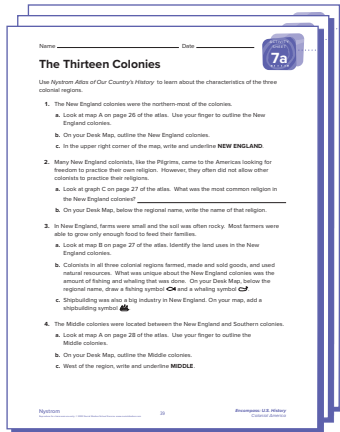
### 3 Contrast the three colonial regions.

- a. Highlight some of the differences between the regions based on what students discussed in the previous step. Let students know that in today's activity, you will be getting to know the differences between the regions a bit better.

#### Summarizing and Assessing

##### 1. Distribute Activity Sheet 7, *The Thirteen Colonies*.

- a. Once students have finished the activity sheet, assign each student a colonial region. Ask:
  - What makes your colonial region different from the other two colonial regions?
- b. If there is time, you can have students write a short paragraph describing at least two differences. Otherwise you can select students to share some of their answers with the class.
- c. Collect and review Activity Sheet 7.



Activity Sheet 7

#### Digital Practice

You can invite your students to further explore the thirteen colonies by assigning the digital activity “Encompass U.S. History: Unit 2: Colonial America: Thirteen Colonies.” Remind students of the location of each of the thirteen colonies and the three colonial regions. Review and contrast the characteristics of the colonial regions. This activity can be found at [NystromWorld.com](http://NystromWorld.com).

#### Extending




**History:** Choose one of the 13 colonies. Compare what the colony was like when it was settled with what it is like today by creating a table that shows the major settlements/cities for each time as well as the jobs and natural resources available then and now.










# The Thirteen Colonies




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

1. The New England colonies were the northern-most of the colonies.
  - a. Look at map A on page 26 of the atlas. Use your finger to outline the New England colonies.
  - b. On your Desk Map, outline the New England colonies.
  - c. In the upper right corner of the map, write and underline **NEW ENGLAND**.
2. 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 27 of the atlas. What was the most common religion in the New England colonies? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. On your Desk Map, below the regional name, write the name of that religion.
3. In New England, farms were small and the soil was often rocky. Most farmers were able to grow only enough food to feed their families.
  - a. Look at map B on page 27 of the atlas. Identify the land uses in the New England colonies.
  - 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 Desk Map, below the regional name, draw a fishing symbol  and a whaling symbol .
  - c. Shipbuilding was also a big industry in New England. On your map, add a shipbuilding symbol .
4. The Middle colonies were located between the New England and Southern colonies.
  - a. Look at map A on page 28 of the atlas. Use your finger to outline the Middle colonies.
  - b. On your Desk Map, outline the Middle colonies.
  - c. West of the region, write and underline **MIDDLE**.

5. 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 29 of the atlas. What were the seven most common religions in the Middle colonies?
  - b. On your Desk Map, below the regional name, write **RELIGIOUS FREEDOM**.
6. 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 29 of the atlas. Identify the land uses in the Middle colonies.
  - b. On your Desk 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 .
7. The Southern colonies were the most populated of the 13 colonies. They were located south of the New England and Middle colonies.
  - a. On your Desk Map, outline the Southern colonies.
  - b. West of the region, write and underline **SOUTHERN**.
8. Most of the Southern colonies were officially Anglican. But other religions were also practiced.
  - a. Look at graph C on page 31 of the atlas. What were the four most common religions in the Southern colonies?
  - b. On your Desk Map, below the regional name, write **OFFICIALLY ANGLICAN**.



9. 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.
- Look at map B on page 31 of the atlas. Identify the land uses in the Southern colonies.
  - Tobacco, rice, and indigo were the major cash crops in the South. Indigo is a plant used to make a blue dye. On your Desk Map, below the regional name, draw a tobacco symbol , a rice symbol , and an indigo symbol .
10. Use the information from the atlas, your Desk Map, and Activity Sheets 7a–7c to fill in the chart below.

Colonial Regions			
	New England	Middle	Southern
<b>Location</b> (Color the region.)			
<b>Colonies</b>			
<b>Main Religions</b>			
<b>Main Land Uses</b>			



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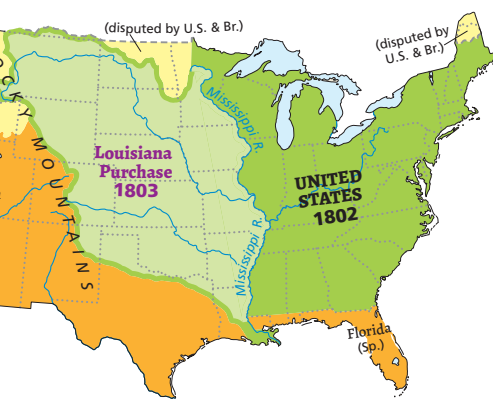
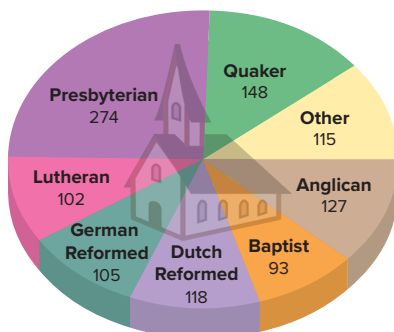
ATLAS  
of

# OUR COUNTRY'S HISTORY





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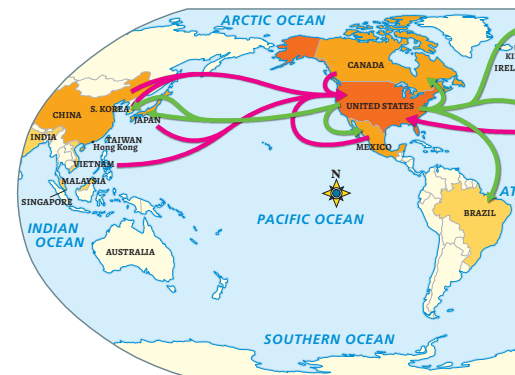
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# Which colonies became the United States?

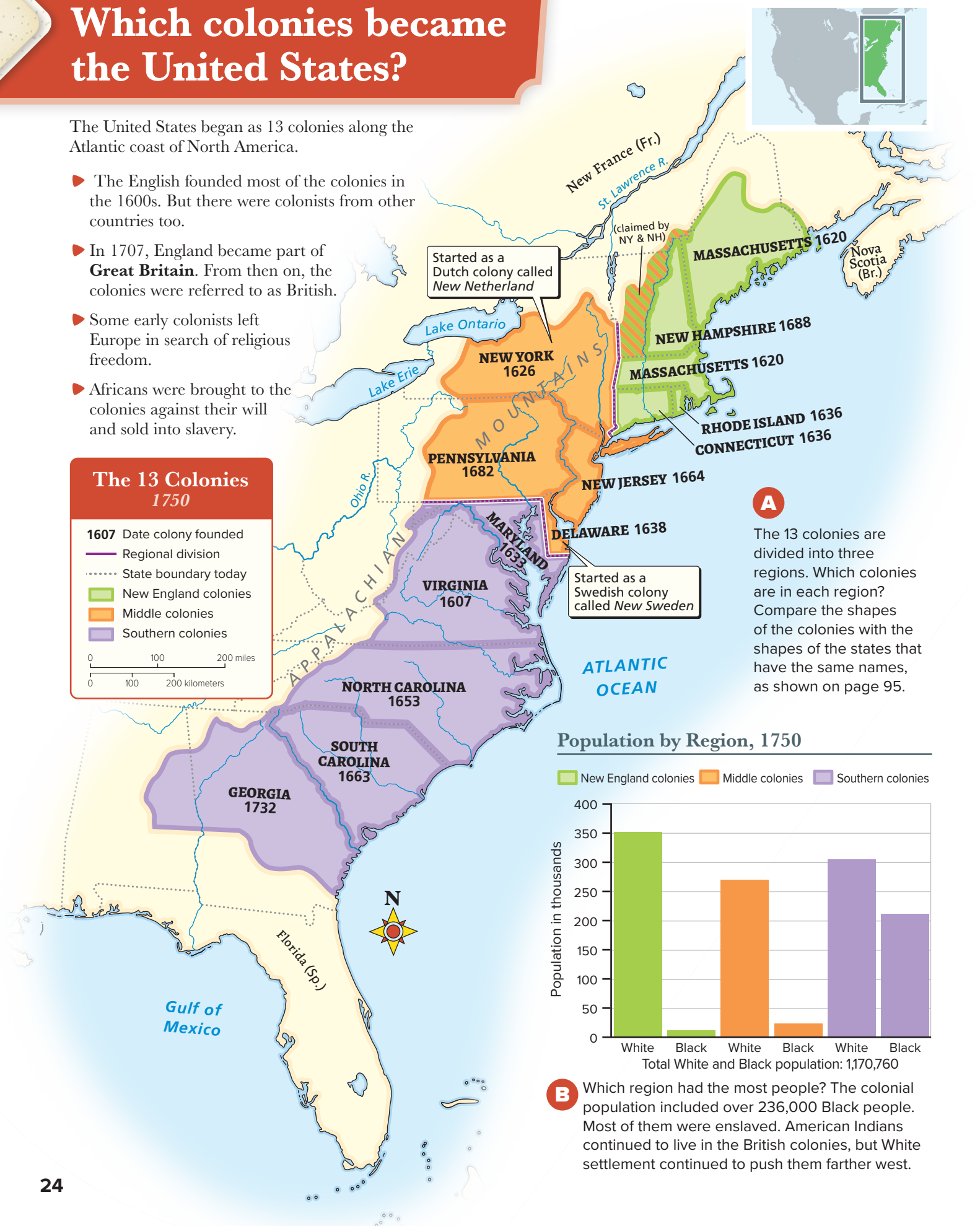
The United States began as 13 colonies along the Atlantic coast of North America.

- The English founded most of the colonies in the 1600s. But there were colonists from other countries too.
- In 1707, England became part of **Great Britain**. From then on, the colonies were referred to as British.
- Some early colonists left Europe in search of religious freedom.
- Africans were brought to the colonies against their will and sold into slavery.

## The 13 Colonies 1750

- 1607** Date colony founded
- Regional division
  - State boundary today
  - New England colonies
  - Middle colonies
  - Southern colonies

0 100 200 miles  
0 100 200 kilometers

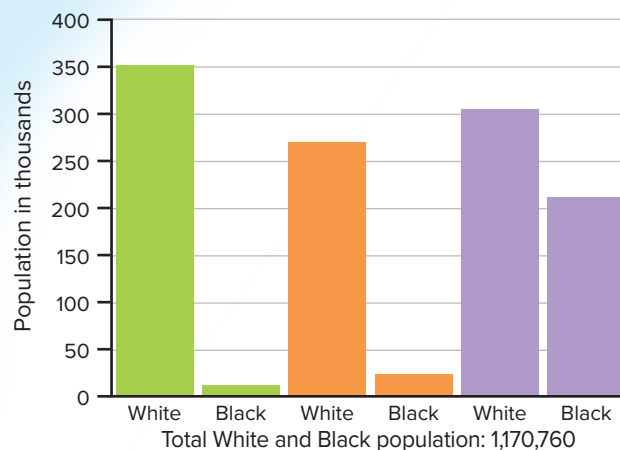


**A**

The 13 colonies are divided into three regions. Which colonies are in each region? Compare the shapes of the colonies with the shapes of the states that have the same names, as shown on page 95.

## Population by Region, 1750

■ New England colonies ■ Middle colonies ■ Southern colonies



**B**

Which region had the most people? The colonial population included over 236,000 Black people. Most of them were enslaved. American Indians continued to live in the British colonies, but White settlement continued to push them farther west.



### Taking Action

*How can you make others who are new to a place feel welcome?*

### Colonists from Many Nations 1775

#### Largest European Group in Settled Area

- English
- German
- Scots-Irish
- Dutch
- Scots

#### Enslaved Africans

- Over 30% of local population

**C** Compare this map with map A. Which region was settled mostly by the English? Which had the largest German areas? Which had the largest number of enslaved people?



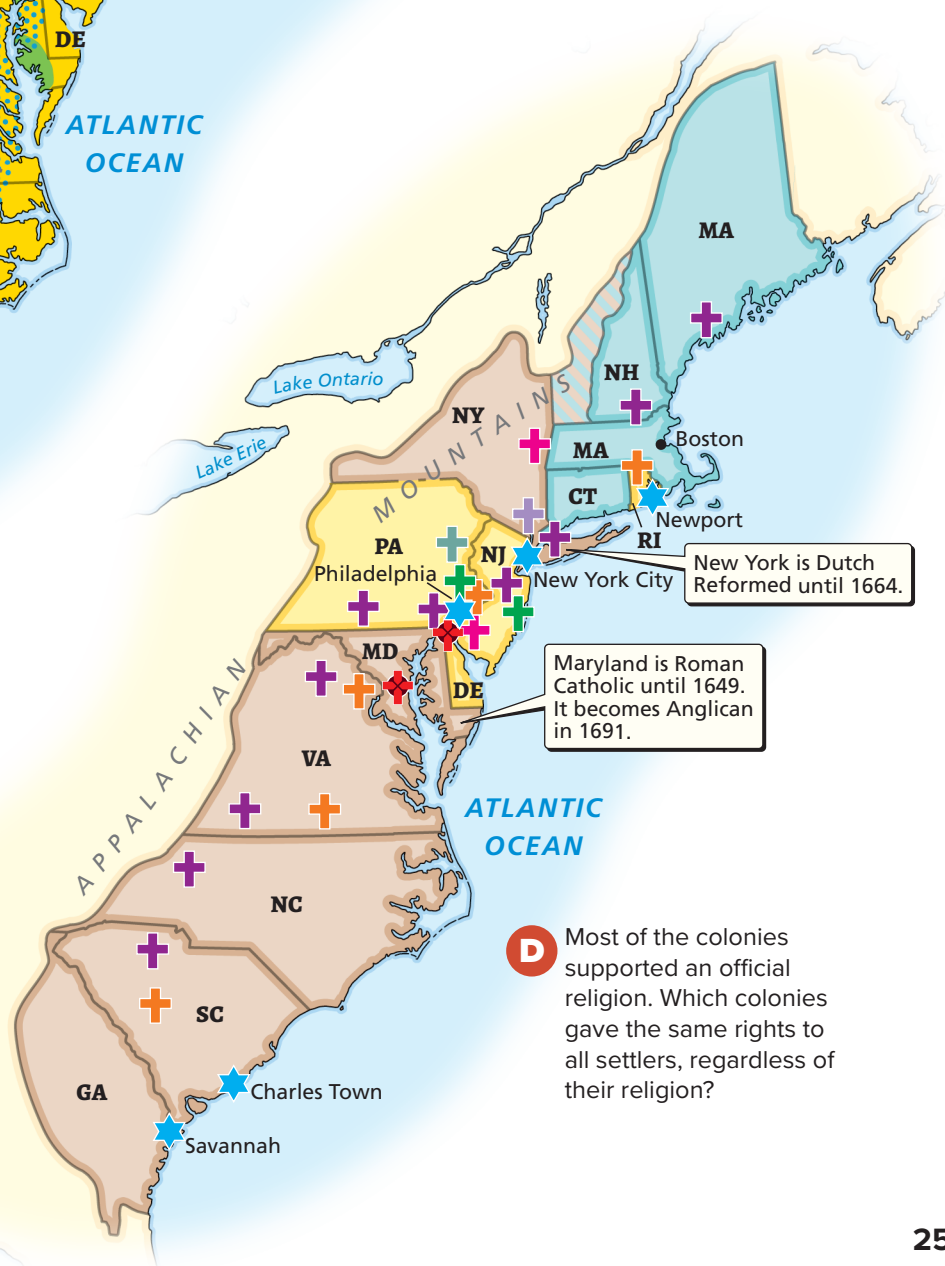
### Religion in the Colonies 1775

#### Official Religions

- Anglican (Episcopal)
- Puritan (Congregational)
- None (policy of religious tolerance)

#### Other Religions

- Baptist
- Lutheran
- Presbyterian
- Quaker
- German Reformed
- Dutch Reformed
- Roman Catholic
- Jewish



**D** Most of the colonies supported an official religion. Which colonies gave the same rights to all settlers, regardless of their religion?



# What were the New England colonies like?

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

- ▶ 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.

## 1620

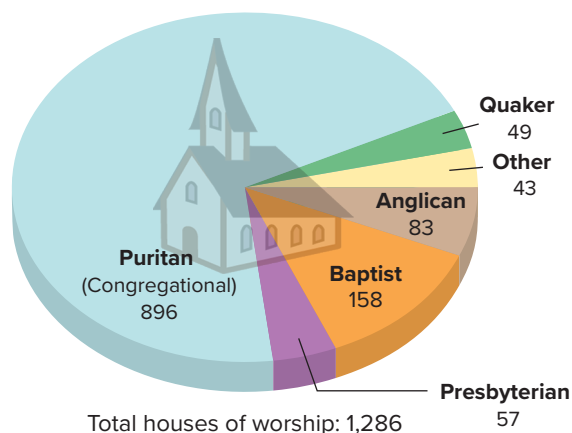
Plymouth, in present-day Massachusetts, is founded by Pilgrims, a religious group that split off from the Puritans.

**A** Which was the first New England settlement? Which towns were near rivers far from the Atlantic coast?





Religion in New England, 1775



**C** 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.



**D** 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.



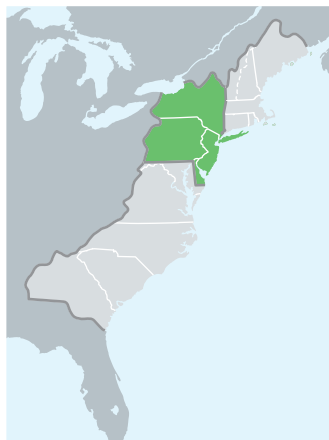
# What were the Middle colonies like?

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

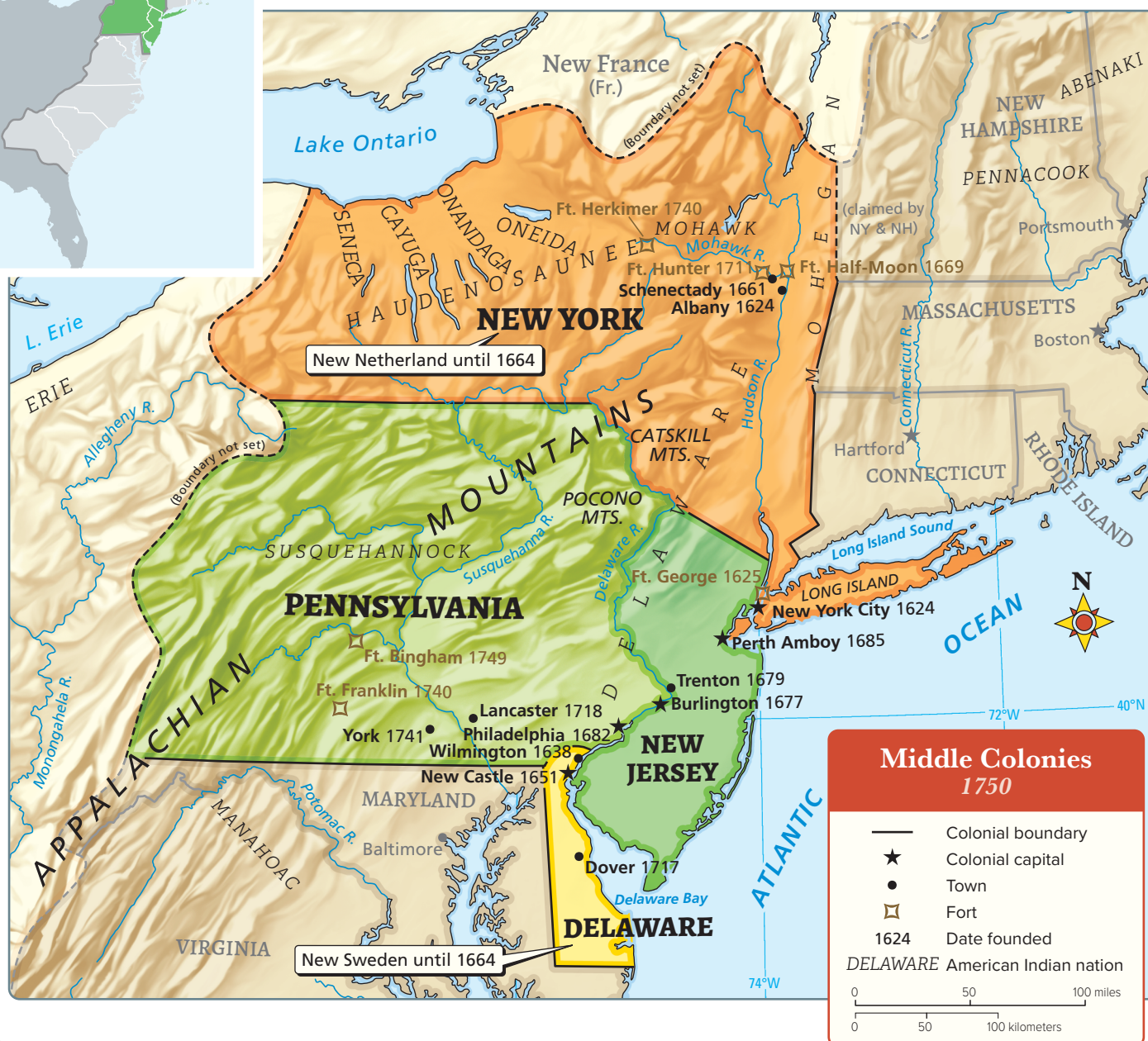
- ▶ The first settlers in the Middle colonies were from the Netherlands and Sweden. English settlers arrived later.
- ▶ Long after the English took over, the Dutch (from the Netherlands) outnumbered them in New York and New Jersey.
- ▶ No American colonies were founded by Germans, but German settlers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

*“Here we mingled like fish at sea, but peaceably. He who would let it be noticed that he was [hostile] to another because of religion, would be regarded as a fool.”*

▶ Christopher Schultz, a Pennsylvanian, in a letter to a friend in 1769



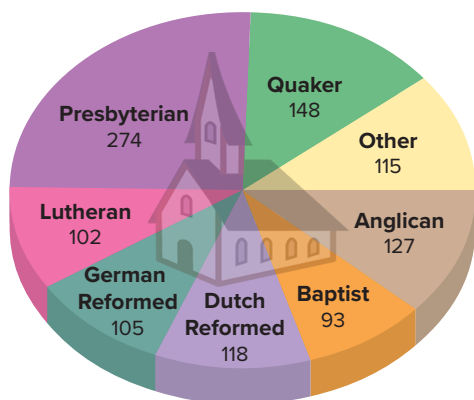
**A** What do you notice about the locations of the colonial capitals? Are any of the capitals of these colonies state capitals today?







### Religion in the Middle Colonies, 1775



Total houses of worship: 1,082

- C** The English made New York officially Anglican, but Dutch settlers belonged to other churches. The three other colonies were tolerant of all faiths. Compare this graph with the one on page 27.



- D** New York, shown here, and Philadelphia were the largest cities in the colonies. Port cities were important centers of trade and **manufacturing**.

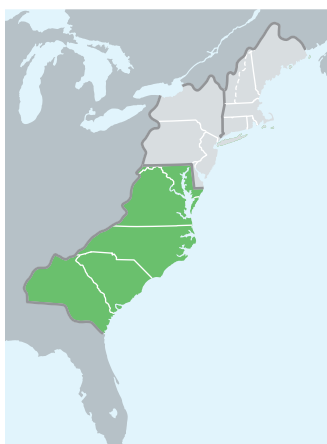
# What were the Southern colonies like?

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

- ▶ The first Southern colonists were mostly Englishmen who started large one-crop farms called plantations. Large plantations were home to hundreds of enslaved people.
- ▶ Later settlers, including Germans, Scots, and Scots-Irish, moved farther inland and built small farms.
- ▶ Although the Southern colonies were officially Anglican, many of the colonists practiced other religious faiths.

*In America there are fertile lands [enough] to support all the ... Poor in England.*

- ▶ James Oglethorpe, founder of the colony of Georgia



**A**

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

