

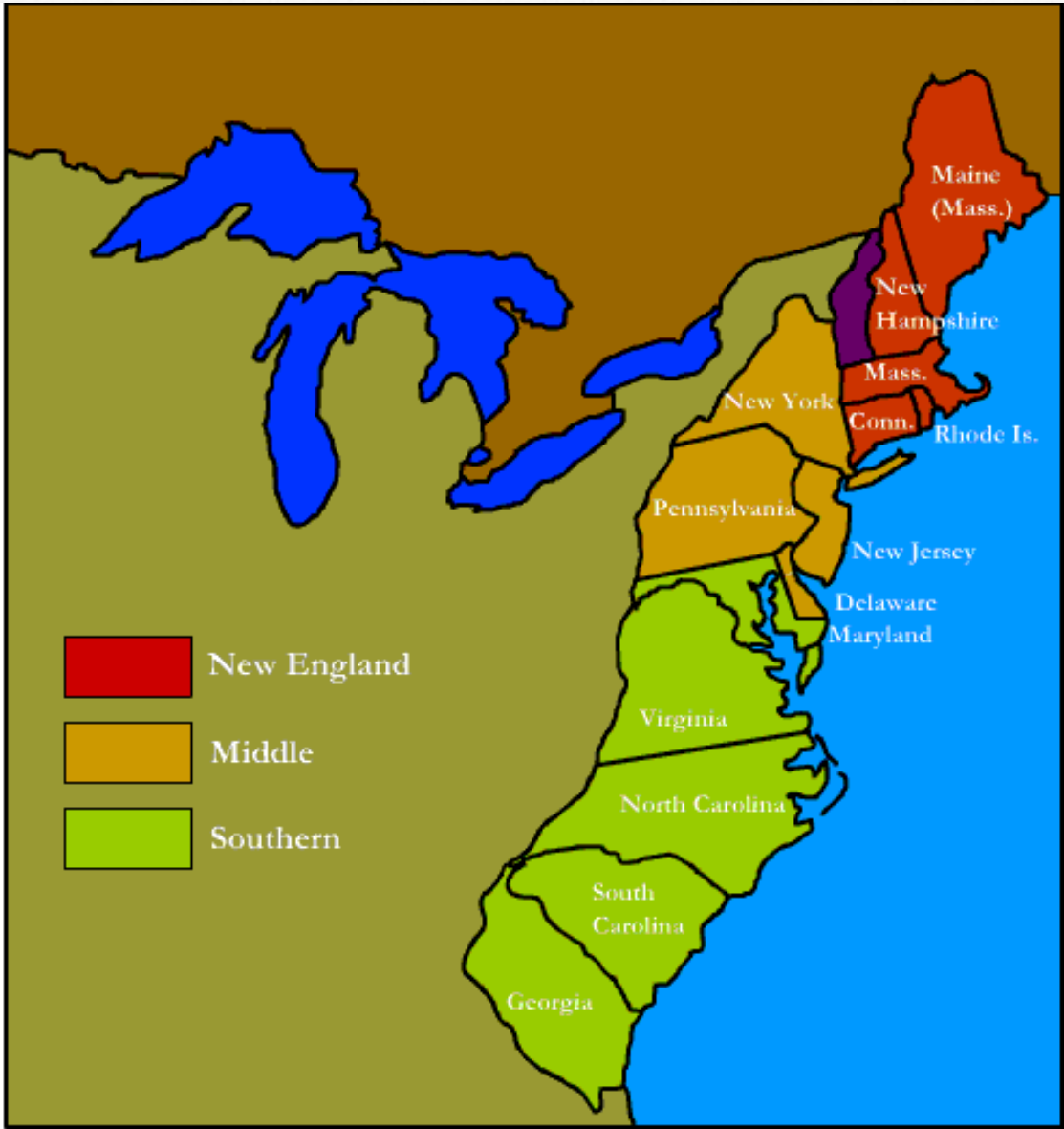


The thirteen
colonies

The American War of Independence 1775-1783

Who were the colonists?





New England (north)

- o Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Rhode Island
- o **Climate:** cold winters and mild summers.
- o **Geography:** Land was flat close to the coastline but became hilly and mountainous farther inland. Soil was generally rocky, making farming difficult. Cold winters reduced the spread of disease.

New England (north)

- o **Religion** – Puritan.
- o Puritans followed strict rules and were intolerant of other religions. Life in New England was dominated by church, and there were severe consequences for those who failed to attend, or, those who spoke out against the Puritan ways.

New England (north)

- o **Economy** - New England's economy was largely dependent on the ocean. Fishing (especially codfish).
- o Eventually, many New England shippers grew wealthy buying slaves from West Africa in return for rum, and selling the slaves to the West Indies in return for molasses. This process was called the "triangular trade."

Middle colonies

- o New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware
- o **Climate:** temperate warm summers and cold winters. Climate and land were ideal for agriculture. These colonies were known as the "breadbasket" because of the large amounts of barley, wheat, oats, and rye that were grown here.

Middle colonies

- o **Religion:** no single religion seemed to dominate the entire region.
- o Religious tolerance attracted immigrants from a wide range of foreign countries who practiced many different religions: Quakers, Catholics, Jews, Lutherans and Presbyterians.

Middle colonies

- **Economy:** The Middle Colonies enjoyed a successful and diverse economy: agricultural, farms, shipbuilding, textiles production, and papermaking.
- The craft was practiced in large cities like New York and Philadelphia.

Southern Colonies

- o Maryland, Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia.
- o **Climate:** warm with hot summers and mild winters.
- o The soil was perfect for farming and the growing season was longer than in any other region.
- o Hot summers, however, propagated diseases such as malaria and yellow fever.

Southern Colonies

- **Religion:** Most people in the Southern Colonies were Anglican (Baptist or Presbyterian).
- Religion did not have the same impact on communities as in the New England colonies or the Mid-Atlantic colonies because people lived on plantations that were often distant and spread out from one another.

Questions

1. Describe the New England colonies: climate, religion, economy.
2. Describe the Middle colonies: climate, religion, economy.
3. Describe the southern colonies: climate, religion, economy.

Resources

New England colonies

Middle colonies

Southern colonies

Can you identify the 13 original colonies of the
USA?

Colonies map