

13 COLONIES

A colony is a territory or piece of land that is settled by groups of people but is governed by another country. The United States of America started off as 13 original colonies ruled by Great Britain before becoming its own country.

The colonies brought people for different reasons, including religious freedom, more money, and a fresh start. No matter the reason, more and more settlers went to America and the colonies were founded one by one.

The colonies were divided into 3 geographic regions: New England Colonies, the Middle Colonies, and the Southern Colonies. New England Colonies included Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire. Middle Colonies included Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York. Finally, Southern Colonies included Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.

New England Colonies had a lot of mountains with trees, rivers and drier soil with rocks that made it a poor choice for agriculture (farming). They had natural resources such as wood from the trees, and fish. They had to import food and farming products from other colonies. Their weather consisted of very cold winters but that meant less disease. The north were all Puritans (Protestants a type of religion) and had no religious freedom.

Middle Colonies were a mix of both north and south in terms of geography. They had mountains and rivers as well as hills and flatter lands. The Middle Colonies had good farmland and agricultural conditions like good weather, as well as natural resources such as wood, coal, fur, and iron. The Middle Colonies did not have a specific religion and instead welcomed religious freedom.

Southern Colonies had coastal plains, forests, and fertile soil. The south worked on large farming estates (land where crops were planted) that grew cotton, tobacco, rice, sugar cane, and indigo (a dye). Much of the work

TEXT MARKING



Which colonies were the Middle Colonies?



The colonies were divided into how many regions?



Who were the 13 Colonies originally ruled by?



What is a colony?

WORDS TO KNOW

**UNDERLINE (IN PASSAGE)
THEN DEFINE**

import -

fertile -

here was done by enslaved individuals. Weather in the south was very warm which meant the spread of more diseases. The south also had religious freedom and included Baptists, Anglicans, and others.

The first colony that was founded was Virginia, when settlers landed in Jamestown in 1607. Following that, New York was founded in 1607 by the Duke of York and other colonists for the resources that were available there to trade. Next was New Hampshire in 1623, founded by John Mason. Massachusetts was founded in 1630 by people who came on the Mayflower in search of religious freedom. They called themselves Pilgrims. In 1633 the queen granted Lord Baltimore the area of land now known as Maryland and it was named after her. It became a safe place for religious freedom.

Connecticut was established by Puritans who did not believe Massachusetts was religiously strict enough, while Rhode Island was founded by those who wanted more religious freedom than Massachusetts offered. Both were founded in 1636. Delaware was founded in 1638 by Peter Minuit and New Sweden Company (it was originally founded by Sweden). North Carolina and South Carolina were founded in 1653 and were one colony until 1733 when they split in two. New Jersey was founded in 1664 for trade.

Pennsylvania was founded in 1681 when land north of Delaware was granted to William Penn by the king. In 1732, Georgia was founded to protect South Carolina from invasion by the Spanish in Florida and the French in Louisiana.

Even though settlers came from different countries, eventually, the two dominant settlers of the colonies became England and France. To fight for control of America, the colonists and Britain fought against New France in the French and Indian War in 1754, the colonists won. Eventually, the colonies broke away from Great Britain to become an independent nation - the United States of America.

TEXT MARKING



Who was Connecticut established by?



Where was the first colony?



Who founded New Hampshire?



What was New Jersey founded for?

WORDS TO KNOW

**UNDERLINE (IN PASSAGE)
THEN DEFINE**

granted -

dominant -

REVOLUTIONARY WAR BATTLES

The Revolutionary War, which began in 1775, was fought for America's independence from Great Britain. After the French and Indian War, Britain taxed the colonies. They needed money to pay for the supplies and soldiers that were used to aid the colonies in defeating the French for control of America. The colonists did not believe the taxes and laws were fair since they did not get to have a say in British Parliament (government). For that reason, they went to war to gain independence. **This war lasted 7 years and many battles were fought between the two sides.** Two of the most significant battles that started and ended the war were the Battle of Lexington and Concord and the Battle of Yorktown.

The battle that started the Revolutionary War was the Battle of Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775. The British army wanted to capture rebel leaders Samuel Adams and John Hancock. Although this was just a small fight, it was considered the first one of the American Revolution. The British army was ordered to go to Lexington to capture the rebels and seize weapons the colonists had in Concord. **The colonists were warned by Paul Revere that the British army was on the way,** giving time for Adams and Hancock to leave the area. This also allowed the colonial militia time to hide ammunition. When the British Army arrived, there were only about 80 Americans ready to fight while there was a whole army of British soldiers. The British army was led by Major John Pitcairn and **the American army was led by Captain John Parker.** While they stood against each other, a shot was fired although it is not clear whether it was the British or the Americans. This was the first shot of the war and was called "shot heard around the world."

Most of the colonists ran away from the fight in Lexington and a few were killed. Following this battle, the British went to Concord to seize the

TEXT MARKING



What battle started the Revolutionary War?



How long did the Revolutionary War last?



Who led the American army at Lexington?



Who warned colonists that the British were on the way?

WORDS TO KNOW

**UNDERLINE (IN PASSAGE)
THEN DEFINE**

seize - to take

rebel - to fight against authority

weapons and ammunition (bullets and gunpowder). The American militia retreated (withdrew) outside of Concord and watched as the British soldiers searched for the hidden weapons. As time passed, local soldiers joined the Americans until their number was large enough to attack the British. **Some of the American militia were called minutemen because they were ready to fight with a minute's notice.** When they went back into Concord, they defeated the British. The British commander could see their number was large, so he withdrew his army. As they went back to Boston, the Americans continued to join together and attack them, causing them to lose more of their men. This winning battle gave the colonists the confidence they needed to keep fighting.

The Battle of Yorktown, in Virginia, was the last big battle of the war. It occurred in Yorktown in 1781 when the British were greatly outnumbered. **General Nathaneal Greene was the commander of the Continental army in the south while George Washington was leading in the North.**

The British, led by their general Charles Cornwallis, marched south to Yorktown while General Washington went south as well. The French navy (fighting with the colonists) defeated the British navy and also headed that direction, leaving the southern American army led by General Greene, George Washington and his army coming from the north, as well as the French navy from the north. The British were completely surrounded and outnumbered.

The Americans fought them for 11 days until finally, the British surrendered. On October 19, 1781, the British general signed the Articles of Capitulation, a document stating his surrender. The loss of this battle and the surrender of thousands of British troops led them to give up. They did not want to keep fighting and could see that they were well on their way to lose the war. **This led to the signing of the Treaty of Paris, which officially ended the Revolutionary War and gave America independence.**

TEXT MARKING



Where was the Battle of Yorktown?



What were minutemen?



What was the Treaty of Paris?



Who led the north at Yorktown?

WORDS TO KNOW

**UNDERLINE (IN PASSAGE)
THEN DEFINE**

withdrew - to draw back

surrender - to give up

SPARK SOME *creativity*

ESCAPE
ROOMS

SCAVENGER
HUNTS

SPY
MYSTERY

THINKTIVITY

SECRET
MESSAGES

TEXT
DETECTIVE

BREAKOUTS

READING
CHALLENGE

INTERACTIVE
NOTEBOOK

COLOR BY
NUMBER

DIGITAL
ESCAPES

DIGITAL
BOARD
GAME

GOOGLE
SLIDES

TASK
CARDS
GAME

GOOGLE
FORMS

PUZZLE
STATIONS

BOOM
CARDS

READING
PASSAGES

LET'S CONNECT

f

E

BLOG

p

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GRAB A FREEBIE

Grab a FREE
Boston Tea
Party activity!

