



Geography of the 13 Colonies

Building Context

Objective

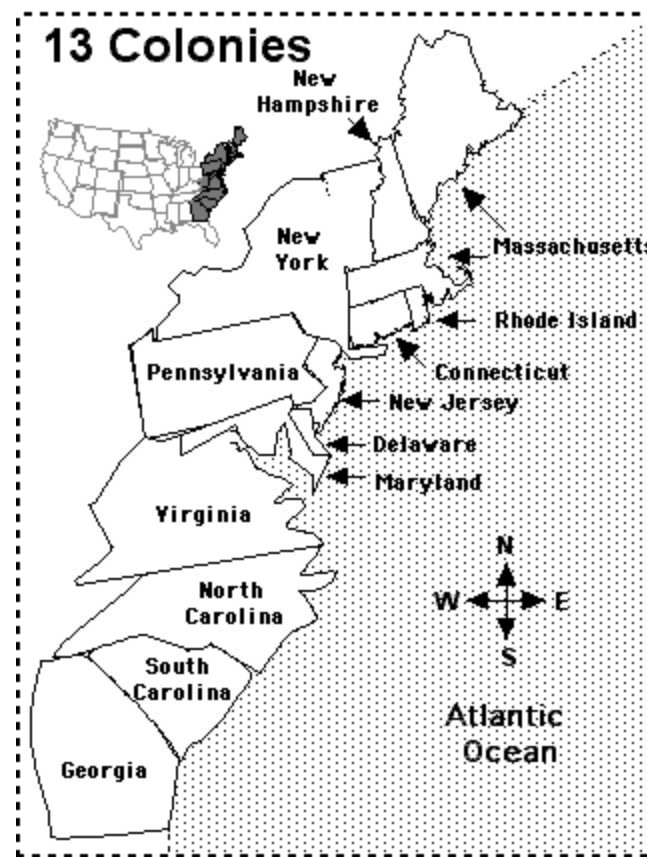
*Describe the location of the original 13 colonies of the United States.
Describe the geography of the original 13 colonies of the United States.*

Map 1: Location of the colonies relative to Great Britain - made using: [National Geographic Map Maker](#)



- 1) Notice where Great Britain is located on this map. Why do you think original British colonists settled and established colonies along the *East Coast of the United States*?
 - a) Why do you think they didn't originally settle on the west coast of the United States (near the Pacific Ocean)?
- 2) According to this image, which **ocean** were the colonies closest to?
 - a) Why might access to this ocean be important to the **economy** and **longevity** of the colonies?

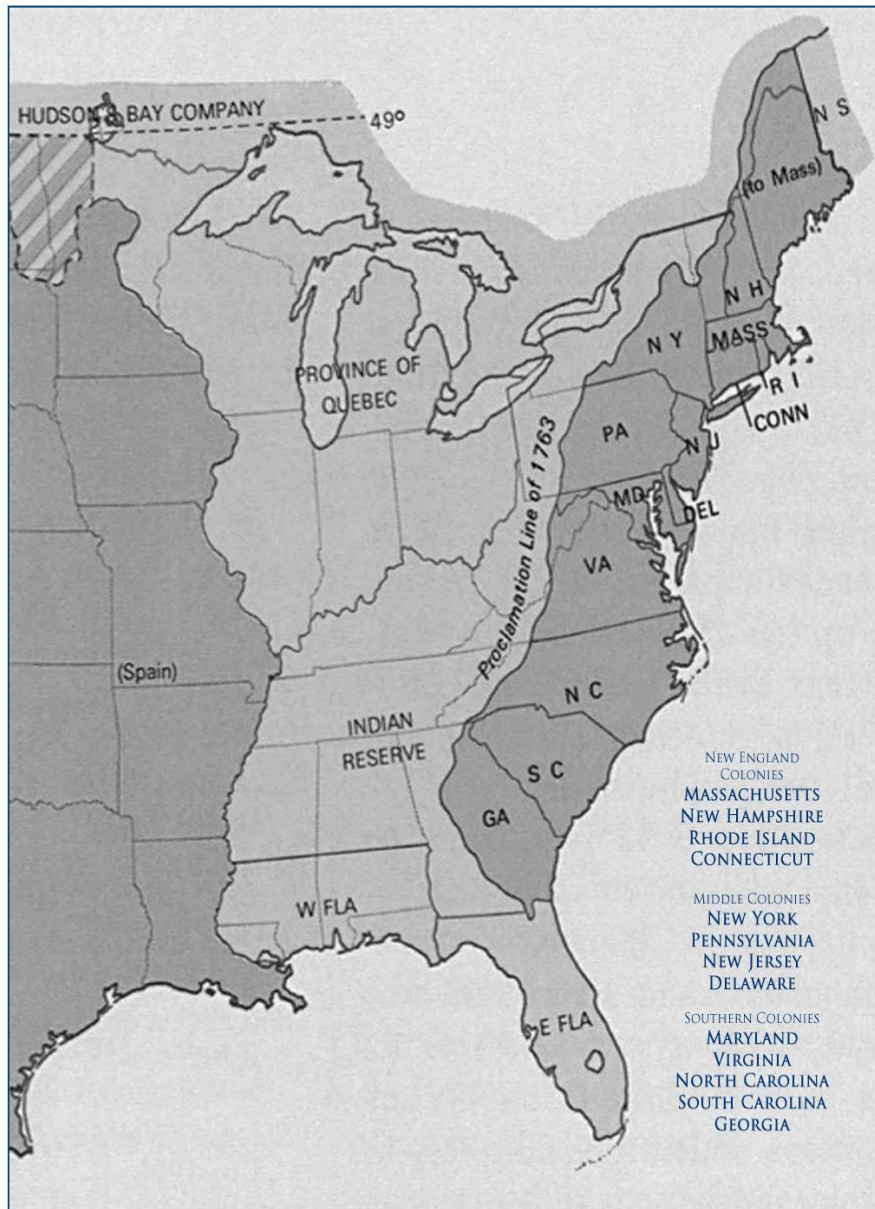
Map 2: Original 13 Colonies - Accessed from: [Enchanted Learning](#)



1) What were the original 13 colonies?

- | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1) | 3) | 5) | 7) | 9) | 11) | 13) |
| 2) | 4) | 6) | 8) | 10) | 12) | |

Map 3: Political map of North America in 1766 - Accessed from: [Revive the Spirit](#)



1) According to this image, how many different geographical regions or groups were the colonies divided into?

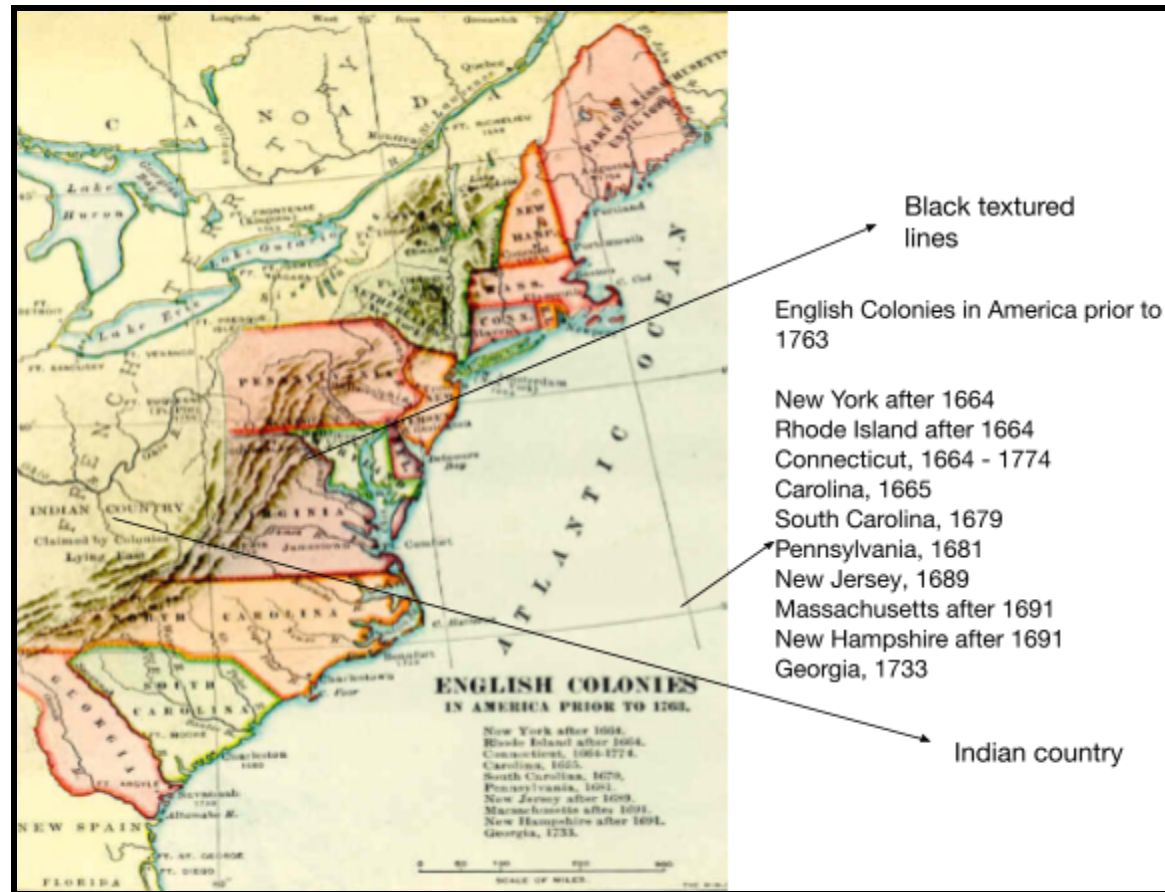
a) What was the name of each region?

2) Label the three colonial geographical regions on the map.

3) Which geographic region seems to have the **most land**? Which region has the **least amount** of land?

a) How might this have impacted what kinds of settlements formed where? *For example, which colonial region do you think would have more cities, which would have more rural areas? Why?*

Map 4: Political map of North America in 1766 - Accessed from: [Humboldt University](#)



- 1) According to this map, which two groups of people were settled on lands to the WEST of the thirteen British colonies?
- 2) What geographical feature do you think the black textured lines on this map represents?
 - a) How might this geographical feature impacted where the British colonists established settlements?

Chart: Geography and Climate of Colonial Regions

Colonial Region	Geography	Climate
New England	• Mountainous • Thick, large trees • Rivers • Rocky soil	• Longer winters • Short summers which are mild
Middle	• Some mountainous regions • Marshy swampland • Flat lands • Rivers and lakes • Small mountains • Fertile soil	• Longer days than New England • Plenty of sunshine and rain • Moderate temperatures in spring and summer, longer spring and summer than New England • Humid summers
Southern Colonies	• Semi-mountainous • Lush valleys • Rivers • Broad plains • Rolling hills • Fertile and moist soil	• Humid spring and summers • Milder winters • Warmest temperatures of the three colonial regions

- 1) Based on the information in the chart which colony do you think found it easier to establish farmlands, South Carolina or Massachusetts? Why?
- 2) What is one geographical feature all three colonial regions have in common? Why do you think this geographic feature was important to British colonists?