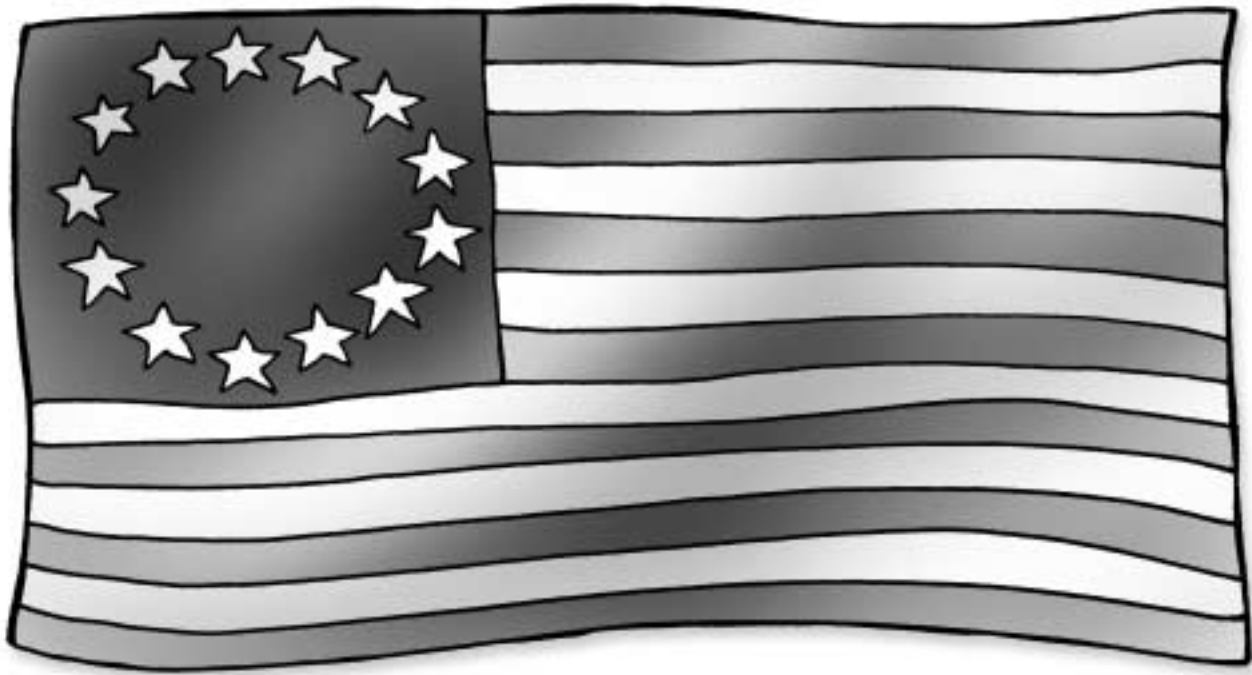


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Boston Tea Party

Colonies in America

In 1760 America was a much different country than it is today. The population was only about 1½ million. (Today's population is about 200 times that number!) Half a million of the population were black slaves. Almost all these people lived in 13 colonies that covered a 1500-mile strip along the Atlantic Ocean: Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia.

Geography Challenge

Have students find the 13 original colonies on a current map; then compare and contrast them with one another. Which is the largest? The smallest? The farthest south? The farthest north?

Have them look in an atlas to find out more about these 13 states today. Which has the greatest population? The least?

Copy page 6 and hand it out to students. Have them write the name of each colony on the correct shape.

When students have completed the page, check the answers together as a class and have students correct any mistakes so they can use their pages to play the following game.

Who Am I? Colony Identification

Give two clues about one of the colonies. (Example: I am the most southern colony. Right above me is South Carolina. Who am I?) Have students raise their hands to name the colony you described. When the first one has been identified, give two clues about a second colony. Continue the game until all 13 colonies have been described and identified.

Historic Coins

Have students cooperate in taking to class new quarters featuring each of the 13 original colonies. Tell them to look at the quarters carefully. Discuss the symbols on the quarters. What do they symbolize? For more information, check out: www.usmint.gov/kids.



Connecticut:	Charter oak tree (The Connecticut Charter was hidden from the British in this tree.)
Delaware:	Caesar Rodney (signer of the Declaration of Independence)
Georgia:	Peach
Maryland:	Maryland State Capitol building
Massachusetts:	Minuteman soldier
New Hampshire:	Old Man of the Mountain (famous tourist site)
New Jersey:	Washington crossing the Delaware
New York:	Statue of Liberty
North Carolina:	Wright Brothers' "First Flight" airplane
Pennsylvania:	State Commonwealth statue from the top of the Capitol dome
Rhode Island:	Sailboat (Rhode Island is known as the "sailing capital" of the world.)
South Carolina:	State bird and tree
Virginia:	Jamestown (first English settlement in America) Living in the Colonies

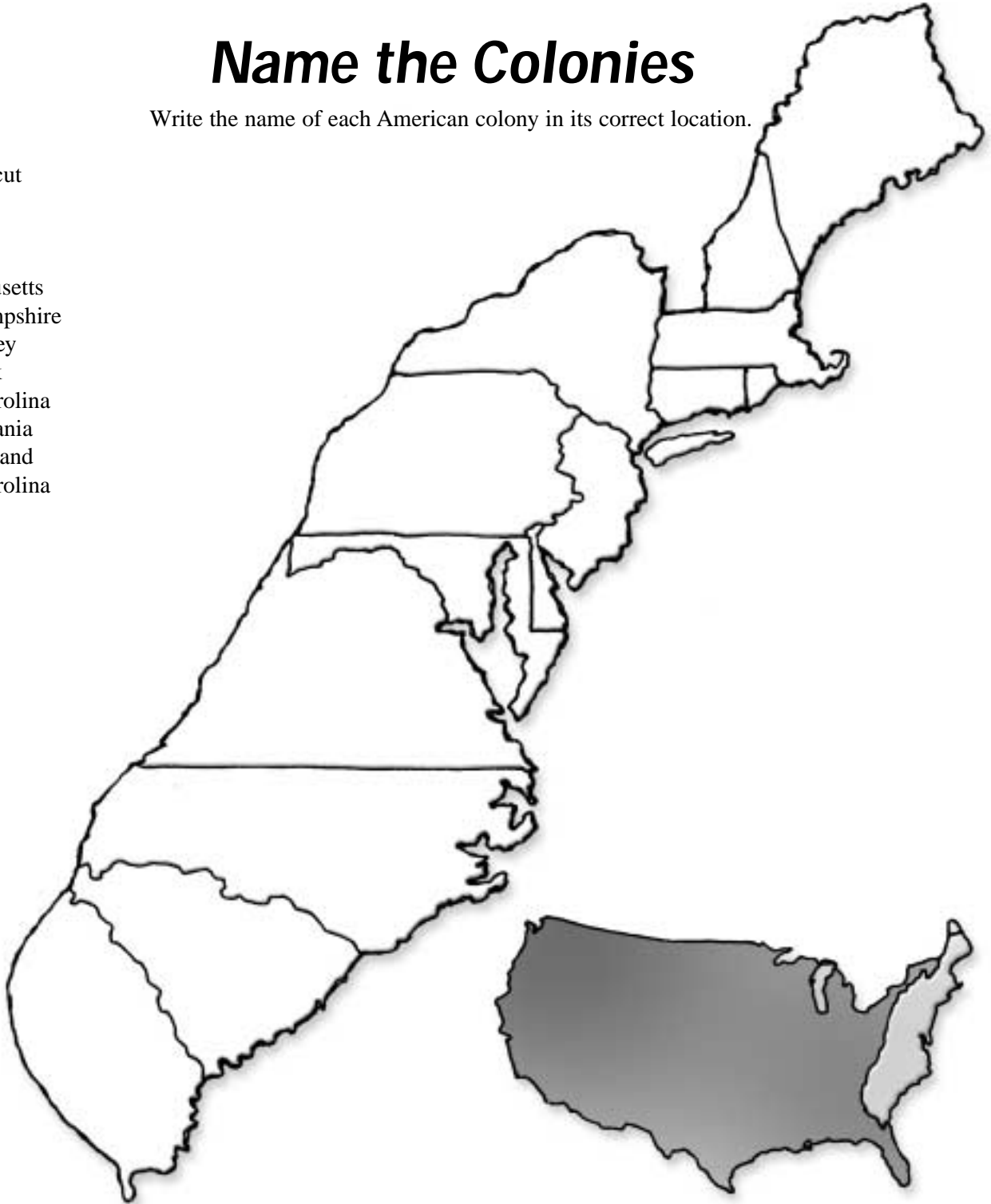
Boston Tea Party

Name _____

Name the Colonies

Write the name of each American colony in its correct location.

- Connecticut
- Delaware
- Georgia
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- New Hampshire
- New Jersey
- New York
- North Carolina
- Pennsylvania
- Rhode Island
- South Carolina
- Virginia



Boston Tea Party

Living in the Colonies

About $\frac{9}{10}$ of the people living in the colonies in the mid 1700s lived on small farms. Many lived in simple log cabins. A few in the southern colonies lived on huge farms called plantations. This was where most of the African American population lived as slaves. The farm families grew most of their own food and raised hogs, chickens and cows. They traded food with their neighbors and usually cooked the food in big iron pots hung over their fireplaces. It was a difficult life and everyone in the family had to work hard, even the children. Girls helped their mothers with cooking, sewing and making candles. Candlelight was usually the only light they had inside. Boys helped their fathers with the farm work—plowing, planting, harvesting, milking cows and so on. Most children didn't have a chance to go to school. Some larger towns had schools, but most children were taught a little reading and writing by their parents with the Bible as their textbook. Wealthy families were able to send their sons to private school or tutors, and a few of them went on to colleges such as Harvard and Yale.

Some people lived in towns where they worked at manufacturing, shopkeeping, medicine, printing, shipbuilding, fishing, law and foreign trade. Towns were small and separated by great distances though there were a few larger cities. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was the largest city with a population of 40,000; followed by New York with 20,000 and Boston with 16,000. Traveling near home was usually done by horse and carriage in town and by horse and wagon in the country. Rough roads that usually flooded and were sometimes washed away during heavy rains kept people from traveling far from home. Most travel far from home was done by water when possible.

Though children worked hard, they still found ways to have fun. They played ball, flew kites, spun tops and played marbles. They also jumped rope, blew soap bubbles, went swimming and fishing, rolled hoops, played with dolls and toy soldiers and pets and played leapfrog and hide-and-seek. Not only did children in the



American colonies play many of the same games children today play; they also sang some of the same songs such as “London Bridge Is Falling Down” and “Here We Go 'Round the Mulberry Bush.”

Horse racing was a popular sport for the men, and men and women both liked to play card games and go horseback riding. And occasionally the whole family was able to enjoy a Punch and Judy puppet show or see a traveling circus that traveled from town to town. There were also fairs to go to with fun activities such as dancing and races to catch a greased pig.

Personal hygiene was different than it is today. Toothbrushes and toothpaste had not been invented yet in the 1700s. Many people never cleaned their teeth, but some people brushed their teeth with a twig and salt and water instead of toothpaste. They stripped the bark off the end of the twig and sometimes used a knife to cut the end into strips to make it softer. Children did not have to bathe almost every day as they do now. In fact, people thought it wasn't healthy to wash themselves too much. A once-a-week bath, or even less, was thought to be more than enough!