What were the 13 colonies?

- British colonies along the east coast of North America

- 13 Colonies eventually became the United States

- 2 main reasons for founding colonies:
  
  - Economic opportunity (ex. Jamestown)
  
  - Religious freedom (ex. Plymouth)
The First Settlements: Jamestown and Plymouth
Jamestown, Virginia

- Colonists landed in 1607
- First successful settlement on the east coast of America
- Founded for economic motives
Problems at Jamestown

- First years were very difficult, and most of the settlers died

- Jamestown was founded on a swamp, so many settlers died of sickness

- Settlers were unprepared for the harsh winters

- Settlers did not have enough food or supplies

- Many settlers were ‘gentlemen’ who were unwilling to work
Plymouth, Massachusetts

- Colony founded in 1620
- Founded for religious reasons
- Settlers were called “Pilgrims”
The Founding of Plymouth

-Pilgrims came to America to escape religious persecution

-Landed at Plymouth Rock during the winter; by the end of the winter, half the Pilgrims had died

-Pilgrims met Squanto and Massasoit, formed a peace treaty with the Indians

-Thanksgiving: Harvest festival after first successful harvest
  -Pilgrims celebrated with the Native Americans
  -Thanksgiving is still celebrated today
Life in the 13 Colonies
New England Colonies
Massachusetts
New Hampshire
Rhode Island
Connecticut

- Founded by Puritans seeking religious freedom: had strict beliefs and were suspicious of outsiders

- Social life centered around a Meeting Hall, which was also used as a church and a courthouse

- 85% of families made a living as farmers
Video: The Puritans

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o69TvOqyGdg

- start at 8:00 - 10:00

- Primary Source: A Model of Christian Charity by John Winthrop
Middle Colonies
New York
Pennsylvania
New Jersey
Delaware

- Economic incentives: water, timber, iron and land

- Became the merchants of the colonies

- Believed in tolerance and religious freedom, which attracted settlers from all over Europe and from the New England colonies
Southern Colonies
- Economic incentives: tobacco

- Isolated farms which ran independently of one another

- Plantations: Plantation owners and their families were the aristocrats of the southern colonies. Poor white people and African slaves worked the fields: “American feudalism”
Video: Life in the 13 Colonies

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p47tZLJbdag

-start at 8:00 - 9:00
Slavery in the Colonies

- Slavery of African people was legal in every colony
- Slave labor was essential for the tobacco-based economy of the South
the end!
Activity

- Label each of the 13 colonies on the map

- List the New England, Middle, and Southern Colonies