

# Freehand Map of the Thirteen Colonies

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Type of Lesson: Map Skills

Goal: To create a map of the Thirteen Colonies identifying specific locations as well as regions showing New England, Middle & Southern colonies.

Sunshine State Standards: SS.A.4.3.2, SS.B.1.3.1, SS.B.1.3.3, SS.B.1.3.5

Materials: Drawing Paper (12 x 18 preferred), rulers, colored pencils, historical atlases showing the Thirteen Colonies

## Day One:

1. Talk to students about cartography – the art of mapmaking. Stress problems early mapmakers had with accuracy and distortion.
2. Could show samples of historic maps – how early cartographers often created artistic compass roses and even flourishes such as ships and sea-monsters on their maps.
3. Distribute the rubric for the Freehand Map of the Thirteen Colonies assignment.
4. Discuss and demonstrate how to measure with a ruler and draw a grid. Note: On a 12 x 18 sheet of paper held vertically, lines can be drawn 2 inches apart. This will leave space at the top of the page (2 inches) for the title and one inch at the bottom of the page. Stress the importance of making marks on the paper light and in pencil so erasing causes minimal problems.

## Day Two

1. Continue working on grid.
2. Review concepts of longitude and latitude and label grid lines. Longitude lines are labeled 65 degrees west – 85 degrees west. Latitude lines are from 25 degrees north to 50 degrees north.
3. Discuss other map features such as compass and key.

## Day Three

1. Review skill of using map coordinates. Practice estimating city coordinates from looking at their atlases. Show how some atlases have coordinates given for them

in the index; some texts give coordinates in the Gazetteer to assist them.  
(Coordinates can also be found on-line.)

2. Show students how to construct the coastline on their map using the “dot-to-dot” method of plotting the coordinates of the cities using longitude and latitude. It seems to be easiest going from south (Florida) to north (Maine).
3. Student then bit by bit draw in the coastline to connect the cities. Teacher may want to demonstrate the technique.

Depending on the skill level and confidence of the students, the teacher should allow for some class time for guided practice and some homework time for independent practice. I generally allow two weeks to complete this assignment.

We refer back to these maps frequently as we proceed with our study of the Colonies, French and Indian War, and the American Revolution.

# THIRTEEN COLONIES FREEHAND MAP RUBRIC

\_\_\_ Label the colonies in CAPITAL letters.

## Towns: Locate & label.

- \_\_\_ St. Augustine, FL
- \_\_\_ Savannah, GA
- \_\_\_ Charles Town, SC
- \_\_\_ Wilmington, NC
- \_\_\_ New Bern, NC
- \_\_\_ Williamsburg, VA
- \_\_\_ Jamestown, VA
- \_\_\_ Baltimore, MD
- \_\_\_ Philadelphia, PA
- \_\_\_ New York City, NY
- \_\_\_ Boston, MA
- \_\_\_ Plymouth, MA
- \_\_\_ Providence, RI
- \_\_\_ Portsmouth, NH

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- ## European Possessions
- \_\_\_ Spanish Florida
  - \_\_\_ New France

## Physical Features: Draw & label.

- \_\_\_ Connecticut River
- \_\_\_ Hudson River
- \_\_\_ Delaware River
- \_\_\_ James River
- \_\_\_ Susquehanna River
- \_\_\_ Potomac River
- \_\_\_ Roanoke River
- \_\_\_ Savannah River
- \_\_\_ St. Lawrence River
- \_\_\_ Atlantic Ocean
- \_\_\_ Appalachian Mts.
- \_\_\_ Chesapeake Bay
- \_\_\_ Cape Hatteras
- \_\_\_ Cape Cod
- \_\_\_ Lake Ontario
- \_\_\_ Lake Huron
- \_\_\_ Lake Erie

- \_\_\_ Key: Include colors for New England, Middle, and Southern Colonies. Symbols for river, mountains, and cities.
- \_\_\_ Compass Rose:            \_\_\_ Title            \_\_\_ Color
- \_\_\_ Neatness                    \_\_\_ 15 additional coordinates

           /100 Total Points