

U.S. Mint Coin Classroom Lesson Plan: Comparing the Colonies



Comparing the Colonies

Subject: Math

Grade Level: 3-5

Summary: Students will learn about living conditions and money exchange of the original thirteen colonies. Then pretending to be visitors to the New World, they will decide where they want to settle and will write letters explaining their decision.

BIG QUESTIONS

Why did different groups of people choose to settle in the American colonies?

TIMING

45 to 50 minutes

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Students will research and gather information about a specific historical period.
- Students will gain a better understanding of why different groups of people settled in the original American colonies.
- Students will have a better understanding of the monetary system used by the thirteen colonies.
- Students will present their journal entries to the class, sharing their insights and reflections.

MATERIALS

- Writing paper
- Pens/pencils
- Tape

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PROCEDURE

1. Students should conduct online research based on the scenario: Tell students they have traveled to the New World and are thinking about moving there permanently. The New World's colonies are separated into three regions – Northern (New England), Middle, Southern – and you need to determine which one is best for your family.
 - a. Ask what things you want to learn about each region's climate.
 - b. Determine the best ways to make money to purchase land, food and supplies.
 - c. Prompt them to select an occupation.
 - d. Tell students that as a team they will research and select a region.
 - e. They will need to write a persuasive letter to their family back home, explain their decision and why the region they've chosen is the best place for them.
2. Students should organize notes in an outline. Whether written or electronic format, students will create a heading for each of the three regions and subheading for each brainstormed question they need to research. Make sure students know to include notes about a region's hardships along with its benefits.
3. Students will use multiple sources to gather information, including textbooks, the library and online resources.
4. Students will rate the three regions based on benefits and economic opportunities. Then they will write a letter to their families back home explaining where they decided to settle and why.
5. Have students or teams take turns presenting their letters to the class.

ASSESSMENT

Review the letters to make sure students have knowledge of research methods and provide detailed reasons that support their selections.

DIFFERENTIATE

- Allow students to work independently or in small groups.
- Ask students to explain events and give supporting facts.

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