



THIRTEEN COLONIES LEARNING BUDDIES

By Julie Schultz

Activity Description

Students will familiarize or re-familiarize themselves with the location of the original thirteen British colonies and organize themselves into named partnerships that can be used throughout the year.

Suggested Grade Level

Fourth grade and above

Estimated Time to Complete

10 minutes

Objectives

Students will

- use inside voices, practice management of personal space, and organize themselves into partnerships;
- work in these partnerships for the remainder of the school year for all listening, speaking, reading and writing activities under the direction of the teacher.

Materials Needed

- Pencils, maps (attached)

Activity Procedures

1. Armed with a map of the original colonies, students freely walk around the classroom soliciting classmates' signatures and return the favor, thus solidifying partnerships.
 - For example, Student A asks Student B to be her New York buddy. Both students sign each other's map on New York. Once New York is signed, no one else can be either student's New York buddies. Student A and Student C can be each other's North Carolina buddy, and Student B and Student D may agree to be each other's Maryland buddy, because Student D may have all others filled up by the time Student B asked to be buddies. In some cases, some students may need to be buddies in two or more colonies, depending on class size. Point out to students that current-day Maine was once part of Massachusetts since the boundary is clearly visible on the map, but there can only be one Massachusetts buddy for each student.
2. Near the end of the time limit, students may call out, "Who needs Georgia, I have Connecticut free, etc." Time can be extended so that all students have thirteen buddies. Now when teachers want students to work in pairs, a specific directive, "Work with your New York buddy," can be given and students can consult their maps and go into partnerships. The constant consulting of the visual reminds students of the United States' colonial beginnings. Teachers can use up to thirteen different partnerships for class work.

13 Colonies

