Geography of the United States, 1790
Geography of the United States, 1790

• In partners:
  1. Get 5 different colors.
  2. Analyze the maps in “Setting the Stage” on pages 142-143 in History Alive!
  3. Label and color as directed and answer questions on the back of your map in complete sentences.
Geography of the United States, 1790

1. Label each state on the map. Which two states had the largest populations?
   • Virginia and Pennsylvania had the largest populations.

2. Locate and label the nation’s five largest cities in 1790. Which cities are they, and in which state is each located?
   • The nation’s five largest cities in 1790 were Baltimore, Maryland; Boston, Massachusetts; Charleston, South Carolina; New York, New York; and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

3. How many of the nation’s 24 largest cities and towns were located in the South?
   • Only 6 of the nation’s 24 largest cities and towns were located in the South.

4. After Charleston and Baltimore, how large were the South’s next 4 largest cities? In which state or states were they located?
   • The South’s next four largest cities had populations of 2,500 to 5,000.
   • All were located in Virginia.
Geography of the United States, 1790

5. Create a Slave Population key like the one on page 143. Use 5 different colors and color in your map according to each percentage. What region of the nation were most of these states slave located?

- Color Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia.
Geography of the United States, 1790

6. Which states had few or no slaves in their populations? In which region of the nation were most of these states located?
   • Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island had few or no slaves in their populations.

7. How many of the nation’s 24 largest cities and towns were located in states with few or no slaves in their populations?
   • Eighteen of the nation’s 24 largest cities and towns were in states with few or no slaves.

8. In which states did slaves count for about one-third or more of the state’s population?
   • Slaves were about one-third or more of the population in Georgia, Maryland, South Carolina, and Virginia.

9. Circle the names of the Southern states whose population ranks would be affected by a system that did not count slaves as part of a state’s population. How would the population rank of each state change?
   • Circle Virginia, North Carolina, Maryland, and South Carolina.
   • Virginia would fall from the top rank to the same range as Pennsylvania.
   • North Carolina and Maryland would fall below Massachusetts and New York.
   • South Carolina also would fall in the population rankings.
10. Which states would most likely support a system in which the number of votes each state had in the nation’s legislature was based on the state’s population? Why? Which states would probably oppose such a system? Explain why.

- Populous states like Virginia, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina, and Maryland would likely support such a system because it would give them great power in the national government.
- Less-populous states like Rhode Island, Delaware, and Georgia would likely oppose it because they would have little power in a population-based legislature.

11. Which states would most likely oppose a plan to exclude slaves from a state’s population when creating a legislature in which each state’s number of votes depended on its population? Which states would most favor such a plan? Explain why.

- Virginia, North Carolina, Maryland, and South Carolina had large slave populations. Not counting slaves for seats in a population-based legislature would reduce their power.
- This would indirectly benefit populous states with few or no slaves, like Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, and New York, which would likely favor such a plan for that reason.
- Suggested compromises might include a two-house, population-based legislature where slaves count in one house but not in the other, or counting only a portion of a state’s slaves when determining its population.