The 13 Colonies

Each of the following pages provide a graphic of the state, its founding year, and a tidbit of information concerning that colony. These can be used for learning activities and drills. (*States are not drawn to scale.)

Ordinal Numbers: Have the students arrange the colonies from the 1st through the 13th colony.

Ordering Numbers & Team Cooperation: Print a copy of each colony on heavy card stock and cut out the state. Laminate the cut-out for durability. Use a hole puncher and punch holes on the top of each state. Loop enough yard through the holes to allow the colony to hang from a student’s neck. Select 13 students and randomly place a colony around each one’s neck. Without speaking, students must work together and stand in order from the founding of the 1st to the 13th colony. (*Two colonies were founded in 1638 and two others were founded in the year of 1664.)

Quick Drill Team: Use the cut-out states and glue the colony’s information on the back. Divide students in two teams, each with a team captain. Question the team on the founder of each colony. If the team responds with the correct answer, the team wins the colony. The team with the most colonies win.

Subtraction: Incorporate the information on the 13 colonies in math by providing subtraction word problems about the colonies and America’s historical development.
The first of the 13 American colonies was Virginia. This colony was founded in 1607 by The London Company. It became a Royal Colony in 1624.
Massachusetts was founded in year 1620 by the Puritans. It became a Royal Colony of England in 1691.
The Maryland colony was founded by Lord Baltimore in 1634.
Thomas Hooker founded the colony of Connecticut around 1635.
The Rhode Island colony was founded in 1636 by Roger Williams.
Delaware was founded in 1638 by Peter Minuit and The New Sweden Company.
New Hampshire was founded in 1638 by John Wheelwright. It became a royal English colony in 1679.
North Carolina was founded in 1653 by The Virginians. It became a British royal colony in 1729.
In 1663, a small group of Nobles obtained a Royal Charter from King Charles II and founded the South Carolina colony. It became a Royal British colony in 1729.
Sir George Carteret and Lord Berkeley founded the colony of New Jersey in 1664. It became a British Royal Colony in 1702.
The New York colony was founded in 1664 by the Duke of York. It became a British Royal colony in 1685.
Pennsylvania was founded in 1682 by William Penn.
The colony of Georgia was founded in 1732 by James Edward Oglethorpe. It became a British royal colony 20 years later in 1752.