



The Virtual Constitution: Colonial Life

Introduction

The Virtual Constitution: Colonial Life is part of the Virtual Constitution series in which students witness and experience the birth of the United States. The programs assist student understanding of the formative years of the country.

Description

From its birth in 1776, the United States grew and prospered in spite of many challenges in its early days. Students are able to get a glimpse of what life was like in the 13 Colonies over 200 years ago, trekking through the young nation, from Massachusetts to Georgia. In Colonial Life, students understand the importance of the constitution,

by experiencing the disarray of colonial life with arguments between states, weak government, and unstable currencies.



Program Contents

The program includes many facets of Colonial Life in America. Students learn about each of the different regions, the New England, Middle, and Southern Colonies, as well as each of the 13 original colonies. Important colonial cities such as Philadelphia, Boston, and Charleston are visited. Important landmarks such as Plymouth Rock and Mt Vernon are also discovered.

Students learn about the settlers' arrival and why colonists came to the America. They visit colonial government headquarters and walk along colonial roads. To broaden student understanding of the period, overviews on Colonial Social Classes and religious life in the colonies are provided.

Students also learn about the Colonial economy: farming trading, and oppressive British laws. Special emphasis is placed on the agricultural economy, where students explore controversial issues such as indentured servitude, colonial slavery, and the plantation economy.

Educational Significance

Virtual reality helps to bring the past alive to today's students. The Colonial Life program is a virtual trip back into time to help students understand what life was like in the United States before the Constitution. After using the program students will have a greater understanding of the dilemmas and challenges faced by a young country.