

**1787** - You are to create a constitution based on a combination of your states' desires and your personal beliefs. In doing so you must consider who should **execute, legislate, and interpret the laws** of your constitution. Also be sure to identify what rights the individual should be guaranteed (if any) by the government, whether slavery and the slave trade should be permitted, and the format for taxation of the states.

In developing your constitution you should consult the maps, and notes on your state and the current characteristics of the present constitution, the Articles of Confederation. You will be graded on your effort to arrive at a constitution your state would likely propose, appearance of the text itself and speech defending your proposal. When you have completed writing your Constitution, get a speech ready to introduce and defend it against attacks from other states.

### **Notes on States at the Philadelphia Convention, 1787:**

**Connecticut-** One of the smaller states, suspicious that larger states would dominate the new government. Economically focused on its growing industries. Wants new government to control foreign and domestic commerce.

**Delaware-** A small state that had a tradition of slavery and agriculture; wanted a new constitution, and was deeply frightened that larger states would threaten its interests.

**Georgia-** Although geographically a larger state, it was always considered a small state due to its small population and minute role in the American Revolution. Vehemently against any tampering with the slave trade or the institution of slavery.

**Maryland-** Originally a colony for persecuted Catholics; later became a haven of religious toleration and despite its own slave population a ground for abolitionists. Middle sized central colony.

**Massachusetts-** Although geographically not very big, it had a fairly large population and a powerful industrial base. Business and trade were especially important to the colony and the state legislature was dominated by business leaders. Anti-slave state despite some slavery existing in the state and definitely wanted the new government to control all commerce and hopefully put up tariffs on foreign goods.

**New Hampshire-** Small state that was rapidly transforming itself from subsistent agriculture to a trade and manufacturing base. Somewhat frightened of larger states, wanted government control of all commerce.

**New Jersey-** Often seen as the spokesman (or the big guy) of the small states. Wanted to protect interests of small states, had some slavery but economy more tied to New York and the central states than the southern states.

**New York-** Without a doubt one of the largest and important states. Had a robust economy with agriculture in the north and manufacturing in the south. Also owned one of the greatest harbors in the colonies and a strong tradition of self sufficiency. Not generally concerned about a new constitution, but if one passed, it must favor the larger states.



**North Carolina-** Large slave state (yet generally seen as least important of large states). Interested in preserving slavery and individual rights (of whites). Agricultural economy based upon tobacco, rice, and indigo.

**Pennsylvania-** One of the larger states with some of the most famous delegates at the convention. Wanted more power for larger states in new constitution but more willing to compromise than New York. State had a diverse and robust economy and wanted new government to have control over all commerce.

**Rhode Island-** Happy with its own charter, chose not to attend convention.

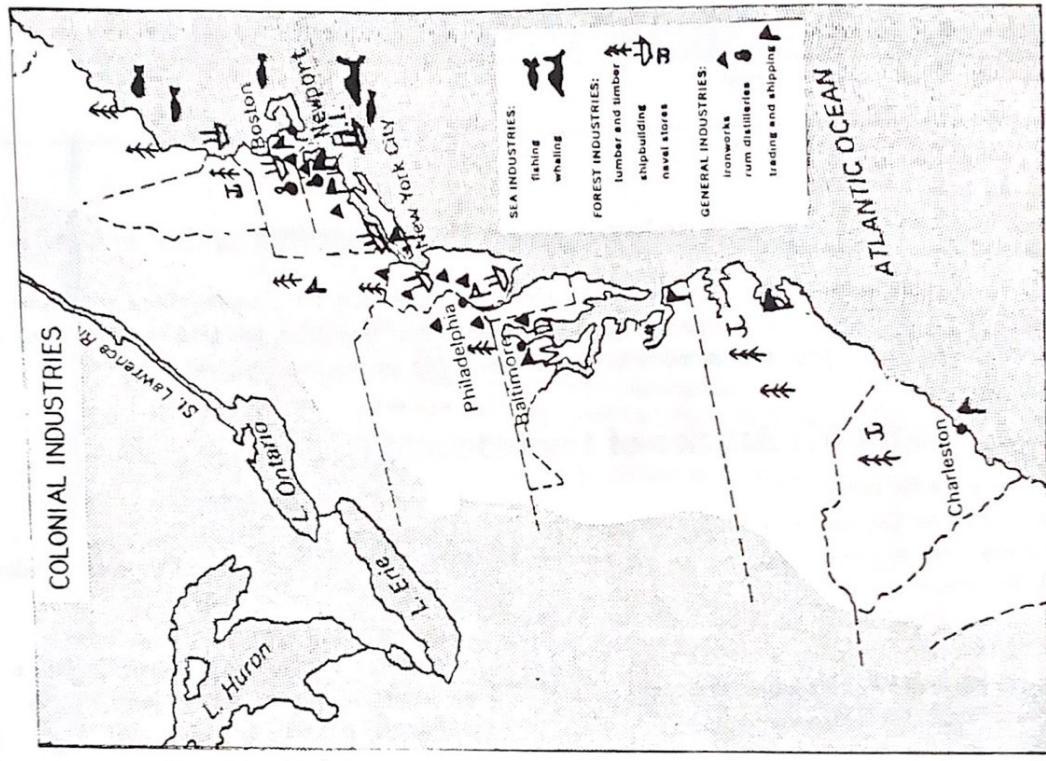
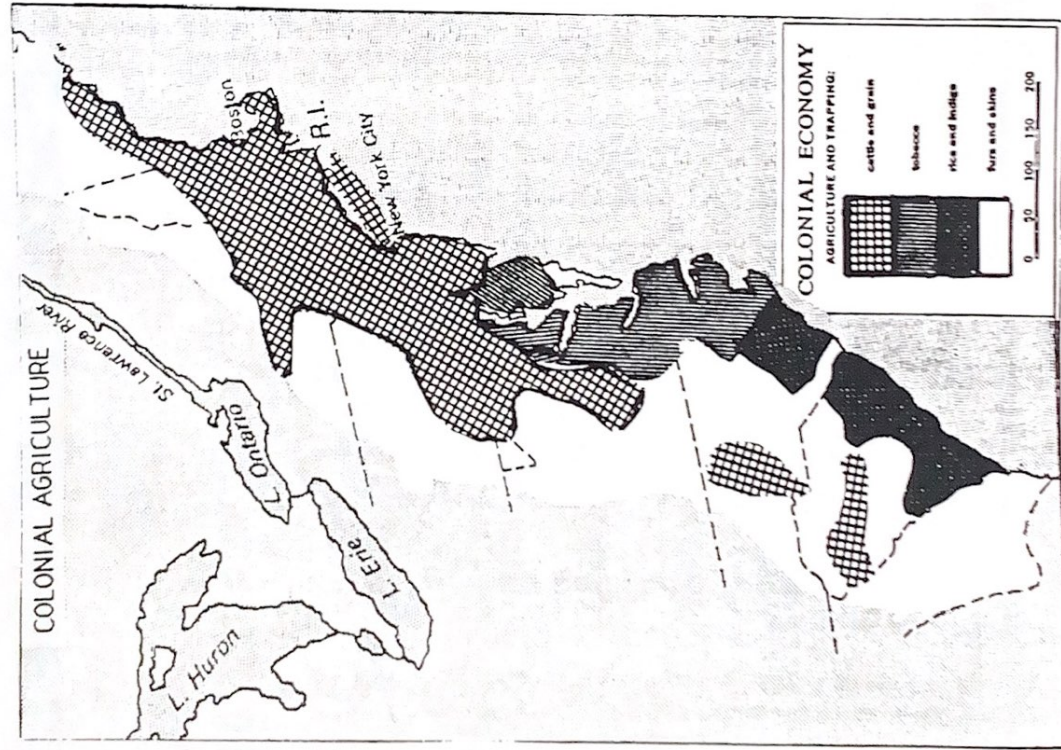
**South Carolina-** Wealthy agricultural state focusing upon tobacco, rice, indigo, and a developing cotton industry as export crops. Contained the most important city of the South, Charleston, and numerous political thinkers. Deeply concerned about protecting slavery, the slave trade (and thus limiting the governments control of commerce). Somewhat concerned about protecting the states' rights in a new constitution.

**Virginia-** Big state with a large population. Most respected delegates at the convention. State had an important gentry (upper class) that was well respected by the poorer whites. In return the gentry guaranteed the liberties of the whites and was deeply concerned that individual rights be protected under a new constitution. Slavery, however, was not only permitted but was an invaluable source of labor for the states agricultural export industry. The state thus wanted to protect slavery under the new constitution and was also committed to increasing the power of the larger states.



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Lesson 1 — Handout 1 (page 4)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



Based on Colonial Economy Map, in *American Heritage Pictorial Atlas of United States History*, edited by Hilde Heun Kagan (NY: American Heritage Publishing Company, 1966), p. 88.

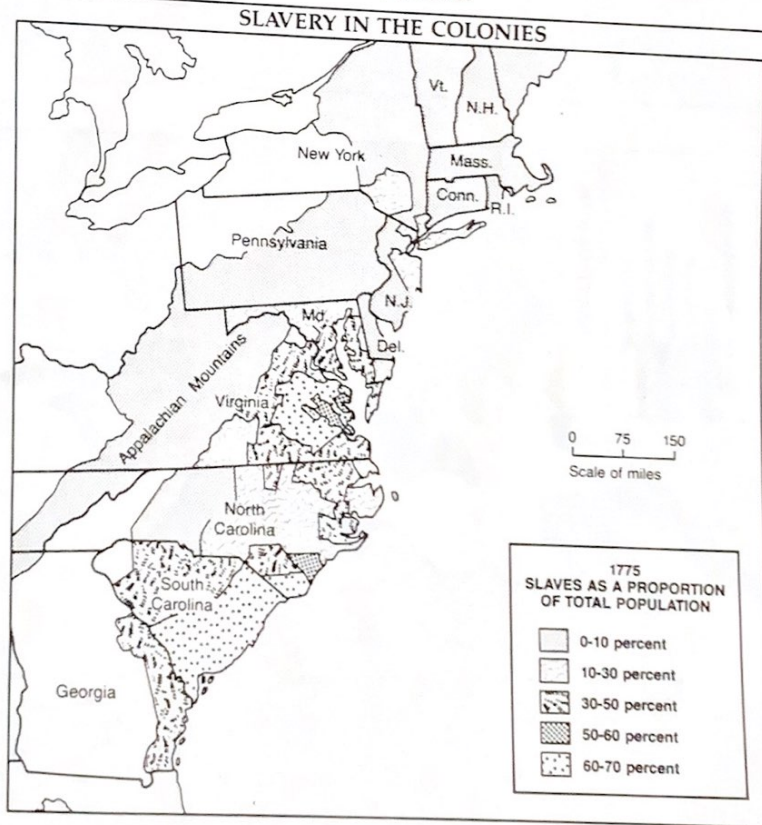


### 4.6 Distribution of Slavery

Generally speaking, both the distribution and the growth of slavery in British North America in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries were functions of the economy. For example, agricultural slavery was profitable only where a significant cash crop, such as tobacco or indigo, could be produced. Although the map here is based on statistics in 1775, the distribution of slavery reflects the overall picture in the eighteenth century.

*Consider:*

1. Whether the density of the slave population affected the form slavery took in different places;
2. The effect the density of slave population might have had on the way slaves viewed themselves and their culture.



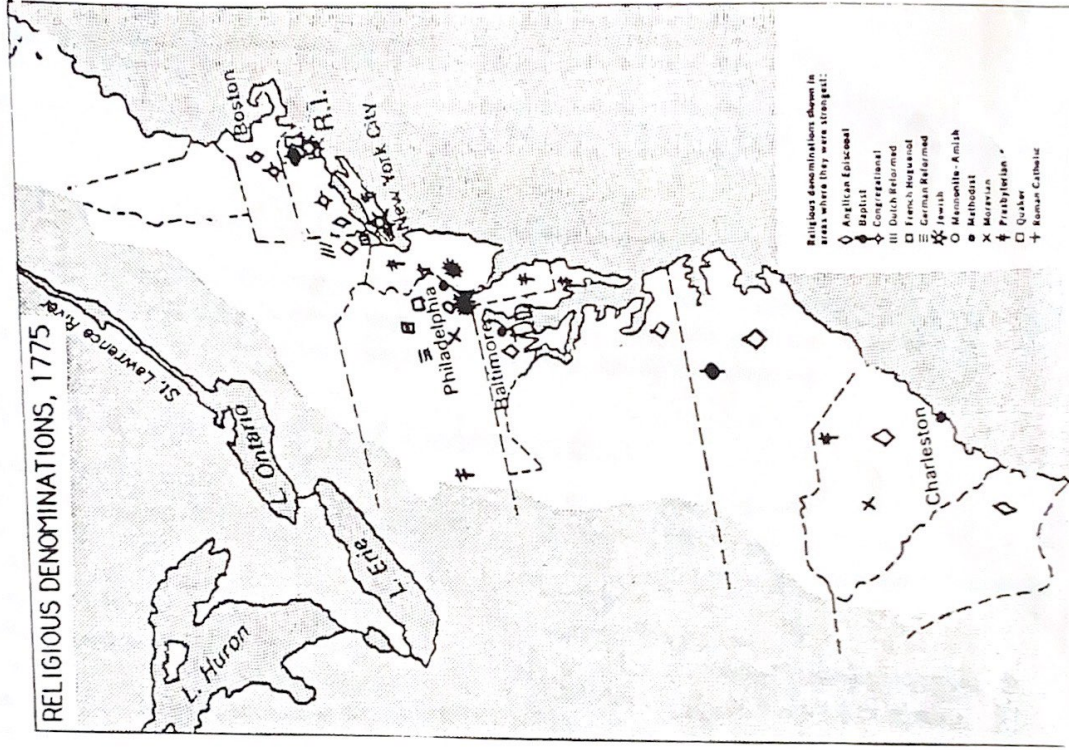
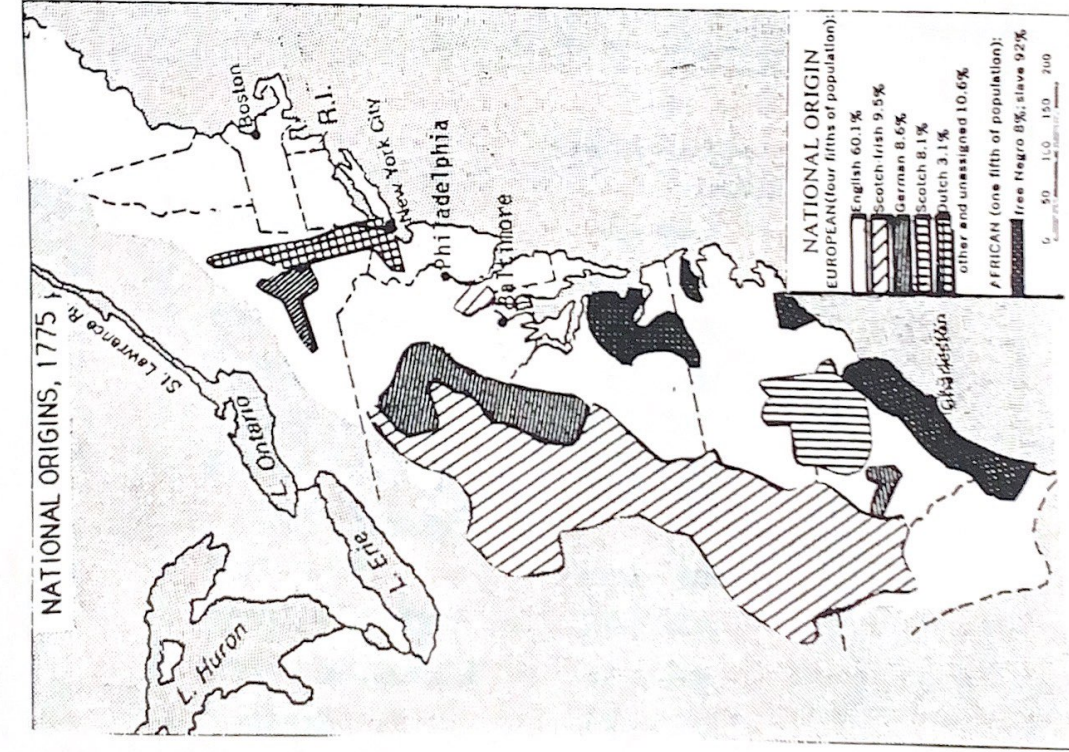
SOURCE: James A. Henretta et al., *America's History* (Chicago: Dorsey Press, 1987), I, 103.



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Lesson 1—Handout 1 (page 3)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



Based on National Origins and Religion Map in *American Heritage Pictorial Atlas of United States History*, edited by Hilde Heun Kagan (NY: American Heritage Publishing Co., 1966), p. 87



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### *The Articles of Confederation: The Challenge of Sovereignty*

Listed below are a series of facts about the Articles of Confederation. First, explain the significance of each term. Then, examine the list, divide the items into three or four categories, and label the categories. Finally, write a thematic sentence that states or implies a relationship among the categories.

#### Facts about the Articles of Confederation

- a. no separate executive
- b. Northwest Ordinances of 1784, 1785, and 1787
- c. one vote per state
- d. no federal courts
- e. Shays' Rebellion
- f. British retention of forts in Northwest
- g. no regulation of interstate commerce
- h. boundary disputes between states
- i. no power to tax
- j. states taxed each other's goods
- k. kept the states together
- l. Treaty of Paris, 1783
- m. federal aid to education (Northwest Ordinance, 1785)
- n. no national currency
- o. members often failed to attend Congress
- p. inability to protect settlers from Indians
- q. Barbary pirates raided shipping
- r. inability to repay French loans
- s. Spain's denial of right of deposit at New Orleans
- t. little trade with Britain

| STATE                             | 1790<br>POPULATION |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Delaware                       | 59,096             |
| 2. Pennsylvania                   | 433,611            |
| 3. New Jersey                     | 184,139            |
| 4. Georgia                        | 82,548             |
| 5. Connecticut                    | 237,655            |
| 6. Massachusetts<br>(incl. Maine) | 475,199            |
| 7. Maryland                       | 319,728            |
| 8. South Carolina                 | 249,073            |
| 9. New Hampshire                  | 141,899            |
| 10. Virginia                      | 747,610            |
| 11. New York                      | 340,241            |
| 12. North Carolina                | 395,005            |
| 13. Rhode Island                  | 69,112             |

# PROPOSED CONSTITUTION

State: \_\_\_\_\_

Delegates: \_\_\_\_\_

PREAMBLE (purpose of your Constitution) \_\_\_\_\_

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ARTICLE I: THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH-

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ARTICLE II: THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH-

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ARTICLE THREE: THE JUDICIAL BRANCH-

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ARTICLE IV: SLAVERY-

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ARTICLE V: TRADE (TARIFFS)-

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