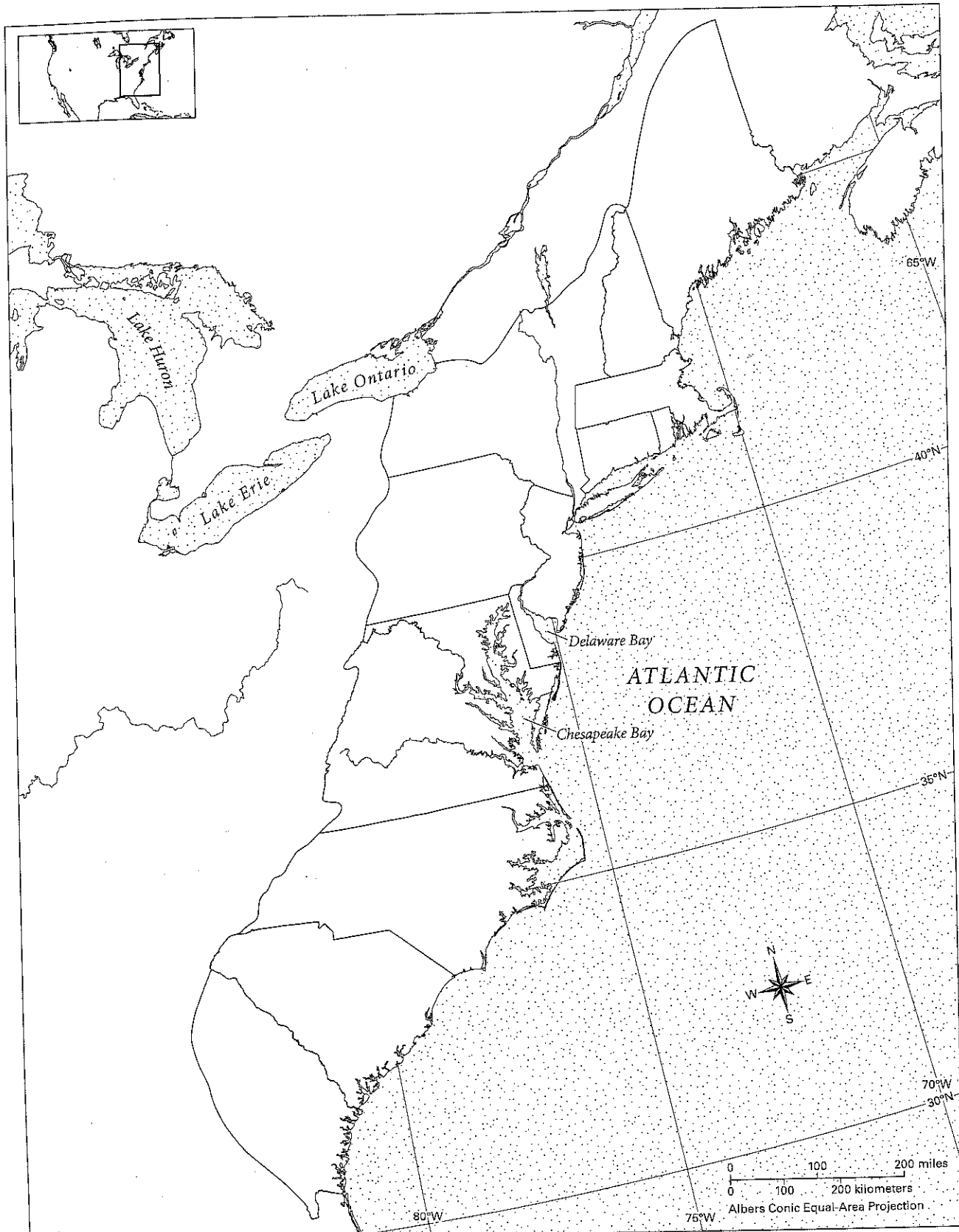


The Thirteen Colonies



Geography Skills

Analyze the maps in "Setting the Stage" for Unit 2 in your book. Then answer the following questions and fill out the map as directed.

1. Label each colony on the map. Also add and label the colonies' largest cities: Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Charleston. What do the locations of all four cities have in common?
2. Draw and label the Appalachian Mountains on your map. How many colonists per square mile lived across most of this region?
3. Circle the region where the most colonists lived. What cities does this region include?
4. Shade in the colonies that had large populations of Loyalists. Which of the three main colonial regions had the fewest Loyalists?
5. Based on your map, in which colonies do you predict the goal of independence would have been strongest? Use information from your map to explain why.
6. Label Lake Champlain and the Hudson River. Also add and label Albany. If British armies in Canada and New York City wanted to divide New England from the rest of the colonies, how could they have used the physical geography of this region to carry out this strategy?

Critical Thinking

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

7. Look at the population density map in your book. How does the amount of settlement along the coast of the 13 colonies compare to the amount of settlement farther inland? What is one possible reason for this?
8. During the first phase of the American Revolution, most major battles took place near the cities of Boston, New York, and Philadelphia. Why would controlling this region have been an important goal for both sides in the war?
9. After years of fighting in the New England and Middle Colonies, British forces invaded Georgia and South Carolina. Based on your map and the maps in your book, why might the British have believed they could conquer this region?

Unit 2 Setting the Stage

The Thirteen Colonies, 1775



Revolution in the Colonies

In this unit, you will learn why some colonists wanted to replace British rule with an independent government. You will also learn about the long, difficult struggle to gain that independence.

In the 1760s, Great Britain began passing new trade and tax laws for the colonies and enforcing old laws passed years before. Picture a southern rice farmer who is required by law to sell his crop only to England, even if he might get a higher price elsewhere. Or think of a northern merchant having to pay a new tax on paper—a tax imposed by a distant government in which he had no representation. How do you think they felt about such laws and taxes?

Colonists who supported Great Britain's policies and British rule were known as Loyalists. Those who resisted called themselves Patriots. When the colonies declared independence, Patriots were opposed by many Loyalists as well as British troops.

The map on the opposite page shows the physical geography of the 13 colonies. Knowing the land was one advantage Patriot forces had over British troops in the American Revolution.

The maps below show (left) where colonists lived in 1775 and (right) where Loyalist support was strong. These settlement patterns, along with the colonies' physical geography and regions of Loyalist strength, helped to shape the military strategies of the revolution.

Population Density of the Thirteen Colonies



Loyalist Support in the Thirteen Colonies

