

Categorizing the Colonies

One important thing historians do is categorize information. There is so much “history” out there that without some system of categorization there is no way to make sense of it all. Finding pieces with similar characteristics and grouping them together, then, is very important to telling a logical story. Today we will practice that skill using the 13 Colonies.



Instructions

1. As a group briefly review the 13 fact cards. You don't need to read for much detail. Just try to get a sense of what types of information are provided and any that stand out as unique.
2. Divide the 13 cards into **two** categories. Explain what criteria you used for your categories and why you decided on that.
3. What other options for categorization did your group consider? Why didn't you use those?
4. Create a chart like the one below to show your categories:

Like Cats	Like Dogs
Lions	Coyotes
Tigers	Wolves
Ocelots	Dingoes

5. Re-divide the 13 cards into **three** categories. Explain the criteria used for your categories and why you decided on that.
6. What other options for categorization did your group consider? Why didn't you use those?
7. Create a chart like in step 4 showing your new categories.
8. Categorize the 13 colonies by **size** (2 or 3 categories). What information, other than size, does this categorization provide? Explain.
9. Categorize the 13 colonies by **location** (2 or 3 categories). What information, other than size, does this categorization provide? Explain.
10. Compare your 4 categorizations. Which categorization would be most useful to historians studying the colonies in your opinion? Why?