**Population and education in the Thirteen Colonies**

The Thirteen Colonies were the British colonies on the Atlantic Coast of North America. They were founded in Jamestown, Virginia in 1607. The Thirteen Colonies were: Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts Bay, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, South Carolina and Virginia.

The residents of the Thirteen Colonies were mostly farmers. They were mostly English but there were also Scots, Frenchmen, Germans and even Dutch people. They owned their own land and voted for their local and provincial government. The residents were hunting, fishing and creating a commercial fleet.

The population increased rapidly from 1,980 people in 1625 to a population around 2,400,000 in 1775. The number of African slaves rose from around 21,000 in the 17th century to 189,000 slaves in 1760.

Education was quickly developed inside the colonies. Educational standards depended on the wealth of the families and the sex of the pupils. Boys and girls learned how to read. Important topics of the Bible were taught and discussed at school. Girls continued to be educated at home by their mothers. Only boys of rich families were able to go to the university.

The first university in the colonies was Harvard University that was founded in 1636 in Cambridge. The oldest university in America was though the National Autonomous University of Mexico which was founded in 1551.