LESSON MAKER PRO

Colonial Connections

Use evidence to compare life and choices in the colonies.

GRADE 5 · 5.C.2

5.C.2 "Compare the developments of the New England Colonies, the Middle Colonies, and the Southern Colonies. Explain how settlements in other colonies were influenced by a desire for religious freedom, economic opportunity, and self-government..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

OUR GROUND RULES Read together first

1 Use facts on the TOPIC card and what you know.	**2** Listen before you add a different idea.
3 Say when you are unsure instead of guessing.	**4** You may agree, disagree, or keep your view.

HOW TO PLAY Teams of 3 or 4

1. Form a group of three or four. Set a 10-minute timer.
2. Choose one TOPIC card and read its question aloud.
3. Take one ROLE card each. With three players, all three share the fourth role's job.
4. Use two copies of the eight MOVE cards. Deal four cards to each player.
5. Discuss until the timer rings. Play a MOVE card only when you use its starter. Leave unused cards unplayed, then check your reflection statements.

AFTER THE ROUND Check what you did

- ☐ I compared how land and climate shaped work in colonial regions.
- ☐ I explained a link between beliefs, rules, or cooperation.
- ☐ I considered who benefited from work or trade and who was harmed.
- ☐ I used a fact to support a point, even if my view did not change.

Cut along the dashed lines

TOPIC CARDS · pick one per round

TOPIC

Beliefs and Rules

Roger Williams founded Providence for religious freedom. Thomas Hooker helped create Connecticut's written rules for government. The Haudenosaunee Confederacy joined several nations. How did these examples show different ways to build a community or work together?

TOPIC

Land and Labor

New England had colder, rocky land. The Middle Colonies had fertile land. The Southern Colonies had a longer growing season. How did these differences shape farming, exports, and the use of indentured and enslaved workers?

TOPIC

Trade and Harm

Ships carried goods between Europe, Africa, and the Americas. Enslaved Africans were forced across the Atlantic on the Middle Passage. How did this trade help some people, harm others, and shape life in the colonies?

ROLE CARDS · one per player

ROLE

Land Scout

Watch for links between land, climate, farming, and work.

ROLE

Rights Finder

Watch for who could practice a faith or have a say in rules.

ROLE

People Tracker

Watch how choices affected Indigenous peoples and free, indentured, and enslaved people.

ROLE

Link Builder

Watch for ways trade, conflict, or cooperation connected groups.

MOVE CARDS · deal 4 to each player

MOVE CARD

COMPARE GOALS

"Unlike ____, ____ focused on ____."

MOVE CARD

COMPARE EFFECTS

"Both ____ and ____ faced ____, but ____."

MOVE CARD

USE EVIDENCE

"The topic says ____, so I think ____."

MOVE CARD

ADD EVIDENCE

"A detail that backs this up is ____."

MOVE CARD

TRACE CAUSE

"Because ____, ____."

MOVE CARD

TRACE EFFECT

"That may have led to ____ because ____."

MOVE CARD

SEE IMPACT

"For ____, this meant ____."

MOVE CARD

TAKE STOCK

"So far, we ____."

Cards last longer on thick paper.

Colonial Connections

RUNNING THE ROUNDS

Print two copies of the MOVE cards for each group so four players can each receive four cards. Run a 10-minute round for one topic, then change topics or roles for another round. Invite quieter players to speak without requiring every card to be played or every difference to be settled.

WHAT A STRONG ROUND SOUNDS LIKE

Maya	The topic says Roger Williams founded Providence for religious freedom, so I think beliefs shaped that settlement.
Eli	Unlike Roger Williams, Thomas Hooker focused on written rules for government.
Nia	Because the Haudenosaunee Confederacy joined several nations, it showed a way for groups to work together.
Maya	For people with different religious beliefs, this meant Providence offered more freedom to worship.
Eli	So far, we agree that Williams focused on religious freedom, Hooker helped shape government, and the Haudenosaunee showed a way to unite.

LISTEN FOR

- Links between climate or land and the work done in each colonial region
- A clear difference between religious freedom, self-government, and cooperation
- Recognition that the Middle Passage was forced migration, not a choice
- Evidence-based points about who gained, who was harmed, and whose views are missing

There are no right answers to the topic cards. Score the moves students make, not their opinions.