

70°W

90°W

Tropic of Cancer

**Interpret Maps**

1. Location Where were the colonies' largest cities located at this time?
2. Human-Environment Interaction How did mountains and seas influence the location of the colonies?



**A Flood of People** The colonial population doubled between 1750 and 1770. Roughly half of the immigrants to the colonies were English. But the second-largest group of immigrants had no choice in the matter—they were enslaved people from Africa.

ATLANTIC OCEAN

40°N

Philadelphia, population 25,000

New York, population 25,000

Boston, population 16,000

**Natural Harbors** The largest cities in the colonies, such as Philadelphia, New York, and Boston, grew where the best natural ports were. Ships were vital to the colonies: for the growing fishing industry, for overseas trade, and to bring more settlers to the new land.

APPALACHIAN MOUNTAINS

Mississippi River

Boston Harbor provided natural protection for ships.

