The French and Dutch Establish Colonies

KEY QUESTION How did the French and Dutch profit from the Americas?

France and the Netherlands were also looking for ways to gain wealth through exploration and colonization. At first, their goal in the Americas was to find the Northwest Passage to Asia. When that search failed, they began to focus on the resources of North America itself as a possible source of new wealth and territory.

New France is Founded

The French explorer Samuel de Champlain explored the St. Lawrence River. In 1608, he founded a fur-trading post at Quebec, now a major eastern Canadian city. This post became the first permanent French settlement in Canada. Champlain's activities opened a rich fur trade with local Native Americans.

After about 50 years, New France, as the colony was called, began to thrive. From the start, New France differed from the British colonies. Typical French colonists included fur traders and Catholic priests who wanted to convert Native Americans.

European Settlements in the Americas 1650

Connect Geography & History

EVALUATE Ask students to point out geographical features that might have made exploration easier or harder. (easier—any waterways; harder—mountain ranges)

ANSWERS

1. Region Spain
2. Draw Conclusions along coasts and waterways

Teach

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Roleplay Your Answer

• Where did French explorers settle, and what drew and kept them there? (Possible Answer: We were looking for the Northwest passage to Asia but stayed because the fur trade was so lucrative.)
• Categories How was the French approach to exploration of the Americas different from that of Spain and England? (We established a fur trade with the Native Americans, whereas the Spanish worked Native Americans in fields and mines, and the English government did not fund colonies.)

CONNECT to the Essential Question

How did Europeans transform life in the Americas?

Ask students what they have learned so far that can help them answer the question.

• England, France, and the Netherlands competed with Spain to find wealth in the Americas.
• The defeat of the Spanish Armada by England in 1588 weakened Spain.
• The settlements of Quebec and New Netherland thrived as fur trade centers supplied by Native Americans.

OBJECTIVE Create a classroom bulletin board on the Canadian province of Quebec.

Basic

Have students create a map of present-day Quebec, showing the states and provinces that border it. Have them include major cities and physical features, and a quick-facts box. Display the maps on the wall.

On Level

Have students research the major events in Quebec’s history, and prepare a time line with summaries added for each event. Display the time lines on the wall.

Challenge

Have students research one major event in Quebec’s history and complete a half-page description of the event, accompanied by primary source quotations, archival images, and/or illustrations. Have students add these pages to the display, connected by string to a spot on one of the time lines.
The French colonists also developed friendlier relations with Native Americans than did the British. They relied on Native Americans to do most of the animal trapping and then traded with them for the furs, which were in great demand in Europe. This trade relationship led to several military alliances. As early as 1609, for example, the Algonquin and other Native American groups used Champlain’s help to defeat their traditional enemies, the Mohawk Iroquois.

**The Dutch Establish New Netherland**  Sometime later, the Dutch built a colony called New Netherland. It was located along the Hudson River in present-day New York. It was a welcoming place for people of all religions, which helped attract a diverse, or varied, population. After Hudson’s voyage up the river in 1609, the Dutch built Fort Nassau in 1614, near the site of the modern city of Albany, New York.

The Dutch also founded the town of New Amsterdam on Manhattan Island. Soon after, in 1626, they purchased Manhattan Island from Native Americans. New Netherland was soon thriving from the fur trade with Native Americans. (Present-day New York City is located where the Dutch settlement of New Amsterdam was founded.) These early French and Dutch colonies, however, were small compared to the large empire Spain was building in the Americas.

**TERMS & NAMES**
- Henry Hudson, p. 35; John Cabot, p. 36; Giovanni da Verrazzano, p. 36; Jacques Cartier, p. 36; Spanish Armada, p. 37; Samuel de Champlain, p. 38; New France, p. 38; New Netherland, p. 39

**USING YOUR READING NOTES**

**2. Categories** Complete the diagram to show the most important events of this section.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>England</th>
<th>Sent Cabot to find a western route across the Atlantic (1497)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>Founded Fort Caroline (1564)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>New Netherland was established by Spain, p. 39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>New Netherland was founded by New France in 1626</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**KEY IDEAS**

3. What were the English, French, and Dutch searching for in their early voyages of exploration?

4. Where did the French and Dutch set up their first American colonies?

**CRITICAL THINKING**

5. **Cause and Effect** What impact did the English defeat of the Spanish Armada have on England’s overseas goals?

6. **Compare and Contrast** How did the French and British colonies in North America differ?

7. **Compare and Contrast** How did the Dutch colony of New Netherland differ from colonies established by Spain?

8. **Connect to Today** Spanish and Portuguese colonists did not practice freedom of religion. Why is this freedom protected by American law?

9. **Technology** Web Page Research the life of one of the explorers discussed in this section. Sketch a Web page about that person.

**Terms & Names**

1. Henry Hudson, p. 35; John Cabot, p. 36; Giovanni da Verrazzano, p. 36; Jacques Cartier, p. 36; Spanish Armada, p. 37; Samuel de Champlain, p. 38; New France, p. 38; New Netherland, p. 39

**Using Your Reading Notes**

2. Netherlands—Established New Netherland (early 1600s); Spain—Built large empire in the Americas (from 1492 through 1500s)

**Key Ideas**

3. a Northwest passage to Asia

4. French—Quebec; Dutch—New York

**Critical Thinking**

5. Possible Answer: not much impact, since England continued to be cautious about overseas expansion and left funding for colonies to private citizens

6. French settlements were along the St. Lawrence River; British colonies were along the Atlantic coast.

7. It was a welcoming place for people of all backgrounds and religions and attracted a diverse population.

8. The law guarantees that no state religion will be established and that people of any religious belief can practice their religion without being persecuted.

9. Students’ web pages should feature biographical information and achievements based on research.

**Web Page Rubric**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Historical Accuracy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>excellent; contains thorough information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>good; features many facts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>fair; features some facts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>poor; features few facts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>