Why They Came

Compare the goals and journeys that shaped North American colonization

SS24.6.2 "Compare and contrast the reasons for British, French, and Spanish colonization in North America as well as why individuals migrated to the colonies, including mercantilism, religious persecution, poverty, oppression, and new opportunities..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each country's reasons for colonizing, circle individuals' reasons for moving, and number the three explorers' routes in chronological order, starting with 1 for the earliest voyage.

Different Reasons, Different Routes

1. Long before permanent colonies spread across North America, Europeans had reasons to sail. The Crusades brought Europeans into greater contact with goods from Asia, increasing demand for trade routes. During the Renaissance, scholars studied geography, and mapmakers improved charts that sailors used. The Reformation split western Christianity. Martin Luther challenged church practices, and some rulers hoped to spread their own faith overseas. Governments followed mercantilism: colonies could supply raw materials and buy finished goods from the home country. Yet England, France, and Spain did not pursue exactly the same goals.

2. In 1497, John Cabot sailed from England across the Atlantic to waters near Newfoundland. His voyage supported later English claims to land. In 1513, Juan Ponce de León sailed from Puerto Rico to Florida, where he claimed land for Spain. In 1534, Jacques Cartier sailed from France across the Atlantic to the Gulf of St. Lawrence. His explorations helped France claim territory and later develop a fur trade. England sought farmland and trade, Spain sought precious metals and Christian converts, and France sought furs and trade partners.

3. Different goals shaped where colonies grew. English colonies lined much of the Atlantic coast; French settlements grew near the St. Lawrence River and Great Lakes. Spain controlled areas including Florida and the Southwest, while Russia later built settlements along the coast of Alaska. Not every settler moved for a ruler's goal. Some English families crossed the ocean to escape religious persecution or poverty. Others hoped to own land or find work. Some people fled oppression by powerful landowners or governments. Colonization also displaced Native peoples, whose lands Europeans claimed.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How were England's and France's reasons for colonizing alike and different?

2. Compare the routes and effects of Ponce de León's and Cartier's voyages.

3. How did the Crusades and the Renaissance each help create conditions for European exploration?

4. How could an English family's reason for moving differ from Spain's reason for colonizing?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A museum visitor says, “All Europeans came to North America for gold.” Write a four-sentence museum label that corrects this claim. Compare two countries' goals, explain one reason an individual might migrate, and show how one explorer's route helped a country claim land.

ANSWER KEY

Why They Came

GRADE 6 · SS24.6.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each country's reasons for colonizing, circle individuals' reasons for moving, and number the three explorers' routes in chronological order, starting with 1 for the earliest voyage. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How were England's and France's reasons for colonizing alike and different?	**Both sought trade. England also sought farmland, while France sought furs and trade partners.**
2	Compare the routes and effects of Ponce de León's and Cartier's voyages.	**Ponce de León sailed from Puerto Rico to Florida and claimed land for Spain. Cartier sailed from France to the Gulf of St. Lawrence; his explorations helped France claim territory and later develop a fur trade.**
3	How did the Crusades and the Renaissance each help create conditions for European exploration?	**The Crusades increased European contact with Asian goods and demand for trade routes. During the Renaissance, the study of geography and improved charts helped sailors.**
4	How could an English family's reason for moving differ from Spain's reason for colonizing?	**An English family might move to escape religious persecution or poverty, while Spain sought precious metals and Christian converts.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Gold was not the only reason Europeans crossed the Atlantic. Spain sought precious metals and Christian converts, while France sought furs and trade partners. An individual might leave home to escape poverty. Cartier sailed from France to the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and his explorations helped France claim territory.

Accept accurate comparisons and migration reasons supported by the passage. For the marking job, the routes should be numbered Cabot 1, Ponce de León 2, and Cartier 3.