Colonial Map Clues

Use geographic clues to locate European colonial areas.

SS24.6.2c "Locate on a map of North America the areas of European colonization, including colonies of England, France, Russia, and Spain."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the named land and water features that help you place colonial areas, then circle each mention of England, France, Spain, and Russia.

Finding Colonial Areas

1. To locate European colonial areas, begin with North America's shape. The Atlantic Ocean borders its eastern side, and the Pacific Ocean borders its western side. Alaska lies at the far northwest, while Florida reaches into warm water in the southeast. The Great Lakes sit inland near today's United States and Canada border. A map can show where different European powers claimed land or built settlements. These places changed over time, so the locations in this reading do not all describe one single year.

2. England established colonies along the Atlantic coast of what is now the United States. They stretched from New England in the north to Georgia in the south. French colonists settled along the St. Lawrence River in what is now eastern Canada. France also claimed land near the Great Lakes and along the Mississippi River, which runs south toward the Gulf of Mexico. If you trace from the Atlantic coast toward the Great Lakes, English colonial areas lay closer to the coast than many French claims.

3. Spain controlled large areas in what is now Mexico and claimed land across today's southwestern United States. Spanish settlements also grew in Florida, along the Gulf Coast, and on California's Pacific coast. Far to the northwest, Russia established settlements in Alaska, especially along its southern coast and nearby islands. Those Russian settlements were far from the English colonies on the Atlantic side. When placing these areas on your own map, use coastlines and named places as clues, not the size of a country's name.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. On a map, which coast of today's United States would you mark for England's colonies? Which two regions show their north-to-south reach?

2. Which river and lakes would help you place French colonial areas in the north?

3. To place Spanish settlements on two sides of today's United States, which southeastern place and which Pacific coast would you label?

4. Which part of North America would you label Russia, and where is it compared with the Atlantic coast?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Sketch a simple map of North America in the box, with the Atlantic on the right, the Pacific on the left, and Alaska at the upper left. Place and label one colonial area for each of the four European powers, and label at least two land or water features that help show where you placed them.

ANSWER KEY

Colonial Map Clues

GRADE 6 · SS24.6.2c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the named land and water features that help you place colonial areas, then circle each mention of England, France, Spain, and Russia. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	On a map, which coast of today's United States would you mark for England's colonies? Which two regions show their north-to-south reach?	**The Atlantic coast, from New England south to Georgia.**
2	Which river and lakes would help you place French colonial areas in the north?	**The St. Lawrence River and the Great Lakes.**
3	To place Spanish settlements on two sides of today's United States, which southeastern place and which Pacific coast would you label?	**Florida and California's Pacific coast.**
4	Which part of North America would you label Russia, and where is it compared with the Atlantic coast?	**Alaska, far to the northwest of the Atlantic coast.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A rough North America sketch labels England along the eastern Atlantic coast, France near the Great Lakes, Spain in Florida, and Russia in Alaska. The Atlantic Ocean and Great Lakes are also labeled.

Accept rough map shapes if the four labels are placed in appropriate areas. Colonial areas changed over time, so students do not need to show all four powers in a single year.