

Four Powers, One Continent

Compare colonial goals, conflicts, and changing control in North America.

SS.8.A.2.1 "Compare the relationships among the British, French, Spanish, and Dutch in their struggle for colonization of North America."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each European power, then number three details that show powers competing, taking territory, or building alliances. Use your markings to compare how colonization changed relationships among the powers.

Competition for a Continent

- ① During the 1500s and 1600s, four European powers sought land, trade, and influence in North America. Spain built settlements in Florida and what is now the U.S. Southwest, hoping to protect shipping routes and spread Catholic missions. France established Quebec in 1608 and developed a fur trade along the St. Lawrence River and Great Lakes. French traders often depended on alliances with Native nations. The Dutch founded New Netherland, including New Amsterdam, to profit from trade along the Hudson River.
- ② England's colonies grew along the Atlantic coast, and English settlers increasingly moved toward the interior. This expansion brought England into conflict with France, whose trading network and Native alliances reached much of the Ohio River valley. Competition also involved the Dutch. In 1664, England captured New Netherland and renamed New Amsterdam New York. Spain and England competed in the Southeast, where Spain's Florida settlements stood near England's colonies. Each power used settlements, trade, and alliances to strengthen its claim.
- ③ Rivalry erupted into the French and Indian War in 1754, a struggle between Britain and France that drew in Native allies and spread beyond North America. Britain won the war. The 1763 Treaty of Paris gave Britain Canada and most French land east of the Mississippi River, while Spain gave Florida to Britain. France had separately agreed in the 1762 Treaty of Fontainebleau to transfer Louisiana, west of the Mississippi, to Spain. The war removed France as a major mainland rival, but Britain now faced costly new responsibilities and tensions in its enlarged empire.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Compare the main economic goals of the French and the Dutch colonies. What detail from the passage supports each goal?

2 How did England's capture of New Netherland change the relationship between England and the Dutch?

3 Why did English expansion toward the interior create conflict with France?

4 Which agreement transferred Louisiana to Spain, and what did the 1763 Treaty of Paris give Britain?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write three or four sentences comparing how France and England pursued colonization. Include one similarity, one difference, and one change caused by a conflict or agreement.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle each European power, then number three details that show powers competing, taking territory, or building alliances. Use your markings to compare how colonization changed relationships among the powers. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Compare the main economic goals of the French and the Dutch colonies. What detail from the passage supports each goal?	France focused on the fur trade along the St. Lawrence River and Great Lakes. The Dutch sought profit from trade along the Hudson River.
2	How did England's capture of New Netherland change the relationship between England and the Dutch?	It showed direct competition for territory. England took the Dutch colony in 1664 and renamed New Amsterdam New York.
3	Why did English expansion toward the interior create conflict with France?	English settlers moved toward land in and near the Ohio River valley, where France had a trading network and alliances with Native nations.
4	Which agreement transferred Louisiana to Spain, and what did the 1763 Treaty of Paris give Britain?	The 1762 Treaty of Fontainebleau transferred Louisiana to Spain. The 1763 Treaty of Paris gave Britain Canada and most French land east of the Mississippi River, and Spain gave Florida to Britain.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

France and England both used settlements and claims to expand their influence. France relied heavily on fur trading and alliances with Native nations, while England built colonies along the Atlantic coast and pushed inland. Their competition in the Ohio River valley helped lead to war, after which Britain gained Canada and most French land east of the Mississippi River.

Accept comparisons supported by the passage, including trade, settlements, territorial expansion, Native alliances, warfare, and treaty results. For the open response, require a clear similarity, difference, and accurate result of conflict or agreement.