# Four Colonial Paths

Compare why empires settled and how Indigenous peoples were affected

**6-12.US1.5** "Compare the settlement motivations and impacts of the Spanish, Dutch, French, and English in North America."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline one reason each empire came to North America, and circle one effect its settlement had on Indigenous peoples.

### Different Goals, Lasting Effects

1 On a busy road near Santa Fe in the 1600s, Spanish settlers carried supplies to missions and farms. Spain sought wealth, land, and the spread of Catholicism. Colonists demanded labor and tribute from Indigenous peoples, while missionaries tried to change their religious practices. Disease and forced labor killed many people. In 1680, Pueblo communities united in a revolt that drove Spanish settlers from New Mexico for more than a decade.

2 Near the Hudson River, Dutch traders wanted profits from furs. They founded New Netherland and traded with Indigenous nations, but Dutch settlers also claimed land that Native communities used. Disputes over land led to violence. Farther north, French traders and missionaries traveled through the Great Lakes region. France sought fur profits and to spread Catholicism. French traders relied on Indigenous partners for trade and travel. These alliances brought goods and military support, but trade also changed local economies.

3 Along the Atlantic coast, many English settlers came seeking farmland or religious freedom. In Virginia, colonists grew tobacco for profit and expanded onto Indigenous lands. In New England, some settlers founded towns to practice their faith. English settlement spread disease and pushed many Native communities from their homelands; wars followed. Unlike French fur traders, English farmers needed large areas of land. Each empire pursued its own goals, yet Indigenous peoples faced pressure on land, health, and ways of life.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Spanish and French goals overlap? How did their relationships with Indigenous peoples differ?

2. Both Dutch and French settlers traded with Indigenous peoples. How did the effects described for each differ?

3. How did English farmers' need for land differ from French fur traders' approach? What was one effect of English settlement?

4. Compare the land conflicts linked to Dutch and English settlement.

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a council considering contact with two of these empires. Write four sentences comparing why each came and how each might affect the council's community. Use at least two details from the passage.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADES 6-12 · 6-12.US1.5

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one reason each empire came to North America, and circle one effect its settlement had on Indigenous peoples. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | How did Spanish and French goals overlap? How did their relationships with Indigenous peoples differ? | **Both sought to spread Catholicism. Spanish colonists demanded labor and tribute, while French traders relied on Indigenous partners for trade and travel.** |
| 2 | Both Dutch and French settlers traded with Indigenous peoples. How did the effects described for each differ? | **Dutch land claims led to disputes and violence. French alliances brought goods and military support, while trade changed local economies.** |
| 3 | How did English farmers' need for land differ from French fur traders' approach? What was one effect of English settlement? | **English farmers needed large areas of land, while French fur traders relied on Indigenous partners. English settlement pushed many Native communities from their homelands.** |
| 4 | Compare the land conflicts linked to Dutch and English settlement. | **Dutch claims to land used by Native communities led to disputes and violence. English expansion onto Indigenous lands pushed many communities from their homelands, and wars followed.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Spanish newcomers sought wealth, land, and converts, while French newcomers sought furs and converts. Spanish colonists might demand labor and tribute from our community. French traders might seek our help with travel and trade, offering goods but changing our economy. We should weigh these different possibilities before making agreements.

Accept other supported comparisons, including shared motives or different effects. The open response should compare two empires, use at least two passage details, and contain four sentences.