Four Colonial Paths

Compare why Europeans settled and how their choices affected Native peoples.

6-12.US1.6 "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 settlement motive for each European power, circle one impact on Native peoples for each power, and write S, F, D, or E beside each mark to show which power it describes.

Different Plans for North America

1. In the 1500s, Spanish expeditions reached lands that are now the southern United States. Spanish leaders sought wealth, territory, and converts to Catholicism. In places such as New Mexico and Florida, settlers built forts, towns, and missions. Missions introduced new animals and crops, but Spanish officials also forced many Native people to work and pressured them to abandon their beliefs. Disease brought from Europe killed many Native people. Farther north, French settlers came mainly to trade furs and expand France's claims. They built trading posts and often relied on Native partners for travel, supplies, and trade.

2. In the 1600s, Dutch merchants founded New Netherland along the Hudson River. They wanted profits from the fur trade and access to a busy Atlantic port. Dutch traders exchanged goods with Native communities, and the settlement of New Amsterdam grew into a trading center. Yet competition for land and trade also led to violent conflicts with Native peoples. English settlers had several motives: some wanted farmland and profit, while others sought freedom to practice their religion. Along the Atlantic coast, English colonists established farms and towns. As those settlements spread, many Native communities lost land, and fighting increased.

3. Colonial choices shaped life beyond the first settlements. French traders used Native knowledge and waterways to move furs, which strengthened some alliances but also changed trade and rivalries among Native groups. Spanish missions aimed to spread Catholicism, while English farming communities needed large areas of land. Dutch trading centers depended on both exchange and control of valuable routes. These patterns were not fixed: each colony changed over time, and Native peoples made their own choices about trade, resistance, and alliances. Still, European diseases spread across regions, and every colonial power claimed land where Native peoples already lived.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Spanish and French goals differ, and how did those goals shape the settlements each built?

2. French and Dutch settlers both traded furs. What was similar about their dealings with Native peoples, and how did one impact differ?

3. How did Dutch and English economic goals shape their settlements differently, and what problem arose in both places?

4. Compare the effects of Spanish and English settlement on Native communities. Name a different harm connected to each.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine two new settlements on the same river, one built around fur trading and the other around farming. In four sentences, compare how they might use land and interact with Native communities, using evidence from at least two European powers and naming one choice Native people might make.

ANSWER KEY

Four Colonial Paths

GRADES 6-12 · 6-12.US1.6

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one settlement motive for each European power, circle one impact on Native peoples for each power, and write S, F, D, or E beside each mark to show which power it describes. 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 differ, and how did those goals shape the settlements each built?	**Spanish leaders sought wealth, territory, and Catholic converts, so they built forts, towns, and missions. French settlers sought furs and territory, so they built trading posts.**
2	French and Dutch settlers both traded furs. What was similar about their dealings with Native peoples, and how did one impact differ?	**Both traded with Native peoples. French trade strengthened some alliances, while competition for land and trade in New Netherland led to violent conflicts.**
3	How did Dutch and English economic goals shape their settlements differently, and what problem arose in both places?	**Dutch merchants developed a trading center for fur trade and port access, while English settlers built farms and towns for land and profit. Both settlements experienced conflict with Native peoples.**
4	Compare the effects of Spanish and English settlement on Native communities. Name a different harm connected to each.	**Spanish officials forced many Native people to work or pressured them to abandon their beliefs. As English farms and towns spread, many Native communities lost land.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A fur-trading settlement like those of the French or Dutch might depend on Native trading partners and waterways more than on large fields. A farming settlement like many English towns would likely seek more land along the river, raising the risk that Native communities would lose land. Native communities might choose to trade with the first settlement while refusing to give up land to the second. Trade could also bring conflict, as it did in New Netherland, so neither plan guarantees peace.

Accept other passage-supported comparisons, including Spanish religious pressure or French trade rivalries. For the open task, look for a plausible comparison grounded in at least two European examples and a specific choice made by Native people.