Why Colonize?

Compare European goals in three regions

6-9.WG.1.3 "Describe and compare various motivations of European colonization in regions throughout the world."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each reason Europeans sought control of a place. Number reasons that are similar across two or more regions so you can compare them.

Different Places, Different Goals

1. In the late 1400s, Spanish rulers backed voyages across the Atlantic. On Caribbean islands, Spanish colonizers looked for gold and claimed land for their crown. They also aimed to spread Catholic Christianity. Some leaders treated conversion as a duty, while others hoped for wealth and power. To mine gold and control the islands, colonizers forced many Indigenous people to work. Disease and violence also devastated communities. Spain's goals were not all the same: a search for riches could travel beside a religious mission.

2. In the 1600s, Dutch merchants focused on the spice trade in parts of Southeast Asia, including islands in present-day Indonesia. Nutmeg and cloves could sell for high prices in Europe. The Dutch East India Company built forts and used force to control production and trade. Its leaders wanted to keep competitors from buying the same spices. Unlike Spain's Caribbean colonies, this effort centered on a trading monopoly rather than a campaign to convert local people to Christianity. Local growers and traders lost control of much of their trade.

3. English groups settled parts of North America for several reasons. In New England, some Puritans hoped to build communities where they could practice their own form of Christianity. This did not mean they welcomed every belief. Settlers also wanted farmland, and some earned money through fishing and trade. They took land already used and inhabited by Indigenous peoples. Like Spanish colonizers, some English settlers had religious aims, but their plans for towns and farms differed from the Dutch company's focus on controlling spice sales. Motives could overlap even within one colony.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How were Spanish and Dutch hopes for wealth alike, and what did each group seek?

2. Compare the religious aims of Spanish colonizers in the Caribbean and some English settlers in New England.

3. How did some English settlers' plans for New England differ from the Dutch company's main goal in Southeast Asia?

4. Both Spanish colonizers and some English settlers wanted something from the land. How did those goals differ?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine European leaders considering a fictional island with a harbor, farmland, and valuable spices. In four sentences, compare two reasons they might seek control, connect each reason to a different case in the passage, and explain how the reasons differ.

ANSWER KEY

Why Colonize?

GRADES 6-9 · 6-9.WG.1.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each reason Europeans sought control of a place. Number reasons that are similar across two or more regions so you can compare them. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How were Spanish and Dutch hopes for wealth alike, and what did each group seek?	**Both sought wealth. Spanish colonizers looked for Caribbean gold, while Dutch merchants sought profits from controlling the spice trade.**
2	Compare the religious aims of Spanish colonizers in the Caribbean and some English settlers in New England.	**Spanish colonizers aimed to spread Catholic Christianity. Some English Puritans wanted communities where they could practice their own form of Christianity.**
3	How did some English settlers' plans for New England differ from the Dutch company's main goal in Southeast Asia?	**Some English settlers wanted towns and farmland. The Dutch company focused on controlling the production and sale of spices.**
4	Both Spanish colonizers and some English settlers wanted something from the land. How did those goals differ?	**Spanish colonizers looked for gold and claimed land for their crown. Some English settlers wanted farmland for their communities.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

One group might seek the island's farmland to build a settlement, as some English settlers did in New England. Another might seek to control its spice trade, as the Dutch East India Company did in Southeast Asia. Both groups would want resources from the island. The first would need land for a community, while the second would focus on controlling goods for sale.

Accept comparisons that distinguish a group's stated aim from the effects of colonization. For Part 3, accept other plausible motives if each is connected accurately to a different case in the passage.