Across the Atlantic

Compare why three European powers built colonies.

5.H.5 "Compare and contrast the religious, political, and economic reasons for the colonization of the Americas by Europe."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB In each paragraph, underline one religious reason, circle one political reason, and draw a box around one economic reason so you can compare the three countries.

Why Did They Come?

1. In the 1500s, Spain sent ships across the Atlantic to claim land in the Americas. Spanish rulers wanted gold and silver to pay for their kingdom and strengthen its power. Catholic missionaries traveled with colonists to spread their faith. Spain built towns and mines on lands where Indigenous peoples already lived. Many Indigenous people were forced to work, and European diseases killed many more.

2. France also claimed land in the Americas. In the 1600s, French traders sought furs, especially beaver pelts, to sell in Europe. French rulers wanted a larger empire and a share of the wealth other European powers were gaining. Catholic missionaries hoped to spread their faith. French traders often relied on trade and alliances with Indigenous nations, though French claims still threatened Indigenous control of land.

3. England's colonies had several beginnings. Some English settlers, including the Pilgrims, crossed the Atlantic to practice their religion in their own communities. English rulers wanted more land and power as they competed with Spain and France. Investors and settlers hoped to earn money through crops and trade. English settlers expanded onto Indigenous lands, causing conflict and loss of land for many Indigenous peoples.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How were Spain's and France's religious reasons alike, and how did the reason for some English settlers differ?

2. How were Spain's and England's political goals alike? What extra detail does the passage give about England's goal?

3. How did France's way of gaining wealth differ from Spain's?

4. What economic goal did France and England share? Which goods does the passage name for each?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum label that compares at least two countries' religious, political, and economic reasons for colonizing the Americas. Include one effect on Indigenous peoples.

ANSWER KEY

Across the Atlantic

GRADE 5 · 5.H.5

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

In each paragraph, underline one religious reason, circle one political reason, and draw a box around one economic reason so you can compare the three countries. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How were Spain's and France's religious reasons alike, and how did the reason for some English settlers differ?	**Spanish and French missionaries hoped to spread their Catholic faith. Some English settlers came to practice their own religion.**
2	How were Spain's and England's political goals alike? What extra detail does the passage give about England's goal?	**Both wanted land and power. England competed with Spain and France.**
3	How did France's way of gaining wealth differ from Spain's?	**French traders sought furs to sell, while Spain sought gold and silver.**
4	What economic goal did France and England share? Which goods does the passage name for each?	**Both hoped to gain wealth through trade. France traded furs, while English settlers hoped to earn money through crops and trade.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Spain and France sent Catholic missionaries to spread their faith, while some English settlers came to practice their own religion. All three countries wanted more land and power, and England competed with Spain and France. Spain sought gold and silver, France sought furs for trade, and English investors and settlers hoped to earn money from crops and trade. Colonization cost many Indigenous peoples land, while forced labor and disease harmed many under Spanish rule.

Accept accurate comparisons that distinguish the goals of rulers, missionaries, traders, and settlers. For the museum label, look for all three types of reasons and an effect on Indigenous peoples.