Four Colonial Plans

Compare why European powers built colonies in the Americas

8.H.2 "Compare and contrast reasons for British, French, Spanish, and Dutch colonization in the New World."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one reason for colonizing that two powers shared, and circle one reason that set a power apart. Number each mark to show which powers you are comparing.

Different Plans Across the Atlantic

1 Ships crossing the Atlantic carried more than supplies. They carried plans for colonies. Spain's rulers wanted wealth, power, and converts to Christianity. Spanish expeditions sought gold and silver across the Americas, while missionaries established missions to spread Catholicism. France's leaders also wanted influence and supported Catholic missionaries, but French traders in northern North America focused on exchanging European goods for beaver pelts. They built trading relationships with Indigenous nations whose knowledge and labor made the fur trade possible. For both powers, faith mattered, yet trade shaped much of France's northern activity.

2 The Dutch West India Company established New Netherland to earn money from trade, especially furs along the Hudson River. The company encouraged settlers because farms and a port could support its business. British colonists came for several reasons: investors hoped for profit, families sought farmland, and some religious groups sought places to practice their faith. In Virginia, tobacco farming offered a path to wealth; in New England, some settlers wanted to build communities shaped by their beliefs. Unlike the Dutch company's main focus on trade, British settlements often aimed to grow into farming communities.

3 These plans overlapped, but they did not affect everyone in the same way. France and the Dutch Republic both valued the fur trade and relied on exchanges with Indigenous peoples. Spain and Britain both claimed land for expanding settlements, although Spain put more emphasis on converting Indigenous peoples through missions. European claims ignored Indigenous nations' own control of their homelands. As farms and missions spread, many communities faced land loss, forced labor, or pressure to change their beliefs. Comparing motives helps explain why colonies developed different economies and relationships with Indigenous nations.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How were French and Dutch reasons for colonizing alike? What goal mentioned for France set it apart from the Dutch?

2. What reason for colonizing did Spain and Britain share? How did a religious goal differ between them?

3. Both Dutch and British colonists established settlements. How did the purposes of those settlements differ?

4. How did French and Spanish plans lead to different kinds of contact with Indigenous nations?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five-sentence label for an exhibit called "One Shore, Different Plans." Compare two powers by explaining a shared reason for colonizing, a difference in their plans, and how that difference could affect Indigenous nations; include at least two details from the passage.

ANSWER KEY

Four Colonial Plans

GRADE 8 · 8.H.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one reason for colonizing that two powers shared, and circle one reason that set a power apart. Number each mark to show which powers you are comparing. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How were French and Dutch reasons for colonizing alike? What goal mentioned for France set it apart from the Dutch?	**Both valued the fur trade. French leaders also supported Catholic missionaries, a goal not mentioned for the Dutch.**
2	What reason for colonizing did Spain and Britain share? How did a religious goal differ between them?	**Both claimed land for expanding settlements. Spain sought to convert Indigenous peoples through Catholic missions, while some British settlers sought places to practice their own faith.**
3	Both Dutch and British colonists established settlements. How did the purposes of those settlements differ?	**The Dutch company encouraged farms and a port to support trade. British colonists often aimed to build farming communities.**
4	How did French and Spanish plans lead to different kinds of contact with Indigenous nations?	**French fur traders relied on exchanges and Indigenous knowledge. Spanish missionaries established missions to spread Catholicism, which could pressure Indigenous communities to change their beliefs.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Spain and France both supported Catholic missionaries as they expanded into the Americas. Spain's leaders also sought gold and silver, while French traders in northern North America focused on beaver pelts. Spanish missions could pressure Indigenous communities to change their beliefs. French traders depended on Indigenous knowledge and exchanges to obtain furs. These different plans shaped the ways each power interacted with Indigenous nations.

Accept other supported comparisons, including shared profit motives or differences among British and Dutch settlements. Responses should distinguish a stated colonial goal from its possible effects on Indigenous peoples.