Across the Ocean

Why three countries explored North America

4.C.3.2.A "Explain how Spain, France, and England were motivated to explore the continent by a desire to expand their wealth and culture, convert Native peoples to Christianity, acquire natural resources, and develop trade relations."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one phrase about wealth, resources, or trade in each paragraph. Circle one phrase about spreading culture or Christianity in each paragraph.

Why Did They Explore?

1. Imagine a ship reaching the coast of the Americas. In the 1500s, Spanish leaders sent explorers across the ocean to claim land for Spain. They hoped to gain wealth from gold and silver and to carry Spanish language and customs to new places. Catholic missionaries also sought to convert Native peoples to Christianity. Spaniards used resources from the land and traded with Native peoples, although they also took land and forced people to work.

2. French explorers traveled along rivers and lakes in North America. France wanted valuable furs, especially beaver pelts, to sell in Europe. To get them, French traders built trade relationships with Native nations whose people knew the land and the animals. These partnerships could also help France extend its power and culture. Catholic missionaries traveled with some French groups because they hoped to convert Native peoples to Christianity.

3. English leaders wanted land and wealth in North America. Settlers planted tobacco to sell across the ocean, and they used timber from forests to build ships and homes. England hoped its colonies would buy English goods and send back useful resources. Some English settlers tried to spread English customs and Christian beliefs to Native peoples. English settlement pushed Native peoples off their land, even as some groups traded with them.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Spain hope to gain wealth and spread its culture or religion?

2. Why did France build trade relationships with Native nations, and what did some French missionaries hope to do?

3. How could tobacco and timber help England gain wealth or resources?

4. What religious goal did Spain, France, and England share? Give one detail from each paragraph.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you advise a ruler choosing whether to send a ship to North America. Write three or four sentences explaining two different reasons to explore, using examples from at least two countries in the passage, and describe one possible harm to Native peoples.

ANSWER KEY

Across the Ocean

GRADE 4 · 4.C.3.2.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one phrase about wealth, resources, or trade in each paragraph. Circle one phrase about spreading culture or Christianity in each paragraph. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Spain hope to gain wealth and spread its culture or religion?	**Spain sought wealth from gold and silver. Spaniards also carried their language and customs, and Catholic missionaries sought to convert Native peoples.**
2	Why did France build trade relationships with Native nations, and what did some French missionaries hope to do?	**French traders wanted furs to sell in Europe. Some missionaries hoped to convert Native peoples to Christianity.**
3	How could tobacco and timber help England gain wealth or resources?	**Settlers could sell tobacco across the ocean and use timber to build ships and homes.**
4	What religious goal did Spain, France, and England share? Give one detail from each paragraph.	**All three sought to spread Christianity to Native peoples. Spanish and French Catholic missionaries hoped to convert them, and some English settlers tried to spread Christian beliefs.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would tell the ruler that trade could bring wealth, as French traders sought beaver pelts to sell in Europe. England could use timber to build ships and homes, so resources were another reason to explore. Some explorers also hoped to spread Christianity, as Spanish missionaries did. But taking land could push Native peoples from their homes.

For the open task, accept any two distinct motivations supported by examples from at least two countries. The harm should be consistent with the passage, such as loss of land or forced work.