Why Colonies Grew

Read and sort the reasons Europeans colonized North America.

5.C.1.2 "Summarize the economic, political, and cultural reasons for European colonization of North America, including competition over the continent's land and natural resources, the development of new trade relationships..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline a detail about gaining wealth, circle a detail about gaining power, and put a star beside a detail about worship. Use your marks to summarize three reasons for colonization.

Many Reasons to Cross the Atlantic

1. In the 1600s, European ships crossed the Atlantic to North America. The land was already home to many Native nations. English colonists in Virginia grew tobacco to sell in Europe. Farther north, French traders exchanged metal goods with Native peoples for animal furs. Colonies gave Europeans access to land, timber, and other resources. Trade could bring wealth, but it also changed life for Native communities.

2. European rulers also wanted power. England, France, and Spain each claimed parts of North America, even though Native peoples lived there. Rulers feared that a rival country might control valuable rivers, forests, and trade routes first. They sent settlers and built forts to strengthen their claims. As colonies expanded, Native nations faced pressure on their lands. Some made alliances to defend their interests.

3. Beliefs shaped some people's choices, too. In the 1600s, some English Puritans left England and settled in New England so they could worship in their own way. Religious goals were not the only reasons people came. A colony might offer a place to practice a faith while also bringing profit and power to its rulers. Puritan leaders did not always allow other people the same freedom of worship.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How could trade help a European colony gain wealth? Use an example from the passage.

2. Why did European rulers send settlers and build forts in North America?

3. Why did some Puritans settle in New England? What limit did their idea of religious freedom have?

4. How could a forest matter to both traders and rulers?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence label for a museum case called "Why Colonies Grew." In your own words, explain one reason involving wealth, one involving power, and one involving religion, then describe one effect of colonization on Native peoples.

ANSWER KEY

Why Colonies Grew

GRADE 5 · 5.C.1.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline a detail about gaining wealth, circle a detail about gaining power, and put a star beside a detail about worship. Use your marks to summarize three reasons for colonization. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How could trade help a European colony gain wealth? Use an example from the passage.	**Colonists could sell Virginia tobacco in Europe, or French traders could exchange goods with Native peoples for furs.**
2	Why did European rulers send settlers and build forts in North America?	**They wanted to strengthen their claims before rival countries controlled valuable land and trade routes.**
3	Why did some Puritans settle in New England? What limit did their idea of religious freedom have?	**They wanted to worship in their own way, but their leaders did not always allow others the same freedom.**
4	How could a forest matter to both traders and rulers?	**A forest could provide timber to sell or use, while rulers wanted to control valuable forest land before rival countries did.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Europeans built colonies partly to earn money from crops and trade. Rulers also wanted to claim land and resources before rival countries did. Some settlers crossed the ocean so they could practice their religion in a new community. As colonies spread, Native peoples faced growing pressure on lands they already called home.

Accept other accurate examples from the passage. For the museum label, look for distinct reasons involving wealth, power, and religion, plus an accurate effect on Native peoples.