

Motives Across the Atlantic

Compare why three European powers explored and colonized North America.

8.2.A "identify reasons for English, Spanish, and French exploration and colonization of North America; and"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each phrase that tells why England, Spain, or France explored or colonized North America. Write S, E, or F beside each underlined reason to show which country it describes.

Why Three Countries Came

- ① During the 1500s, Spain sent expeditions across the Atlantic after Columbus's voyages. Spanish rulers wanted new wealth, especially gold and silver, and land for their empire. Explorers also sought passages and ports that could strengthen Spain's trade and military power. Conquistadors claimed territory in places such as Florida and the Southwest. Catholic missionaries traveled with or after expeditions because Spanish leaders wanted to convert Indigenous peoples to Christianity. These goals, wealth, power, land, and religion, pushed Spain to explore and establish settlements.
- ② England established lasting North American colonies in the early 1600s. Many English investors expected colonies to earn profits. The Virginia Company hoped that tobacco and other goods would enrich investors, while merchants looked for trade opportunities. English leaders also wanted land and power that could challenge Spain and France. Some settlers, including Puritans in New England, sought a place to practice their religion with greater freedom. Farms, towns, and ports helped England hold territory and build a lasting colonial empire.
- ③ France explored and colonized parts of North America for trade, territory, and religion. French fishers first worked near the Atlantic coast, and merchants later sought valuable beaver furs. Explorers traveled along rivers and through the Great Lakes region to reach trading areas. France claimed land partly to keep rival European powers from controlling it. French traders often formed alliances with Indigenous communities, whose knowledge and trade networks were important. Catholic missionaries also hoped to convert Indigenous peoples. Because fur trade mattered most, France built many small trading posts and settlements instead of large farm colonies.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What were two reasons Spain explored and established settlements in North America?

2 How did England's economic reason for colonizing differ from France's economic reason?

3 Identify one religious reason for colonization described in the passage. Which country or countries had that reason?

4 Why did France build many small trading posts instead of large farm colonies?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

You are an adviser in 1600. Write four sentences recommending that one of the three countries establish a North American colony. State two reasons for your choice and explain one settlement decision that fits those reasons.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each phrase that tells why England, Spain, or France explored or colonized North America. Write S, E, or F beside each underlined reason to show which country it describes. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What were two reasons Spain explored and established settlements in North America?	Spain sought wealth such as gold and silver, land for its empire, stronger trade and military power, and the conversion of Indigenous peoples to Christianity. Accept any two.
2	How did England's economic reason for colonizing differ from France's economic reason?	English investors hoped to profit from tobacco and other colonial goods, while France focused especially on trading valuable beaver furs.
3	Identify one religious reason for colonization described in the passage. Which country or countries had that reason?	Spain and France sent Catholic missionaries to convert Indigenous peoples to Christianity. England's Puritan settlers also sought greater freedom to practice their religion.
4	Why did France build many small trading posts instead of large farm colonies?	France built small trading posts because fur trade was its most important goal.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I recommend that France establish a settlement beside a major river. French merchants can trade furs with Indigenous communities and send the pelts to Europe. The settlement can also help France claim territory before English or Spanish rivals do. Officials should build a small trading post rather than a large farm colony because trade is its main purpose.

Accept accurate reasons and comparisons supported by the passage. For the open response, accept any country if the student gives two accurate motives and a settlement choice that logically fits those motives.