

# Why Colonies Began

Trace the motives behind European exploration and English settlement.

**8.2** "History. The student understands the causes of exploration and colonization eras. The student is expected to: identify reasons for English, Spanish, and French exploration and colonization of North America; and compare political, economic..."

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 READ AND MARK \_\_\_\_\_ Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline each phrase that gives a reason for exploration or colonization, then write S, F, or E beside reasons tied to Spain, France, or England and write P, Ec, R, or So beside each reason for an English colony.

### Motives Across the Atlantic

- ① During the 1500s, Spanish expeditions crossed the Atlantic seeking wealth and power. Spain wanted gold and silver, a sea route to Asia, and lands for its empire. Spanish rulers also hoped to spread Catholicism among Indigenous peoples. Explorers claimed territory for Spain, while settlers, missionaries, and soldiers built colonies. These goals often led to conflict and violence against Native communities already living there. Spanish colonial officials also sought control over trade and resources in North America.
- ② French explorers entered North America in the 1500s and 1600s looking for a water route through or around the continent to Asia. France also sought wealth from the fur trade with Indigenous nations. French settlements along the St. Lawrence River and Great Lakes supported trade, fishing, and Catholic missions. English ventures sought land, profit, and a larger place in overseas trade. Some English people also wanted religious freedom or hoped to create communities shaped by their beliefs.
- ③ The thirteen English colonies did not all begin for the same reason. Political goals included strengthening England's claim against rival European powers and creating self-governing communities under English rule. Economic reasons included growing tobacco or other crops, trading, fishing, and earning profit. Religious reasons led Puritans to found Massachusetts Bay and Catholics to establish Maryland, though religious tolerance was limited. Social reasons included seeking land, work, and a new start. Colonists included wealthy investors, families, indentured servants, and enslaved Africans, whose labor was forced.

**2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE** \_\_\_\_\_ Use the passage

**1** Give two reasons Spain explored and colonized North America.

---

---

**2** How were French and English goals alike, and how were they different?

---

---

---

**3** Name one political reason and one economic reason for establishing the thirteen English colonies.

---

---

**4** What religious reasons helped lead to the founding of Massachusetts Bay and Maryland?

---

---

**3 YOUR TURN** \_\_\_\_\_ Your own words

Imagine you are helping plan an English colony in North America. Write four sentences that give one political, economic, religious, and social reason for establishing it, and label each sentence P, Ec, R, or So.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

Underline each phrase that gives a reason for exploration or colonization, then write S, F, or E beside reasons tied to Spain, France, or England and write P, Ec, R, or So beside each reason for an English colony. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                                                          | ANSWER                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Give two reasons Spain explored and colonized North America.                                      | <b>Spain sought wealth such as gold and silver, a sea route to Asia, land for its empire, the spread of Catholicism, and control of trade and resources. Accept any two.</b>                                                           |
| 2 | How were French and English goals alike, and how were they different?                             | <b>Both sought wealth or profit through trade. France emphasized a water route to Asia and the fur trade, while England emphasized land, profit, overseas trade, and, for some people, religious freedom or religious communities.</b> |
| 3 | Name one political reason and one economic reason for establishing the thirteen English colonies. | <b>Political: strengthening England's claim against rivals or creating self-governing communities under English rule. Economic: growing crops, trading, fishing, or earning profit.</b>                                                |
| 4 | What religious reasons helped lead to the founding of Massachusetts Bay and Maryland?             | <b>Puritans founded Massachusetts Bay to form a community shaped by their beliefs. Catholics established Maryland for religious reasons, although tolerance was limited.</b>                                                           |

**PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**

P: Our colony will support England's claim to this coast and follow English law. Ec: Farmers will grow crops to sell, creating profit and trade. R: A religious group will build a community shaped by its beliefs. So: Families and workers will seek land, work, and a new start.

Accept historically plausible reasons that match the correct category and are clearly labeled. Economic and political motives may overlap when a student explains the connection accurately.