

Across the Atlantic

Read closely to explain why English people started colonies.

VS.3.a "explaining the reasons for English colonization;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each reason English people started colonies in North America. Circle one detail that explains each reason.

Why Start a Colony?

- ① In the early 1600s, England began sending people across the Atlantic Ocean to start colonies in North America. One major reason was economic opportunity. Investors hoped a colony would send valuable goods, such as tobacco, back to England. Some settlers hoped to earn money by growing crops, trading, or owning land. England also wanted new markets where colonists would buy English-made goods.
- ② Religious freedom was another reason for colonization. In England, the government supported the Church of England, and some people disagreed with its rules. Groups such as the Pilgrims wanted to worship in their own way. They crossed the ocean to build communities where they could practice their beliefs. Colonies did not give religious freedom to everyone, but this hope brought some English people to North America.
- ③ Adventure also drew people to the colonies. News about a distant land made some English men and women curious about what they might find. Crossing the Atlantic was dangerous, and colonial life was hard. Still, people hoped for a new beginning, exciting travel, and a chance to explore. Economic opportunity, religious freedom, and adventure often worked together in a person's decision.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What economic opportunities did some settlers hope to find in a colony?

2 Why did some groups leave England for religious reasons?

3 What made adventure a reason to go to the colonies, even though the trip was dangerous?

4 How was religious freedom different from economic opportunity as a reason for colonization?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Pretend you live in England in the early 1600s. Write exactly three sentences explaining which one reason would make you consider joining a colony and why. Include two details from the passage.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each reason English people started colonies in North America. Circle one detail that explains each reason. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What economic opportunities did some settlers hope to find in a colony?	They hoped to earn money by growing crops or trading, and some hoped to own land.
2	Why did some groups leave England for religious reasons?	They disagreed with Church of England rules and wanted to worship in their own way.
3	What made adventure a reason to go to the colonies, even though the trip was dangerous?	People hoped for a new beginning, exciting travel, and a chance to explore a distant land.
4	How was religious freedom different from economic opportunity as a reason for colonization?	Religious freedom meant being able to practice beliefs, while economic opportunity meant earning money, trading, growing crops, or owning land.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would consider joining a colony for economic opportunity. I could grow crops or trade to earn money. I would also hope to own land.

Accept any one of the three reasons, economic opportunity, religious freedom, or adventure, when the explanation matches the passage. In Part 3, students should give exactly three sentences and include two accurate supporting details.