



>> French explorer Jacques Cartier found that the St. Lawrence River was a gateway into a vast territory of rich forests, with an abundance of fish and animals that could provide wealth from trade.

 Interactive Flipped Video

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During the 1600s, France, the Netherlands, England, and Sweden joined Spain in settling North America. At first, Europeans were disappointed that North America did not yield gold treasure or offer a water passage to Asia, as they had hoped. Before long, though, the English and French were turning profits by growing tobacco in Virginia, fishing off the North Atlantic coast, and trading furs from New England and Canada with Europe.

>> Objectives

Explain why the colony of New France grew slowly.

Analyze the establishment and growth of the English colonies.

Understand why Europeans competed for power in North America and how their struggle affected Native Americans.

>> Key Terms

New France
revenue
Pilgrim
compact
French and Indian War
Treaty of Paris
Jacques Cartier
Samuel de Champlain
John Cabot

European Colonies in North America

New France

By 1700, France and England controlled large parts of North America. As their colonies grew, they developed their own governments that differed from each other and from that of Spanish America.

French Exploration Begins By the early 1500s, French fishing ships were crossing the Atlantic each year to harvest rich catches of cod off Newfoundland, Canada. Within 200 years, the French had occupied or claimed nearly half of North America.

French claims in Canada—which the French called **New France**—quietly grew while French rulers were distracted by wars at home in Europe. In 1534, **Jacques Cartier** (zhahk kah tee AY) began exploring the coastline of eastern Canada, eventually discovering the St. Lawrence River. Traveling inland on the river, he claimed much of present-day eastern Canada for France.

French explorers and fur traders gradually traveled inland with the help of Native American allies, who sought support against rival Native American groups. Jesuits and other missionaries soon followed the explorers. They advanced into the wilderness, trying with little success to convert the Native Americans they met to Christianity.

New France Grows Slowly The population of New France grew slowly. The first permanent French settlement was not established until 1608, when Samuel de Champlain established a colony in Quebec. Wealthy landlords bought huge tracts, or areas of land, along the St. Lawrence River. They sought settlers to farm the land, but the harsh Canadian climate, with its long winters, attracted few French peasants.

Many who went to New France soon abandoned farming in favor of the more profitable fur trapping and trading. They faced a hard life in the wilderness, but the soaring European demand for fur ensured good prices. Fishing was another industry that supported settlers, who exported cod and other fish to Europe.

Royal Power and Economic Growth In the late 1600s, the French king Louis XIV set out to strengthen royal power and boost **revenues**, or income, from taxes from his overseas empire. He appointed officials to oversee economic activities in New France.

He also sent soldiers and more settlers—including women—to North America. However, Louis, who was Catholic, prohibited Protestants from settling in New France.

By the early 1700s, French forts, missions, and trading posts stretched from Quebec to Louisiana, and the population was growing. Yet the population of New

France remained small compared to that of the English colonies that were expanding along the Atlantic coast.

? EXPRESS PROBLEMS CLEARLY Why was the growth of New France slow?

The 13 English Colonies

At the time of Columbus and throughout the centuries ahead, the English sailed westward, hoping to find a sea passage to India. In 1497, John Cabot, a Venetian explorer, commanded an English expedition that reached the rich fishing grounds off Newfoundland. He claimed the region for England. Dozens of other English explorers continued to search for a northwest passage to Asia, without success. In the 1600s, England turned its attention instead to building colonies along the Atlantic seaboard of North America.

Jamestown The English built their first permanent colony at Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607. Its early years were filled with disaster. Many settlers died of starvation and disease. The rest survived with the help of friendly Native Americans.

Plymouth In 1620, another group of English settlers landed at Plymouth, Massachusetts. They were **Pilgrims**, or English Protestants who rejected the

European Colonization of North America, about 1700



>> England, France, and Spain controlled large parts of North America. Their colonies differed from each other in a number of ways.

[Interactive Map](#)

Church of England. They sought religious freedom rather than commercial profit. Before coming ashore, they signed the Mayflower Compact, in which they set out guidelines for governing their North American colony. A **compact** is an agreement among people. Today, we see this document as an important early step toward self-government.

Many Pilgrims died in the early years of the Plymouth colony. Local Native Americans, however, taught them to grow corn and helped them survive in the new land. Soon, a new wave of English Protestant immigrants arrived to establish the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

Expansion and Prosperity In the 1600s and 1700s, other groups and individuals founded colonies for England. Some colonies, like Virginia and New York, were commercial ventures, organized for profit.

Others, like Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Maryland, were set up as havens for persecuted religious groups. Still others, like Georgia and South Carolina, were gifts from the king of England to loyal supporters.

Geographic conditions helped shape different ways of life in the New England, Middle, and Southern colonies. At first, settlers in each colony just struggled to survive. Early on, they abandoned dreams of finding riches like the Spanish had in Mexico and Peru. Instead,

they learned to create wealth by using the resources native to their surroundings.

In New England, many settlers were farmers who recreated in North America their village life from England. They took advantage of fishing and timber resources, and some colonists set up shipbuilding industries. In the Middle Colonies, farmers grew large quantities of grain on the abundant land. In the Southern Colonies, a plantation economy emerged. Cash crops, such as rice and tobacco, grew well in the warm climate. They therefore developed a plantation economy to grow these crops.

As in New Spain, the English colonists needed workers to clear land and raise crops. The English tried using Native American labor, but the Native Americans fled or died of diseases. Before long, the colonists began to rely on the work of Africans who were brought to the colonies and sold as slaves. In several colonies in the South, enslaved Africans and their descendants would eventually outnumber people of European descent.

Limited Self-Government Like the rulers of Spain and France, English monarchs asserted control over their American colonies. They appointed royal governors to oversee colonial affairs and had Parliament pass laws to regulate colonial trade. Yet, compared with settlers in the Spanish and French colonies, English colonists enjoyed a large degree of self-government. Each colony

THE MAYFLOW COMPACT NOVEMBER 21, 1620

- First written framework of government in English colonies
- Signed by all 41 adult males aboard the Mayflower
- Signers agreed to form a civil government and obey its laws
- Signers agreed to enact "just and equal laws" for the general good of the colony
- Based on English traditions of self-government
- Served as inspiration for later more complex frameworks of government

>> In the Mayflower Compact the Pilgrims agreed to form a government and obey its laws. The idea of self-government would later become a founding principle of the United States.

Roots of Democracy

TRADITIONS INFLUENCING ENGLISH COLONIAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

JUDEO-CHRISTIAN IDEALS

Jewish and Christian traditions emphasized the value of the individual, the importance of social responsibility, and the idea of free will, or the freedom of humans to make choices for themselves

GRECO-ROMAN MODELS

Ancient Greek democracy and Roman republicanism served as ancient models of limited self-government and influenced ideas about equality before the law and individual liberty

ENGLISH TRADITION OF GUARANTEED RIGHTS

The Magna Carta (1215) and the English Bill of Rights (1689) guaranteed certain rights to citizens, including the right to trial by jury and individual liberty

ENGLISH PARLIAMENTARY TRADITION

Beginning with the Magna Carta, the two houses of Parliament played an increasing role in representing the English people and making English laws

>> The ideas of democracy and representative government have a long history. They are based on traditions that are far older than the English colonies that gave birth to the United States.



had its own representative assembly, elected by men who owned property, that advised the governor and made decisions on local issues.

The tradition of consulting representative assemblies grew out of the English experience. Beginning in the 1200s, Parliament had begun to play an important role in English affairs. Slowly, too, English citizens had gained certain legal and political rights. England's American colonists expected to enjoy the same rights. When colonists later protested British policies in North America, they viewed themselves as "freeborn Englishmen" who were defending their traditional rights.

? IDENTIFY CENTRAL IDEAS Why did the English colonies have a large degree of self-government?

A Power Struggle Begins

By the 1600s, Spain, France, England, and the Netherlands all had colonies in North America. They began to fight—both in the colonies and around the world—to protect and expand their interests.

A Race for Colonies By the late 1600s, French claims included present-day Canada as well as much of the present-day central United States. The Spanish had

moved north, making claims to present-day Texas and Florida. Meanwhile, the English and Dutch maintained colonies along the East Coast. Native Americans throughout the colonies entered the conflict, hoping to play the Europeans against one another.

Competition was also fierce in the Caribbean, as European nations fought to acquire the profitable sugar-producing colonies. By the 1700s, the French and English Caribbean islands, worked by enslaved Africans, had surpassed the whole of North America in exports to Europe.

Britain and France in a Global Struggle By the 1700s, Britain and France emerged as bitter rivals for power around the globe. Their clashes in Europe often ignited conflicts in the Caribbean, North America, India, and Africa.

In 1754, fighting broke out between the French and British in North America. In the British colonies, it marked the beginning of the **French and Indian War**. By 1756, that regional conflict was linked to the Seven Years' War in Europe. The war soon spread to India and other parts of the globe.

Although France held more territory in North America, the British colonies had more people. Trappers, traders, and farmers from the British colonies were pushing west into the Ohio Valley, a region claimed

by France. The French, who had forged alliances with Native Americans, fought to oust the intruders.

During the war, British soldiers and colonial troops launched a series of campaigns against the French in Canada and on the Ohio frontier. In 1759, the British captured Quebec, capital of New France, and then Montreal. Although the war dragged on until 1763, the British had won control of Canada.

The 1763 **Treaty of Paris** officially ended the worldwide war and ensured British dominance in North America. France ceded all of Canada and its lands east of the Mississippi River to Britain. It handed the Louisiana Territory over to Spain. However, France did regain the rich sugar-producing islands in the Caribbean and the slave-trading outposts in Africa that the British had seized during the war.

 **SUMMARIZE** How did wars between European powers in the Americas affect Native Americans?

ASSESSMENT

- 1. Generate Explanations** Why did European countries compete to expand their power in North America?
- 2. Summarize** How were the Pilgrims' goals for religious freedom hampered during the early years of the Plymouth colony, and how did they overcome the obstacles?
- 3. Compare and Contrast** How were conditions in New France and the English colonies different?
- 4. Identify Patterns** How did the various regions of the British colonies become prosperous in different ways?
- 5. Identify Central Issues** How was the French and Indian War caused by European expansion and competition on a global scale?