

Exploring the Americas

Lesson 4 Competing for Colonies

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

What are the consequences when cultures interact?

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. *What were the religious motives behind the Age of Exploration?*
2. *How did French and Dutch settlements compare to the Spanish colonies?*

Terms to Know

Reformation a sixteenth-century religious movement rejecting or changing some Roman Catholic teachings and practices and establishing the Protestant churches

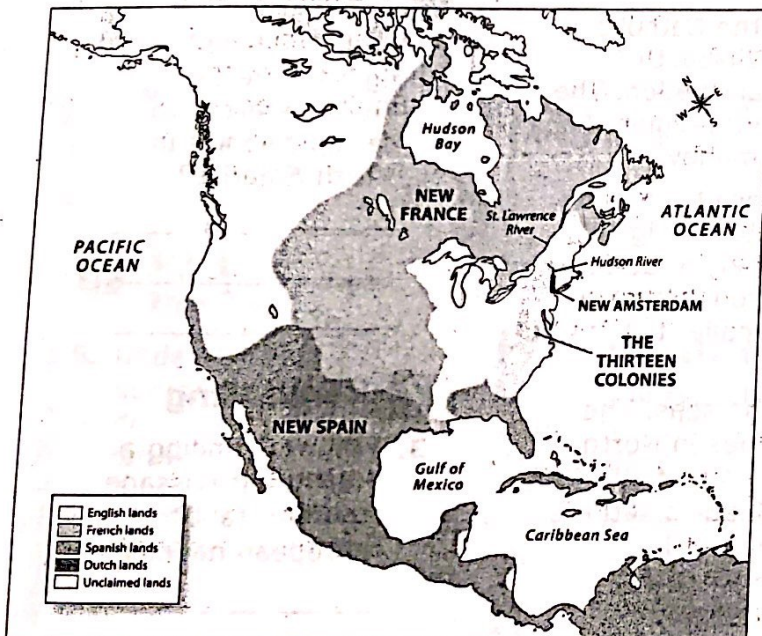
Protestantism a form of Christianity that was in opposition to the Catholic Church

armada a fleet of warships

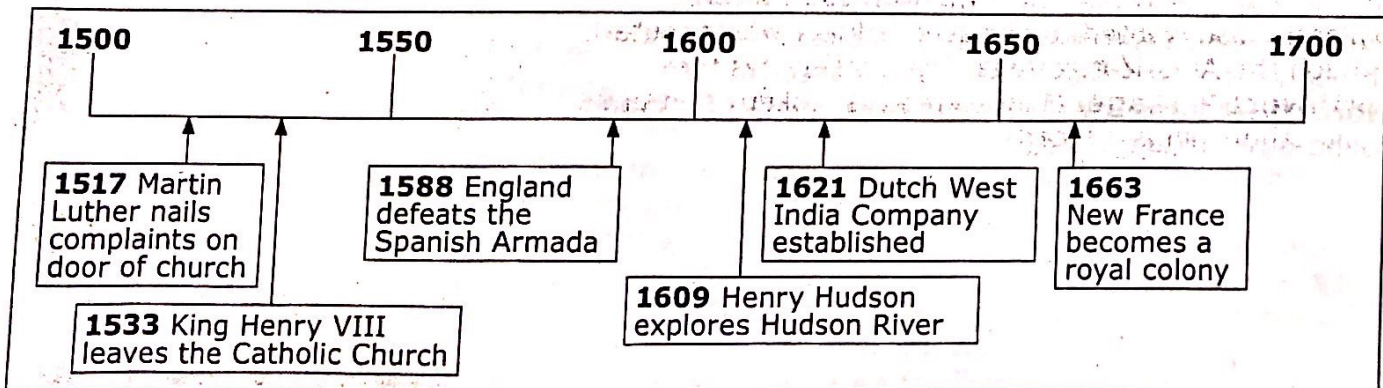
Northwest Passage a sea passage between the Atlantic and the Pacific along the north coast of North America

tenant farmer settler who pays rent or provides work to a landowner in exchange for the right to use the landowner's land

Where in the world?



When did it happen?



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Religious Rivalries

Part of the purpose of exploring the Americas was to spread the Christian religion there. The first explorers were Roman Catholics. In 1517, a new form of Christianity began. It opposed the Catholic Church. It was called **Protestantism**.

Protestantism started with Martin Luther, a German priest. He did not agree with many Catholic Church practices. In 1517, he nailed a list of complaints on the door of the local Catholic Church. He questioned the power and authority of Catholic leaders. His actions led to the **Reformation**. This was a religious movement that took hold in many parts of Europe. It led to widespread conflict within and between the nations of Europe.

In 1533, King Henry VIII of England left the Catholic Church. His daughter ruled later as Queen Elizabeth I. During her rule, England became a Protestant nation. The people were required to follow the Protestant religion. If they didn't, they might lose their land and money.

The king of Spain, a Catholic, saw a chance to invade England. He wanted to wipe out the Protestant religion there. The king sent an **armada**, or war fleet, to attack England. The fleet was huge. It was the strongest naval force in the world. The English fleet was smaller but faster. The British defeated the Spanish.

This meant that Spain no longer ruled the seas. The English decided it was time to set up colonies in North America. English and Dutch settlers were Protestant. They set up colonies along the Atlantic coast. Spanish settlers were Catholic. They settled in southwestern and southeastern North America. The French were also Catholic. They settled in the northeast. Religious differences caused conflicts between the colonies.

Explorers mapped the coast of North America. They set up colonies and traded with the Native Americans. Explorers also wanted to discover a direct water route through the Americas to Asia. They called this the **Northwest Passage**. Many explorers looked for it and found other things instead.

? Determining Cause and Effect

1. What was a major cause of conflict between England and Spain in the 1500s?

? Sequencing

2. What happened right before the English started to set up colonies in North America?

? Explaining

3. Why was finding a Northwest Passage so important to European nations?



Listing

4. Which countries sent explorers to find a Northwest Passage to Asia?



Reading Check

5. What were France's main interests in North America?



Marking the Text

6. Underline the sentences which describe *tenant farmers*.

Searching for the Northwest Passage

Explorer	Sailed For	Year	Found Instead
John Cabot	England	1497	Probably present-day Newfoundland
Giovanni de Verrazano	France	1524	Explored coast of North America from Nova Scotia to the Carolinas
Jacques Cartier	France	1535	Sailed up St. Lawrence River, named the mountain at the site of modern Montreal
Henry Hudson	Netherlands	1609	Discovered Hudson River, sailed as far north as Albany; later discovered Hudson Bay

French and Dutch Settlements

At first, the French were mainly interested in the rich natural resources of North America. They fished and trapped animals for their fur. French trappers and missionaries went far inland into North America. They traded with Native Americans. They built forts and trading posts. They treated the Native Americans with respect. Native Americans did not see them as a threat to their way of life.

In 1663 New France became a colony. New France was made up of estates along the St. Lawrence River. Those who owned estates received land in exchange for bringing settlers. The settlers were known as **tenant farmers**. They paid rent to the estate owner. They also worked for him a certain number of days each year.

The French explored the Mississippi River. In the 1670s, fur trader Louis Joliet and priest Jacques Marquette explored the Mississippi River by canoe. They turned back when they realized the river flowed south, not west to Asia. A few years later, Robert Cavellier de La Salle also traveled the Mississippi. He went all the way to the Gulf of Mexico and claimed the whole area for France. He called it

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Louisiana, after France's king, Louis XIV. In 1718, the French established a port city where the Mississippi River meets the Gulf of Mexico. It was named New Orleans.

French explorers had traveled west to the Rocky Mountains and southwest to the Rio Grande. This led to New France claiming that entire territory.

The Netherlands was a small country in Europe. It had few natural resources and a limited amount of farmland. The people of the Netherlands were called the Dutch. They were attracted by the vast lands and natural resources of North America. They already had a large fleet of trading ships. They sailed all over the world. In 1621 the Netherlands set up the Dutch West India Company. Its purpose was to ship goods for the Netherlands between the Americas and Africa. In 1623 this company took control of the country's North American colony, New Netherland.

The center of New Netherland was New Amsterdam. New Amsterdam was located on the tip of Manhattan Island, where the Hudson River enters New York Harbor. Governor Peter Minuit purchased the land from the Manhattoes people in 1626 for about \$24 worth of trade goods.

Check for Understanding

What started the Protestant Reformation? What was the result of that action?

What were the French hoping to find as they explored the Mississippi River?

? Describing

7. How did the Dutch acquire the land for New Amsterdam?

FOLDABLES

8. Place a one-tab Foldable along the dotted line to cover Check for Understanding. Draw a large circle on the tab and label it *Religion in North America*. Next, draw two smaller circles inside the large circle. Label the small circles *Catholic* and *Protestant*. Use the space inside the circles to list the countries of each religion that established colonies in North America. Use your Foldable to help answer Check for Understanding.