### European Exploration and Colonization of America

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| **Spain** | 1. Wealth & Power—Asian trade, gold & silver, land & colonies  
2. Religion—convert Native Americans to Roman Catholic Church  
3. Nationalism—Competition with Italy, Portugal, & England; fame & glory  
4. Renaissance spirit of curiosity, adventure, etc. | West Indies  
Mexico  
Florida  
Southwest U.S.  
Texas  
Central America  
South America | Slavery (Native Americans & Africans)  
Diseases (killed millions of Native Americans)  
Forced Native Americans to convert to Roman Catholic Church, work as slaves, and give up gold & silver  
Authoritarian government and rigid social class system  
Introduced guns and armor | Language (Place names—Rio Grande, San Antonio, Florida; common words—patio, canyon, rodeo, hurricane, cafeteria)  
Religion (Roman Catholic Church)  
Ranching Industry (first horses, cattle)  
Mining Industry  
Farm Crops (wheat, sugar cane, citrus fruits)  
Architecture (buildings with central open courtyards or patios; flat roofs) |
| **France** | 1. Wealth & Power—looking for the Northwest Passage to Asia, fur trade, land & colonies  
2. Religion—convert Native Americans to the Roman Catholic Church  
3. Nationalism—competition with Spain and England, fame & glory  
4. Renaissance spirit of curiosity, adventure, etc. | St. Lawrence River (Canada)  
Great Lakes  
Mississippi River (Louisiana) | Diseases (killed millions of Native Americans)  
Peasant system of farming (rich landlords lived in France owned farms in Canada, poor workers sent from France to work on them)  
Fur trade (fur traders lived peacefully in Native American villages, but they traded guns for furs and incited Native Americans to attack English colonies; millions of animals killed for fur)  
Guns | Language (Place names—Louisiana, New Orleans, Baton Rouge; common words—prairie)  
Religion (Roman Catholic Church)  
(missionaries lived peacefully in Native American villages)  
Architecture (2 story houses with verandahs—covered porches; wrought iron railings)  
Respect for Native American culture |
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| **England** | 1. Wealth & Power—looking for the Northwest Passage to Asia, fishing grounds, fur & lumber trade, land & colonies  
2. Religion—freedom of religion in different Protestant churches  
3. Nationalism—competition with Spain, France, & Netherlands, fame & glory  
4. Renaissance spirit of curiosity, adventure, etc.  
5. Conflicts with government (escaping from a government and/or religion to live according their own beliefs) | Atlantic Coast of North America (13 English colonies)  
Hudson Bay in Canada | Diseases (killed millions of Native Americans)  
Conflicts with Native Americans—taking land, fencing fields, cutting down trees, & killing game  
Importing African slaves  
Use of African & European indentured servants  
Tobacco industry  
Guns | American concepts of law & government (self-government, representative assemblies, written laws, equality under the law, religious freedom, right of people to disagree with their government, etc.)  
Language (major language of U.S.)  
Religion (religious diversity, many Protestant churches)  
Cash crop agriculture (people owning and working their own land, growing crops to sell for profit)  
Joint-stock companies (basic organization of business corporations today)  
Architecture (standard 1 or 2 story house, sloped roof, wooden boards or brick) |
| **Nether-lands (Dutch)** | 1. Wealth & Power—looking for the Northwest Passage to Asia, fur trade, land & colonies  
2. Religion (Roman Catholic Church)  
3. Nationalism—competition with England, Spain, & France; fame & glory  
4. Renaissance spirit of curiosity, adventure, etc. | Hudson River in New York (founded New York City—known as the city of New Amsterdam in the New Netherlands) | Diseases (killed millions of Native Americans)  
Fur trade which led to animal slaughter  
Guns | Language (Place names—Harlem, Bronx, Catskill Mts.; common words—cookie, boss, spook)  
Architecture (brick houses with steep roofs, stair-step gables along the roof, brightly colored wood trim) |
REASONS FOR EUROPEAN EXPLORATION AND COLONIZATION

DIRECTIONS: Use the chart European Exploration & Colonization of America to complete the paragraphs below.

**Reasons for Exploration:** All of the European nations (______________, ________________, ________________, and the Netherlands) came to America for the same 4 major reasons: ________________ & power, ________________, ________________, and the ________________ spirit of curiosity and adventure. Europeans hoped to acquire wealth and power through reaching the continent of ________________ and trading. Even after learning that America was a new continent, explorers kept looking for a ________________ Passage to Asia. In the meantime, Europeans looked for wealth by finding ________________ and silver, engaging in the ________________ trade, and claiming land & _________________. France, Spain, and the Netherlands also wanted to convert Native Americans to the ________________ church. The English came to have freedom of religion in many different ________________ churches. The English were also the only country to allow explorers and colonists to come to America who were in ________________ with their government, coming to America to live differently than they could in Europe.

**Areas Explored:** Spain claimed most the southern part of the United States - ________________, ________________, the Southwestern U.S. as well as lands further south - Mexico, ________________ America, ________________ America and the islands of the ________________ ________________. France (looking for the Northwest Passage) explored along inland waterways: the ________________ River, the ________________ Lakes, and the ________________ River. England claimed the ________________ Coast and ________________ Bay in Canada. The Dutch claimed the ________________ River in the state of ________________. (This put the Dutch in the middle of the ________________ colonies.) *(Think about it: Which explorer worked for both the Dutch and the English? ________________).*

**Negative Consequences:** All of the Europeans brought ________________ (chicken pox, measles, flu, small pox) to America which killed 90% of the Native American population. In addition, the ________________ made slaves of Native Americans, forcing them to work, to convert to the Roman Catholic religion, and give up gold and silver. The ________________ did not make slaves of Native Americans, but forced Native Americans off their lands (clearing fields, building fences, and killing game). The ________________ and the Dutch had friendly relationships with Native Americans, but in trading with Native Americans, they exchanged ________________ for guns, which not only led to the near extinction of certain animals in America, but also encouraged the Native Americans to engage in warfare. The ________________ in particular, used Native Americans to attack the English.

Other groups also suffered negative consequences due to European exploration and colonization of America. The Spanish and ________________ imported slaves from ________________.
The English also used __________________ servants (African & ________________). Spain
instituted an authoritarian government with a rigid ________________ class system (slaves and Native
Americans formed the lowest class). France tried to use the ________________ system of farming where
poor workers from France were sent to America to farm for rich landowners that remained in Europe. The
English began the American ________________ industry. (Think about it: What problems do we face
today because of this industry? ______________________________________________________)

**Positive and Lasting Contributions to American Life:** All of the European countries
contributed to our language today, with ________________ being the most important. Countries gave us
common words and place names. Most of the ________________ place names are found today in
Florida, ________________, and the Southwest. The ________________ place names are found along
the Mississippi River and around the ________________ Lakes. The ________________ place names
are still found in parts of New York. Religion is an important of American life—both the Roman Catholic
Church (started by the ________________ and the ________________ ) and the many
______________________ churches (first founded by the ________________ ). All of the Europeans
left a distinctive style of architecture. Here in Texas, there are many standard English style houses
(sloped roof, 1 or 2 story) as well as flat-roofed, open courtyard style buildings originated by the
_______________. Texas also boasts of its ________________ industry, founded by
______________ who brought the first horses and cattle to America. The Texas Rio Grande Valley
orange crop is also due to the ________________ who brought the first citrus fruits to America. Our basic
economic structure, with business organizations selling stock to raise money and people owning
land/companies and selling products for profit were begun in America by the _________________. All of
American concepts of law and government came from the ________________ colonies - people
governing themselves ( ________________ ) electing ________________, written laws,
______________ under the law, freedom of ________________, and the right to disagree with the
_______________. (Think about it: Which of these concepts is the most important and why?
____________________________________________________)

**Summary:** All four European countries came to America for most of the same
_______________. All of them brought negative consequences (especially to the ________________
Americans). All of them still have a lasting influence on our lives today, with the ________________
being the most important (and the ________________ being the least important). In Texas, the second
most important to our lives today is the _________________. The common reasons for European
exploration can be summarized in the following four symbols. What does each symbol represent?

$ - ____________________________
† - ____________________________
☆ - ____________________________
? - ____________________________
Answer Key to Reasons for European Exploration and Colonization

**DIRECTIONS:** Use the chart *European Exploration & Colonization of America* to complete the paragraphs below.

**Reasons for Exploration:** All of the European nations (Spain, France, England, and the Netherlands) came to America for the same 4 major reasons: wealth & power, religion, nationalism, and the Renaissance spirit of curiosity and adventure. Europeans hoped to acquire wealth and power through reaching the continent of Asia and trading. Even after learning that America was a new continent, explorers kept looking for a *Northwest Passage* to Asia. In the meantime, Europeans looked for wealth by finding gold and silver, engaging in the fur trade, and claiming land & colonies. France, Spain, and the Netherlands also wanted to convert Native Americans to the Roman Catholic church. The English came to have freedom of religion in many different Protestant churches. The English were also the only country to allow explorers and colonists to come to America who were in conflict with their government, coming to America to live differently than they could in Europe.

**Areas Explored:** Spain claimed most the southern part of the United States - Florida, Texas, the Southwestern U.S. as well as lands further south - Mexico, Central America, South America and the islands of the West Indies. France (looking for the Northwest Passage) explored along inland waterways: the St. Lawrence River, the Great Lakes, and the Mississippi River. England claimed the Atlantic Coast and Hudson Bay in Canada. The Dutch claimed the Hudson River in the state of New York. (This put the Dutch in the middle of the English colonies.) *(Think about it: Which explorer worked for the both the Dutch and the English? Hudson)*

**Negative Consequences:** All of the Europeans brought diseases (chicken pox, measles, flu, small pox) to America which killed 90% of the Native American population. In addition, the Spanish made slaves of Native Americans, forcing them to work, to convert to the Roman Catholic religion, and give up gold and silver. The English did not make slaves of Native Americans, but forced Native Americans off their lands (clearing fields, building fences, and killing game). The French and the Dutch had friendly relationships with Native Americans, but in trading with Native Americans, they exchanged fur for guns, which not only led to the near extinction of certain animals in America, but also encouraged the Native Americans to engage in warfare. The French in particular, used Native Americans to attack the English.

Other groups also suffered negative consequences due to European exploration and colonization of America. The Spanish and English imported slaves from Africa. The English also used indentured servants (African & European). Spain instituted an authoritarian government with a rigid social class system (slaves and Native formed the lowest class). France tried to use the peasant system of farming where poor workers from France were sent to America to farm for rich landowners that remained in Europe. The English began the American tobacco industry. *(Think about it:}*
What problems do we face today because of this industry? **Possible answers include teen smoking, lung cancer, and problems with pregnancy and smoking**

**Positive and Lasting Contributions to American Life:** All of the European countries contributed to our language today, with English being the most important. Countries gave us common words and place names. Most of the Spanish place names are found today in Florida, Texas, and the Southwest. The French place names are found along the Mississippi River and around the Great Lakes. The Dutch place names are still found in parts of New York. Religion is an important of American life - both the Roman Catholic Church (started by the Spanish and the French) and the many Protestant churches (first founded by the English). All of the Europeans left a distinctive style of architecture. Here in Texas, there are many standard English style houses (sloped roof, 1 or 2 story) as well as flat-roofed, open courtyard style buildings originated by the Spanish. Texas also boasts of its ranching industry, founded by Spanish who brought the first horses and cattle to America. The Texas Rio Grande Valley orange crop is also due to the Spanish who brought the first citrus fruits to America. Our basic economic structure, with business organizations selling stock to raise money and people owning land/companies and selling products for profit were begun in America by the English. All of American concepts of law and government came from the English colonies - people governing themselves (self-government) electing representatives, written laws, equality under the law, freedom of religion, and the right to disagree with the government. (Think about it: Which of these concepts is the most important and why? **Answers will vary, but students must support the concept they select as the most important.**)

**Summary:** All four European countries came to America for most of the same reasons. All of them brought negative consequences (especially to the Native Americans). All of them still have a lasting influence on our lives today, with the English being the most important (and the Dutch being the least important). In Texas, the second most important to our lives today is the Spanish. The common reasons for European exploration can be summarized in the following four symbols. What does each symbol represent?

$ - **Wealth and power**

† - **Religion**

☆ - **Nationalism (fame for one’s country)**

? – **Renaissance spirit of curiosity**