

SPAIN

After “discovering” the New World, Spain quickly tried to acquire as much new land as it could for the main purpose of exploiting the lands resources for economic gain.

Spain hoped to discover gold and silver like they had in Central America. The Catholic church also hoped to spread their religion in the New World.

Spain laid claims to the land we now call the Southwest and the areas of California and Florida



FRANCE

During this time in history, Asia was a major center for trade and the French wanted to find a quick route to get there. Though the French explorers never found the Northwest Passage to Asia they did discover that the midwestern territory behind the Appalachian Mountains was rich in fur. Since France was more focused on making money instead of settling, a system of trade was set up with the Natives.

The French set up a profitable fur-trade with the Natives. Beaver and bear pelts were exchanged between the Natives and the French for guns and ammo.



ENGLISH

After the colony of Jamestown became a success, many English settlers crossed the Atlantic to the East Coast of the New World where they established the thirteen colonies.

Different groups of settlers came for reasons like religious freedom and new economic opportunities.

The King of England saw the colonies as not only an opportunity to expand his empire and also the colonies as new source of wealth. Through the system of mercantilism the colonies would send new resources and money from taxes back home to England.

