# United States History Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Unit 1: Building a Chart on Colonization Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period:\_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Using the following reading, construct a chart of the key differences between Spanish and French colonization.

Spanish Colonization

Beginning in 1492, the Spanish started to explore the New World when they sent Christopher Columbus across the Atlantic. Columbus did not reach Asia (like he thought he would), but his four voyages started a vast movement of people, plants, animals, precious metals, diseases, and ideas back and forth across the Atlantic that historians call the Columbian Exchange. The Spanish kings were mostly interested in precious metals—silver and gold—and they sent Conquistadors, military leaders, to explore and claim the New World for Spain. Conquistadors defeated the powerful Aztecs and Incas in South and Central America, claiming the gold and silver of these defeated peoples for Spain. They also enslaved the indigenous peoples of the Americas, using them for labor on plantations that the Spanish soon built. Indigenous peoples were forced to convert to Catholicism, and often died from disease, malnutrition, and violence.

Spain, by the 1560s, had claimed a large portion of the New World for their own. They controlled most of South America, Mexico, and parts of what would be the southern United States. Spanish explorers and missionaries even explored as far north as what would later be called the state of Virginia. Spanish military leaders attacked French and English settlements along the North American coast to prevent them from gaining a foothold in the New World. Spanish control of the New World soon led to so much silver and gold flowing to Spain that the Spanish economy suffered from inflation (when prices rise because the value of money drops). In the New World, the Spanish built many cities (**St. Augustine**, Florida in 1565, for example), sent missionaries to convert the Indians to Catholicism, and ruled their territories with a strong hand. Government in New Spain was tightly controlled by the Spanish kings, who appointed officials to govern the New World.

# French Colonization

Like the Spanish, the French were very interested in the New World. Unlike the Spanish, the French, however, controlled smaller areas of land, mostly in the sugar-growing islands of the Caribbean, along the Mississippi River, and in what would become Canada. Beginning in the 1530s, the French explored Canada, seeking an all-water passage to Asia. Finding none, by 1608 they had established the city of **Quebec** and had begun trading for **furs** with the Indian peoples in the area around the Great Lakes. The government of New France was under the control of the French king, so that the profits of the fur trade would benefit the French monarchs.

The French were more interested in getting furs from the Indians, so they did not focus their attention on settling the land. Because they were dependent on the goodwill of the Indians who lived around the Great Lakes, the French took time to form good, friendly relationships with the Indians. French fur traders often married Indian women in order to be welcomed into Indian families. The French sent **Catholic** priests to live among the Indians, who were not as forceful or violent in their attempts to convert the Indians. The spread of European diseases among Indian towns did destroy many communities and some Frenchmen also enslaved Indians. But, overall, the French were often the best liked of all the Europeans from the Indians’ perspective. It helped that few French settlers came to the New World to steal Indians’ land. As long as the French wanted furs, the Indians were glad to trade.

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|  | SPAIN | FRANCE |
| Earliest Exploration |  |  |
| Where Explorations took Place |  |  |
| Relations with Native Peoples |  |  |
| Religion |  |  |
| Economy |  |  |
| How the Colonies Were Governed |  |  |

According to the information you’ve gathered in the chart, who was the most successful colonizer, Spain or France? What other information would you like to have in order to make that judgment?

# Additional Information

# Revenue from New World

New Spain: ~$6,750,000 in the second half of the 18th century; 1746 – estimated at 3,552,680 pesos (mostly mining royalties)

New France: 36,000 livres per year (set in 1660)

Number of Settlers in New World

New France – by 1663 there were 2500; by 1734 there were 40,000 in Canada

New Spain – 450,000 by mid 1600s

Mostly male in both New France and New Spain

# Number of Indian Deaths

New Spain: ~ 27 million (out of 30 million); 80% mortality

New France: ~260,000 died (out of 500,000); 48% mortality

Size of Territory Covered:

New France: 3.8 million square miles

New Spain: 6.8 million square miles (SA)

Time of Control:

New France: 1530-1763

New Spain; 1492-1821

Cities:

New France: 10

New Spain: 40