

Spanish/Portuguese and French Colonization

Do Now: What is a colony? Why do you think people start colonies in general? Why do you think the Spanish, Portuguese, and French governments wanted to start colonies in the Americas?

Let's start with the Spanish and Portuguese!

Spanish and Portuguese colonies were predominantly in Central and South America.

There were also many Spanish colonies in the Caribbean, but these often were traded or won in battles by different European nations.



#1 Money!!

- Extracted gold and silver from Central and South America using mines
- Used **plantations** – farms so large they require forced labor to operate and rely heavily on one cash crop
- Used **encomienda** system – land grants that include the right to demand labor or taxes of residents already living on the land

Plantation labor force:

Native American "problem"

- Native American populations were heavily impacted by European disease
- Native people had **local knowledge**; could run away and hide
- Native Americans could blend in (to Spanish eyes) with other indigenous groups

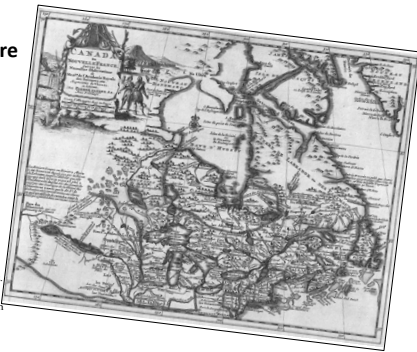
enslaved African "solution"

- Africans had less local knowledge of Americas than colonizers
- African's skin color made it difficult for them to blend in and easier for Spanish to "see" their labor force
- There was a pre-existing trade in enslaved Africans due to conflict in west Africa.

#2 Religion

- Set up **missions** – religious buildings
 - Provided place of worship and rest for **conquistadors** – Spanish colonists
 - Provided services for Native Americans
 - health care, education, clothing, trade
 - In many cases, once Native people came into the mission to receive services, they were not allowed to leave unless they converted
- Convert Native Americans to Catholicism

Let's compare that to the French!



The French were largely in Canada and established trading posts, but very few settlements with their own self sustaining communities. Their settlements were often on rivers

#1 Northwest Passage

- **Northwest passage** – mythic shortcut water route from Atlantic to Pacific
 - **Jean Jacques Cartier** explored Canada; plentiful with beaver **pelts**
 - **Samuel Champlain** sailed up St. Lawrence seaway; settled Quebec as a trading post
 - Quebec would be the base of French exploration, trading, trapping, and missionaries
 - **Robert Cavalier de la Salle** explored the Mississippi River; at present-day New Orleans, he claimed the port and EVERYTHING west of it for France (Vive!)

Secondary Goals

An aside, there was a religious civil war going on in France; missionaries were from a number of faiths, including Catholicism

Money

- Trapped and traded with Native people for pelts to take back to Europe

Religion

- Missionaries came to live with trappers, explorers, and Natives
- Learned Native languages to spread gospel

- Generally positive relationship with Native Americans

- trading partners
- allies
- friends (even intermarried)