France and the Netherlands in North America

Chapter 2, Section 4
Europe Looks Outward (1000-1720)
Lesson Objectives

- Describe how the French colony of New France spread into the interior of North America.
- Explain how the Dutch established a thriving colony along the Hudson River.
- Explain the influence of these settlements on the Native Americans of the region.
Key Terms & People

- **Samuel de Champlain** – French explorer who made 11 voyages to explore and map the lands along the St. Lawrence River.
- **courer de bois** – the French term for “runner of the woods”, were independent traders who lived among the Indians
- **Jacques Marquette** – a French missionary who founded two missions in modern day Michigan
- **Alliance** – an agreement between two parties that benefits them both
Background Knowledge

- By the early 1600’s England, France, and the Netherlands had each sponsored explorations of North America.
- Each had also staked a claim to land there.
- We will now learn about the colonies begun by the French and Dutch and how Native Americans were affected by these colonies.
New France

• The French began to settle the colonies in the early 1600’s
• In 1603 Samuel de Champlain made the first of 11 voyages to explore and map the lands along the St. Lawrence River.
• In 1608 Champlain established a settlement on the banks of the St. Lawrence River, which he named Quebec.
• From here, he ventured east, in 1609, and explored the border of modern day Vermont and New York
• These activities would give the French an influence here that would last for 150 years.
Samuel de Champlain
Life in New France

- New France, as the colony was called, developed in a very different manner than New Spain had.
- The Spanish had sought gold, silver, and other precious minerals; the French, on the other hand, profited from fish and furs.
- The Spanish had forced the Native Americans into harsh labor; the French traded with the Native Americans for animal skins so highly valued in Europe.
- Beaver skins sent to Europe and made into hats were a profitable item.
Beaver Skin Caps
Life in New France

- The patterns in New France were set by Champlain’s first days in the New World.
- He established the colony’s first settlement, a trading post, in what is today *Nova Scotia* in 1604.
- As he continued to explore the region, he convinced local Indians to bring pelts to the trading posts established by the French.
- Quebec and Montreal became the centers of commerce.
New France
Life in New France

- Brave employees of the fur companies paddled large canoes into the wilderness to find and acquire pelts from Native Americans (*coureurs de bois)*
- Many of these men married Indian women and started families.
- Not until late in the 1600’s did the French begin to farm in large numbers. (Not until the market for furs was in decline in Europe.)
  - Disruption was also brought about by the Indian Wars.
- Farming was necessary, also, as a result of the 3,000 French settlers that King Louis XIV sent to New France in the 1660’s.
- By 1672 the colony had about 5,000 people.
Exploring the Mississippi

- The same economic and religious motives that established New France also inspired its expansion.
- By 1670, French missionary Jacques Marquette had founded two missions along the Great Lakes, in present-day Michigan.
- Meanwhile, French traders explored the Great Lakes area looking for new sources of furs.
Exploring the Mississippi

- In 1673, Father Marquette and Louis Joliet, a French Canadian trader, paddled their canoes along the shores of Lake Michigan to what is now Green Bay, Wisconsin.
- They made their way west until they reached the Mississippi River.
- For the next month they followed the river downstream, thinking that it might be the long-sought northwest passage around North America.
- In July, the group reached the Mississippi’s junction with the Arkansas River.
- Convinced that the Mississippi flowed into the Gulf of Mexico and not into the Pacific Ocean, they returned home.
Exploring the Mississippi

- Although Marquette and Joliet did not find a northwest passage, they provided the French with a water route into the heart of North America.
- The river’s exploration was completed in 1862 by Rene Robert Cavalier, also known as La Salle.
- Reaching the river’s mouth at the Gulf of Mexico, La Salle claimed the entire Mississippi Valley for France.
- He named the region Louisiana, in honor of King Louis XIV.
What was the goal of the voyage of Marquette and Joliet on the Mississippi?
Checkpoint Question

What was the goal of the voyage of Marquette and Joliet on the Mississippi?

*The Mississippi River could be used exclusively by the French for trade.*
New Netherland

- Dutch land claims in North America were based on Henry Hudson’s exploration of the Hudson River.
- In 1610, Dutch traders arrived in the Hudson River valley and began a busy trade with Native Americans.
- The trade was so profitable that the Dutch West India Company decided to establish a permanent colony in what the Dutch called New Netherland.
New Netherland
New Netherland

- In 1624, about 300 settlers arrived from the Netherlands.
- Most of them settled at Fort Orange, a fur-trading post that was later renamed, Albany.
- In 1626, another group settled at the mouth of the Hudson River.
- The colony’s governor, Peter Minuit, purchased the island from nearby Indians.
- The colonists named their new home, New Amsterdam.
- The town grew steadily as new colonists arrived.
- By 1653, it had a population of about 800.
New Netherland

- New Netherland was a barrier to the English
- It kept English settlers from moving Westward
- In 1664, English forces seized New Netherland
- The new territory was renamed New York, after the King’s Brother, the Duke of York
Checkpoint Question

Why did the Dutch establish settlements along the Hudson River?
Checkpoint Question

Why did the Dutch establish settlements along the Hudson River?

To trade furs with the Native Americans.
The Impact of Native Americans

- Native Americans were providing fur pelts to French and Dutch traders; Europeans were giving Native Americans manufactured goods, such as cloth, iron pots and tools, and guns.
- Ultimately, however, the fur trade had a negative affect on the Native Americans.
- The French and Dutch had each had made alliances with the Native Americans.
The Impact of Native Americans

- Long before the Hurons became trading partners with the French, the Iroquois and the Hurons were enemies.
- The Hurons became partners with the French and the Iroquois with the Dutch.
- The Dutch gave the Iroquois guns; which they used to attack the Hurons in a devastating manner.
- Even worse, were the diseases caused by contact with Europeans.
- Furthermore, the over trapping of animals weakened the food chain on which Native Americans depended.
- As the fur-bearing animals disappeared, the Native Americans’ value to the colonists decreased.
- Instead, Native American land became more valuable to the colonists.
Checkpoint Question

How did the French and Dutch settlements affect Native Americans?
Checkpoint Question

How did the French and Dutch settlements affect Native Americans?

*They provided new goods to the Native Americans but also increased tensions among them. They introduced many diseases which also killed many Native Americans.*
Explorer Review

- Samuel de Champlain (1603) – French explorer who made 11 voyages to St. Lawrence River
  - Established Quebec in 1608
- Jacques Marquette (1670) – French Missionary who founded missions along the Great Lakes
  - Made his way down the Mississippi River
  - Made it to the junction of the Mississippi and Arkansas Rivers
Review

1) How did the colonists in New France support themselves?

2) How did the economic activities of New France compare with those of New Spain?

3) Name two Dutch settlements in the Americas.

4) How did the geographic location of these settlements contribute to their success?