Prepare to Read

Background Knowledge
Remind students of the Spanish experience in the Americas. Ask them to predict how the experiences of other colonists might be different, depending on where they come from and where in the Americas they choose to settle.

Set a Purpose
- **WITNESS HISTORY** Read the selection aloud, or play the audio.

Ask Why might Indians have participated in the fur trade? (Sample answer: They were interested in the wares that Europeans traded for the furs.) Why might good relations with Indians have been important to French traders? (The Indians caught the plentiful animals and traded the valuable skins with the French.)

- **Focus** Point out the Section Focus Question and write it on the board. Tell students to refer to this question as they read. *(Answer appears with Section 2 Assessment answers.)*

- **Preview** Have students preview the Section Objectives and the list of Terms and People.

- **NoteTaking** Using the Structured Read Aloud strategy *(TE, p. T20)*, have students read this section. As they read, have them use a Venn diagram to compare and contrast Spanish America and French America. *(TE, p. T29)*

The French Empire

**Objectives**
- Explain how the fur trade affected the French and the Indians in North America.
- Explain how and why Quebec was founded.
- Describe the French expansion into Louisiana.

**Terms and People**
- Northwest Passage
- Quebec
- coureurs de bois
- Samuel de Champlain
- métis

**Reading Skill: Compare and Contrast** Fill in a Venn diagram like the one below comparing Spanish America and French America.

**Vocabulary Builder**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High-Use Word</th>
<th>Definition and Sample Sentence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>dominate</td>
<td>v. to have control, power, or authority over somebody or something. The Spanish tried to dominate the Pueblo Indians and force them to adopt European ways.</td>
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</tbody>
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**Why It Matters** Spain’s success with its American colonies encouraged other European nations to establish colonies. French explorers led expeditions along the North American Atlantic seaboard during the 1500s. These explorers established a number of French settlements along the St. Lawrence River and began trading fish and animal furs with Native Americans in the region. In time, these small settlements grew and became the nucleus of present-day Canada.

**Section Focus Question:** How did France’s American colonies differ from Spain’s American colonies?

**The French Establish a Fur Trade**

During the early 1500s, explorers who sailed for France, including Giovanni da Verrazano and Jacques Cartier, were less interested in establishing colonies and more interested in finding a Northwest Passage—a water route to Asia through the cold waters of present-day Canada. They probed the eastern coastline of North America, from present-day North Carolina to Newfoundland. During the 1530s and 1540s, Cartier investigated the St. Lawrence River.

**France Establishes New France** The French king claimed the region that Cartier explored as New France. At the mouth of the St. Lawrence River, French mariners fished for cod and hunted for pelts with the French.

A beaver — François Joseph Le Mercier, *Relations des Jésuites, 1653*
Quebec's founder, traded with the Montagnais, Algonquin, and Huron Indians. In return, they expected Champlain to help them against their enemies: the Iroquois, who lived to the south in what is now New York. In 1609, Champlain and nine French soldiers helped their allies attack an Iroquois camp beside the lake later named after Champlain. Expecting a traditional Indian battle, rich in display and light in casualties, the Iroquois formed up in a mass. They counted on their wooden shields, helmets, and body armor for protection from arrows. They were shocked when Champlain and his soldiers fired their guns, instantly killing Iroquois chiefs and warriors. Bewildered, the Iroquois warriors ran away. Champlain won the battle at a high long-term cost. He made enemies of the powerful Iroquois, who for decades thereafter raided the French settlements. The battle also revolutionized Indian warfare. The Iroquois abandoned wooden armor, and they avoided massed formations. Instead, they relied on trees for cover and shifted their tactics to hit-and-run raids. They also demanded their own guns as the price of trade. Obtaining guns from Dutch traders on the Hudson River, the Iroquois became better armed than their Algonquin, Montagnais, and Huron enemies.

Killing the beaver faster than the animals could reproduce, the coastal Indians sought new stocks by invading the hunting territories of their neighbors. This provoked wars between Indian groups. Those without territories of their neighbors. This provoked Just as the Indians fought one another over trade, the traders plundered and killed one another in their competition for furs. To repel rivals, a French company built a fortified trading post at Quebec on the St. Lawrence River in 1608.

Quebec was the first permanent European settlement in Canada.

French-Indian Relations Unlike the Spanish in Mexico, the Canadian French could not afford to intimidate, dispossess, or enslave the Indians. The French needed them as hunters and suppliers of furs—roles that the Indians eagerly performed. Few in number, the French took little land, coming into little conflict with Canada's Native Americans.

Samuel de Champlain, Quebec's founder, traded with the Montagnais, Algonquin, and Huron Indians. In return, they expected Champlain to help them against their foe: the Iroquois, who lived to the south in what is now New York. In 1609, Champlain and nine French soldiers helped their allies attack an Iroquois camp beside the lake later named after Champlain. Expecting a traditional Indian battle, rich in display and light in casualties, the Iroquois formed up in a mass. They counted on their wooden shields, helmets, and body armor for protection from arrows. They were shocked when Champlain and his soldiers fired their guns, instantly killing Iroquois chiefs and warriors. Bewildered, the Iroquois warriors ran away. Champlain won the battle at a high long-term cost. He made enemies of the powerful Iroquois, who for decades thereafter raided the French settlements. The battle also revolutionized Indian warfare. The Iroquois abandoned wooden armor, and they avoided massed formations. Instead, they relied on trees for cover and shifted their tactics to hit-and-run raids. They also demanded their own guns as the price of trade. Obtaining guns from Dutch traders on the Hudson River, the Iroquois became better armed than their Algonquin, Montagnais, and Huron enemies.

whales and seals. The mariners met Indian hunters, who offered furs in trade. Rendered scarce in Europe by excessive hunting, furs, especially beaver fur, commanded high prices. Indians eagerly traded fur for metal arrowheads, hoes, axes, knives, and hatchets, all useful both as tools and weapons, and for iron or brass kettles, which made it easier to boil their meals. A Montagnais Indian explained, "The Beaver does everything perfectly well, it makes kettles, hatchets, swords, knives, bread, in short, it makes everything." Increasingly, the Indians hunted for a foreign market rather than just for their own subsistence.

The French Establish a Fur Trade

The French Establish a Fur Trade

Teach

Instruct

- Introduce: Key Terms Have students find the key terms Northwest Passage and Quebec (in bold) in the text and explain their significance. Then, ask students to write a sentence using the two terms.

- Teach Ask Why were French explorers interested in a Northwest Passage? (They hoped to find a new route to Asia.) Why did fur become such an important item of French and Indian trade in Canada? (because the European supply had become depleted and could no longer satisfy demand for the material and because Indians wanted European goods) How might the relationship between the French and Indians have been different if explorers had discovered a new route to Asia? (Possibly answer: French colonists would probably have arrived in greater numbers, and their relationships with the Indians would probably have been less mutually advantageous and more exploitative.) Discuss the effects of Champlain's helping his Indian allies defeat the Iroquois.

Independent Practice

Have students list the items that Native Americans received in exchange for furs and then categorize these items. For example, students might include kettles and knives under the category of cooking implements. Once they have categorized the items mentioned in the text, have students think of other items or categories that might have played a role in the fur trade.

Monitor Progress

As students fill in their Venn diagrams, circulate to make sure that they understand the similarities and differences between Spanish America and French America. For a completed version of the Venn diagram, see Note Taking Transparencies, B-19.

Answer

Caption Quebec's location on a hill made the city easier to defend, and its location along a river made it accessible to merchant ships.
Life in New France

Instruct

- **Introduce**: Key Terms Have students find the key terms *coureurs de bois* and *metis* (in bold) in the text. Remind students that *metis* is the French equivalent of the Spanish mestizos, a word they encountered in the previous section. Have students discuss what Europeans gained from intermarriage with Indians.

- **Teach** Ask **How was the government of New France similar to that of New Spain?** (The monarchs of both Spain and France exercised tight control over the colonies.) Display Color Transparency: French Colonialism in North America, and have students discuss the main areas of French settlement in the seventeenth century. Then, using the Idea Wave strategy (TE, p. T22), have students discuss conditions in Louisiana in the early 1700s. What does the population of Louisiana in 1731 suggest about its labor system? (The presence of twice as many enslaved Africans as white people makes it clear that the colony’s white population relied heavily on slave labor.) Color Transparencies A-6

- **Analyzing the Visuals** Have students examine the images in these pages as well as the image of Quebec on the previous page. Ask **What geographic feature do these images share?** (All include water, suggesting the importance of water to new settlements.) **What stages of settlement does each image represent?** (Sample: Joliet and Marquette are the earliest, just arriving in a new country with local guides; the view of New Orleans shows an established town that does not extend far inland; the view of Quebec shows a well-developed city.)

**Independent Practice**

Have students complete Outline Map: New France. Teaching Resources, p. 18

**Monitor Progress**

As students complete their maps, circulate to make sure that they are filling them in accurately.

**Answer**

- The Iroquois began to arm themselves with guns, avoid massed formations, and shift their tactics to hit-and-run raids.

**42 Europeans Establish Colonies**

Exploring the Mississippi

French explorers Louis Jolliet and Father Jacques Marquette traveled together from the Great Lakes to the Mississippi River in 1673.

Life in New France

New France’s government resembled that of New Spain. Both were strictly controlled by the powerful monarchs of the homeland. The French king appointed a military governor-general, a civil administrator known as the intendant, and a Catholic bishop. Like the Spanish, the French king did not permit an elected assembly in Canada.

**New France Grows Slowly** Attracting few immigrants, New France grew slowly. By 1700, the colony still had only 15,000 colonists. Potential colonists balked at the hard work of clearing dense forests to plant new farms. The long Canadian winter shocked newcomers from temperate France. Worst of all, immigrants dreaded the Iroquois raids.

Most French colonists were farmers who settled in the St. Lawrence Valley. To the west, Indians dominated the vast hinterland of forests and lakes, where the colonists were few and scattered. In the Great Lakes and Illinois countries, the French established a handful of small settlements, including Detroit. They lived by a mix of farming and trade.

**Alliances With Indians Bring Benefits** To survive and prosper in an Indian world, the French had to adopt some of the Indians’ ways. Known as *coureurs de bois* (koo rer duh boh), many fur traders married Indian women. The children of these marriages became known as the *metis*.

With the help of the *coureurs de bois* and the *metis*, the French allied with the Great Lakes Indians, who primarily spoke an Algonquian language. The allies defeated the Iroquois during the 1680s and 1690s, compelling them to make peace in 1701. At last, the fur traders of the Great Lakes and the grain farmers of the St. Lawrence Valley could work in safety from Iroquois raids.

**Louisiana and New Orleans** In 1682, the French explorer Robert de LaSalle was hoping to find a Northwest Passage. Guided by Native Americans, he made his way south on the Mississippi River toward what he hoped was an opening to the Pacific Ocean. Instead, he found the Gulf of Mexico. La Salle claimed the territory around the Mississippi River basin for France, naming it Louisiana, in honor of King Louis XIV. In 1718, near the river’s mouth, the French founded New Orleans, which became the colony’s largest town and leading seaport.

**History Background**

**Jesuits** Shortly after Martin Luther’s challenge to the Catholic Church in 1517 launched the Protestant Reformation, the Catholic Church swung into action, beginning its own Counter-Reformation. During the Counter-Reformation, Catholic leaders struggled to defend the Church against Protestant expansion and also to begin a process of internal renewal and modernization. The Church was greatly assisted in this endeavor by the Society of Jesus, a religious order founded in 1534 by Ignatius of Loyola.

The order was characterized by its dedication to centralized authority, its military-style mobility, and its absolute obedience to the pope. In their defense of the Church, the Jesuits, as the Society’s members were called, focused on education and missionary work. They opened schools and colleges throughout Europe and sent members overseas, including to the Americas, to found Jesuit missions. Today, the Jesuits are one of the largest religious orders in the Catholic Church and maintain 28 colleges and universities in the United States.
Despite a hot, humid climate and the danger of coastal storms, the French built a settlement at New Orleans. Why was control of New Orleans important to the French?

Like Canada, Louisiana struggled to attract colonists. The economy provided few opportunities beyond trading with the Indians for deerskins or raising tobacco of poor quality. The hot climate and swampy landscape also promoted deadly diseases, especially dysentery and malaria. Only a third of the immigrants remained alive in Louisiana in 1731, when the colony had just 2,000 whites and 4,000 enslaved Africans.

The French primarily valued Louisiana as a military base to keep the English from grabbing the immense Mississippi watershed. As in the Great Lakes country, the French sought Indian allies to help them confine the English colonies that were growing to the east along the Atlantic coast.

**Checkpoint** Why did New France attract few colonists?

**Progress Monitoring Online**
For: Self-test with vocabulary practice
Web Code: nca-0204

**Critical Thinking**

4. **Analyze Information** Why did the economy of the French colonies in the Americas depend on a good relationship with Native Americans?

5. **Recognize Cause and Effect** How did trade and warfare with France affect the Iroquois and other Native American nations?

6. **Support Generalizations** What evidence supports the following generalization: Conflicts among the nations of Europe emerged as they competed for territory in the Americas.

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**Answers**

**Caption** The French wanted control of New Orleans because it was the outlet of the Mississippi River, allowing them access to a great deal of trade going from America to Europe.

**Dense forests, a relatively harsh climate, and fear of Indian raids made settlement in New France unappealing.**

**For additional assessment, have students access Progress Monitoring Online at Web Code nca-0204.**