

French & Dutch Settlements



French Claims

New France existed on a map long before anyone from France set foot in the Americas. In 1524, Giovanni da Verrazano, an Italian sailor working for France, explored the coast of North America. He sailed from what is now the Carolinas north to Nova Scotia. Five years later, his brother drew a map of the area. On it, he used the name New France. In 1534, Jacques Cartier made the name a reality. Cartier sailed up the St. Lawrence River as far as what is now Montreal. He claimed the land in the name of King Francis I of France. Cartier also attempted to found

a colony at what is now Quebec City, but the colony did not last. Cartier did succeed in establishing a fur-trading partnership with the Huron Indians. Fur trading was to become the main economic activity of New France. One hundred years after Cartier claimed the land for France, French missionaries arrived to try to convert the American Indians to Christianity. They often lived among the Indians, learning their languages and accepting their way of life. Many fur traders also lived among the Indians as well as building more permanent settlements.

◀ **TO INCREASE THEIR** profits from the fur trade, French merchants wanted permanent settlements in New France. A group of them hired Samuel de Champlain to find a good location. In 1608, he founded Quebec on the St. Lawrence River. Growth was slow, as few settlers came from France. Montreal was founded in 1642 by missionaries. Because of its location, with easy access to the Great Lakes and south to the Gulf of Mexico, it soon became a fur-trading center as well.



▲ **KING LOUIS XIV** wanted to protect France's claims in North America. In 1663, he made New France a royal colony, putting control in his hands. In 1672, he sent Louis, Count de Frontenac, as governor-general. Frontenac wanted to find

the Northwest Passage, a waterway that was rumored to connect the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. In 1673, he sent Father Jacques Marquette and explorer Louis Joliet to search for a great river he had heard of. He hoped that it

was the Northwest Passage. The two men did locate the Mississippi River. They traveled on it from the Wisconsin River to the mouth of the Arkansas River. Because the Mississippi flowed south, they knew they had not found the Northwest Passage.



▲ **IN 1712**, Louis XIV made Louisiana a proprietary colony, meaning he gave ownership of it to one person. In 1717, after Louis's death, control of the colony was given to Scottish banker John Law. Law had ideas about how to make the colony wealthy.

One idea was to join all of the fur-trading companies into one. He also formed a company to build plantations and towns and bring many new settlers to the colony. Eventually, Law's moneymaking schemes failed, and he had to flee France in 1720.



▼ **LIKE OTHER PARTS** of New France, Louisiana had trouble attracting settlers from France. There were not enough workers to farm the



land. So the French started bringing enslaved Africans to Louisiana. Between 1719 and 1731, 6,000 were brought to the colony.

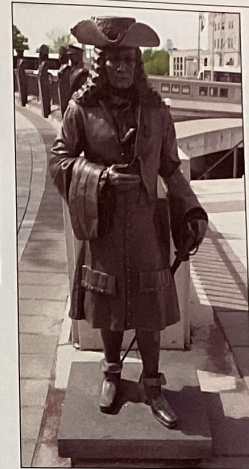
▲ **IN 1763**, there were 80,000 colonists in all of New France. At the same time, there were 1,500,000 British settlers in a much smaller area.

THINK PIECE!

Both Spain and France had an economic interest in the American Indians whose lands they claimed. Both countries sent missionaries to convert the Indians to Christianity. What differences do you see in the ways that the French and Spanish treated American Indians?



◀ **IN 1699**, King Louis XIV decided to approach the Mississippi River from the south. He sent Pierre Le Moyne and his brother Jean-Baptiste. The brothers sailed along the northern coast of the Gulf of Mexico. Eventually they reached the mouth of the Mississippi River. Over the next three years, they established three forts. The success of these projects convinced Louis XIV to begin sending colonists to Louisiana, which had been named in his honor.



Dutch Claims

In the early 1600s, fur hats were all the rage in Europe, and Dutch merchants were determined to make money from the fad. The biggest source of fur was the vast forests of North America. The best way to get the fur was to trade with the American Indians. The first explorer for the Netherlands was an Englishman, Henry Hudson. In 1609, looking for a Northwest Passage to the Pacific, he sailed up what was then called the North River. It was later renamed the Hudson River for him. Hudson claimed the lands around the river for the Netherlands. By 1614, land that now includes parts of New York and New Jersey was being called New Netherland. In 1621, the government of the Netherlands gave the Dutch West India Company control over all the fur-trading in the area.



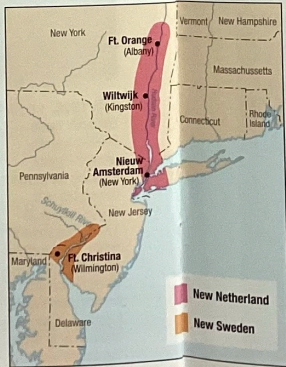
A In 1626, Minuit established a trading post called New Amsterdam. It was on the southern tip of Manhattan, where the Hudson River flows into the Atlantic Ocean. This made it an ideal location for trade. Ships could easily dock there and load up for the trip back to Europe.



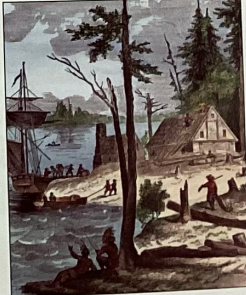
In 1626, the Dutch West India Company named Peter Minuit director general of the colony of New Netherland. Its headquarters were on the island of Manhattan. That same year, Minuit offered the local American Indians trade goods, possibly glass beads, later said to be worth about \$24. Minuit thought he was buying the land from them. The Indians, who didn't believe that anyone could own the land, thought Minuit was paying for the right to hunt, fish, and gather food. They had no intention of giving up their right to live there.

> In 1638, Sweden was one of the great powers of Europe. It was much larger in size than it is now. Wanting to establish a fur and agricultural trade, the country set up the colony of New Sweden. It was located in parts of what are now Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. Peter Minuit, who had

left the Dutch West India Company, was the leader of New Sweden. The Dutch were concerned that the Swedes would start trading with the Algonquian Indians. They feared this would interfere with the trading relationship the Dutch had already established with the Algonquians.



> In the late 1630s, Dutch settlers moved north on Manhattan island and cleared more farmland. Conflicts with the local Algonquian Indians increased. Colonists and Indians attacked each other's farms and villages. Eventually, the colonists sent out an army that destroyed Indian villages all over New Netherland. A peace treaty



was signed in 1645, but by that time, the local Algonquian population was almost destroyed.

As the English and Dutch moved into the Northeast, they competed with the French for the fur trade. In 1670, English merchants set up the Hudson's Bay Company. Its goal was to colonize the land around Hudson Bay in what is now Canada and to engage in trading. This cut into the profits of the French and their Huron allies, or partners. In 1664, English

ships appeared off New Amsterdam. The governor immediately surrendered. In a 1667 treaty, the Dutch formally gave New Amsterdam to the English, who renamed it New York.

