

# Exploring North America

## Essential Question

Why did European nations establish colonies in North America?

## Reading Guide

### Content Vocabulary

mercantilism (p. 50)	Northwest Passage (p. 51)
Columbian Exchange (p. 51)	coureur de bois (p. 52)

### Academic Vocabulary

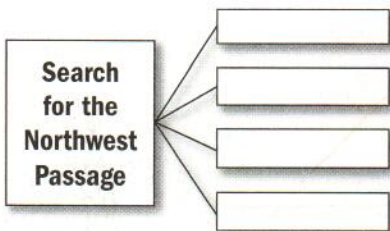
globe (p. 51)	chart (p. 51)
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### Key People and Events

Martin Luther (p. 49)
Protestant Reformation (p. 49)
John Calvin (p. 49)
John Cabot (p. 51)
Jacques Cartier (p. 51)
Henry Hudson (p. 51)

### Reading Strategy

**Taking Notes** As you read, use a diagram like the one below to list the explorers who tried to find the Northwest Passage.



## American Diary

In 1639 a French nun named Marie of the Incarnation arrived in Quebec, New France's first colony. To convert Native Americans, she learned their languages and wrote religious books in those languages. In a letter, she wrote:

"You will perhaps laugh that at the age of fifty years I am beginning to study a new tongue [language], but one must undertake all things for the service of God and the salvation of one's neighbour."

—from the book *Word From New France*



Sister Marie and other French nuns arrive in Quebec.

## A Divided Church

**Main Idea** Protestantism became a powerful religious force in Europe during the 1600s.

**History and You** What motivates people to demand changes? Read to find out why Christianity changed in the 1500s.

The desire to spread Christianity was a major reason that Europeans explored and settled North America. The earlier explorers and settlers were Roman Catholics. As overseas exploration was advancing in the 1500s, a religious upheaval in Europe was sparking religious divisions.

In 1517 **Martin Luther**, a German priest, nailed a list of complaints about the Catholic Church on a local church door. Luther declared that the Bible was the only true guide for Christians. He rejected many Church practices—even the authority of the pope—because they were not mentioned in the Bible. Luther also believed that faith rather than good deeds was the way to salvation.

Within a few years, Luther had many followers who broke away from Catholicism

to begin their own Christian churches. Luther's protests were the start of a great religious and historical movement known as the **Protestant Reformation**.

## Protestantism Spreads in Europe

From Germany, Luther's ideas spread rapidly. **John Calvin**, a French religious thinker who lived in Geneva, Switzerland, also broke away from the Catholic Church. Like Luther, Calvin rejected the idea that good works alone would ensure a person's salvation and believed in the all-powerful nature of God.

Calvinists spread their faith to other people. Missionaries were sent from Geneva to all parts of Europe. Calvinism was established in France, the Netherlands, Scotland, and central and eastern Europe.

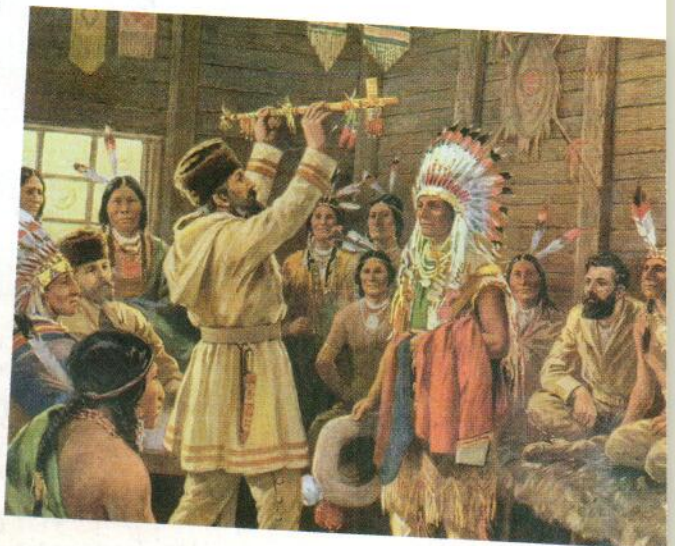
In England, King Henry VIII also left the Catholic Church, but not for strictly religious reasons. Pope Clement VII refused Henry's request to declare his first marriage invalid. In 1534 the English Parliament, working with the king, denied the authority of the pope and recognized the king as the head of the new Church of England.

### Primary Source

### Fur Trader Among the Native Americans

**The Peacemaker** Born in France, Jean Nicollet arrived in Quebec in 1618 at the age of 19. He became a fur trader and set out to learn Native American languages. For two years he lived among the Algonquins, *"always accompanying [them] on their expeditions and travels."* In about 1622 he succeeded in making peace between the Algonquins and the Iroquois. Eventually, Nicollet settled among the Nipissings, *"having his cabin apart, doing his own fishing and trading,"* but taking part in their frequent councils.

—from *The American Geologist*



### Critical Thinking

**Comparing and Contrasting** Do you think Nicollet's actions toward Native Americans were like or unlike the actions of other Europeans in North America? Explain.

▲ French fur trader Jean Nicollet and Native Americans participate in a peacemaking ceremony.



Henry's daughter, Queen Elizabeth I, continued his religious reforms. England became firmly established as a Protestant nation.

## Religious Rivalries in the Americas

The religious divisions between Catholics and Protestants in Europe also crossed the Atlantic. Spanish and French Catholics worked to spread their faith to the Native Americans. The Spanish settled in the southwestern and southeastern regions of North America, and the French settled in the northeast.

Dutch and English Protestants established colonies in lands along the Atlantic coast between the French and the Spanish settlements. Some of the English settlements were founded by Protestants who wanted to practice their beliefs in peace.

**✓ Reading Check** **Explaining** What role did religion play in the exploration of North America?

## Economic Rivalry

**Main Idea** European nations competed to establish colonies in the Americas.

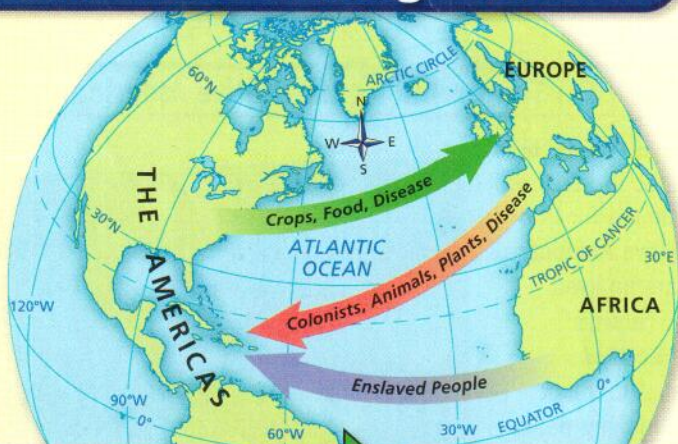
**History and You** Do you know if land in some parts of your neighborhood is more valuable than in other parts? Read to learn what the Dutch paid for Manhattan Island.

**R**eligion was only one of the factors that pushed European nations across the Atlantic Ocean. The promise of great wealth was equally strong, especially as other Europeans watched Spain acquire gold and other riches from its colonies.

According to the economic theory of **mercantilism**, which was popular at the time, a nation's power is based on its wealth. Rulers tried to increase their nation's total wealth by acquiring gold and silver and by developing a continuing trade with other regions.

## The Columbian Exchange

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC



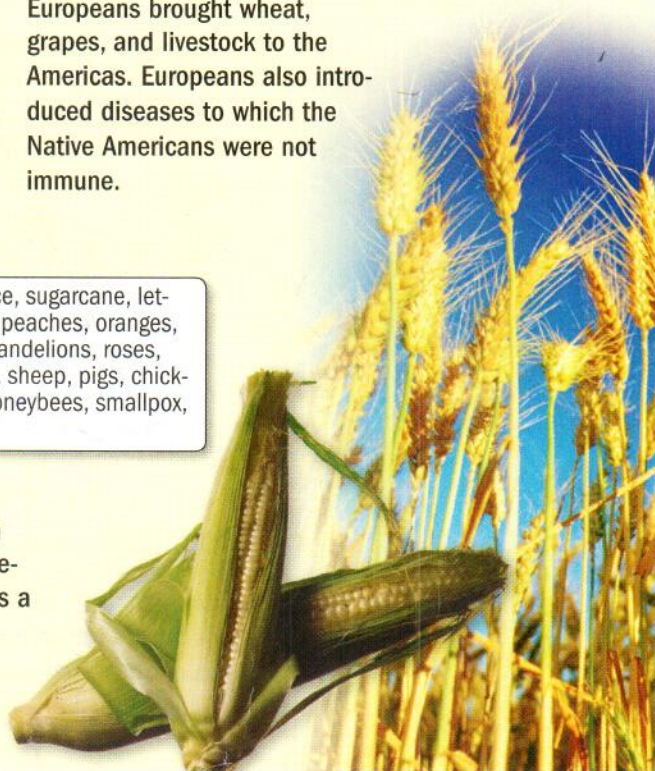
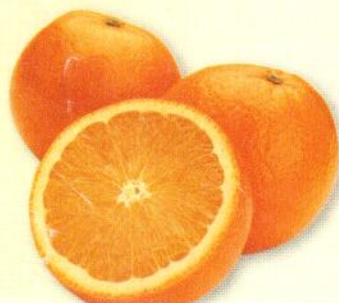
corn, potatoes, tomatoes, squashes, beans, peppers, peanuts, pecans, cocoa beans, vanilla beans, wild rice, cotton, tobacco, turkeys, hummingbirds, rattlesnakes, gray squirrels, guinea pigs

wheat, oats, barley, Asian rice, sugarcane, lettuce, onions, olives, grapes, peaches, oranges, lemons, coffee, soybeans, dandelions, roses, daisies, cows, horses, goats, sheep, pigs, chickens, sparrows, mice, rats, honeybees, smallpox, influenza, measles, malaria

Many foods associated with European cooking originated in the Americas. Ireland came to depend on the potato as a staple crop, while tomatoes form the basis of many Italian dishes.



Europeans brought wheat, grapes, and livestock to the Americas. Europeans also introduced diseases to which the Native Americans were not immune.



Mercantilism provided great opportunities for individual merchants to make money. It also increased rivalry between nations.

Several countries in Europe competed for overseas territory that could produce wealth. They wanted to acquire colonies in the Americas that could provide valuable resources, such as gold and silver, or raw materials. The colonies also would serve as a place to sell European products.

## The Columbian Exchange

The voyages of Columbus and other European explorers brought together two parts of the **globe** that previously had no contact: the continents of Europe, Asia, and Africa in one hemisphere and the Americas in the other. These contacts led to an exchange of plants, animals, and diseases that greatly altered life on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. Scholars refer to this transfer as the **Columbian Exchange**.

## A Northwest Passage

The Treaty of Tordesillas had divided the Americas between Spain and Portugal. It did not allow for claims by other nations. England, France, and the Netherlands ignored the treaty. During the 1500s and early 1600s, these countries sent explorers to **chart**, or map, the coast of North America and, later, establish trade and colonies. Because the voyage to Asia—either around the southern tip of Africa or around South America—was long and difficult, they hoped to discover a **Northwest Passage** to Asia, a direct water route through the Americas.

In 1497 England sent **John Cabot**, an Italian, to look for a northern route to Asia. Cabot probably landed on the coast of present-day Newfoundland. England used Cabot's voyage as the basis for its claims to North America.

In 1524 France hired an Italian, Giovanni da Verrazano, to look for a northern sea route. Verrazano explored the coast of North America from present-day Nova Scotia down to the Carolinas.

In 1535, French explorer **Jacques Cartier** (KAR•tyay) sailed up the St. Lawrence River, hoping it would lead to the Pacific. From a mountain next to a Huron village on the river, Cartier wrote, "one sees a very great distance." He named the peak Mont-Royal, which means "royal mountain." This is the site of the city now called Montreal. Cartier heard stories about gold, but he found neither gold nor a sea route to Asia.

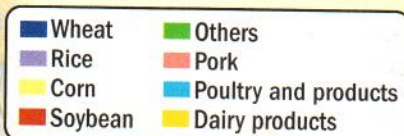
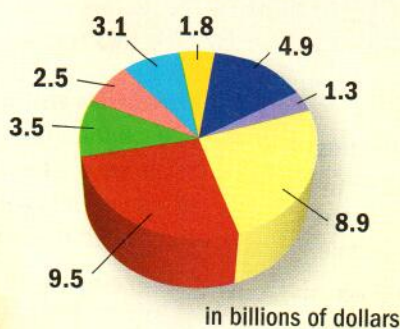
## Hudson's Discoveries

The Netherlands, too, wanted to find a passage through the Americas. The Dutch nation hired **Henry Hudson**, an English sailor, to explore. In 1609 he discovered the river that now bears his name. In his ship, the *Half Moon*, Hudson sailed north on the Hudson River as far as the site of present-day Albany. Deciding that he had not found a passage to India, he turned back. The following year Hudson tried again, this time sent by England.

### European Products in the United States

Food products introduced from Europe to the Americas are today a significant part of U.S. agriculture. The United States now exports many of these products to other countries, including Europe.

U.S. Farm Exports, 2007



Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates

### Critical Thinking

**Identifying** Which of the agricultural exports in the chart above originated in the Americas? What percentage of exports did that product represent in 2007?

On this voyage, Hudson and his crew discovered the huge bay that today bears his name. Thinking he had reached the Pacific, Hudson spent months looking for an outlet. His unhappy crew, however, rebelled. Hudson, his son, and a few sailors were set adrift in a small boat—and never seen again.

## French Trading Posts

France showed little interest in building an empire in the Americas. Its rulers focused on political and religious conflicts at home. The French saw North America as an opportunity to make profits from fishing and fur trading rather than as a place to settle.

Furs were popular in Europe. Traders made large profits from beaver pelts acquired in North America from Native Americans. In 1608 a French fur-trading company sent Samuel de Champlain to found a settlement in Quebec in what is now Canada. Champlain made several trips to the region and discovered Lake Champlain. He described the beautiful scenery and abundant wildlife, as well as the Native Americans he met there.

From Quebec, the French moved into other parts of Canada, where they built trading

posts to collect furs gathered by Native Americans and French trappers. The trappers were called **coureurs de bois** (ku•RUHR duh BWAH), meaning “runners of the woods.”

## Dutch Settlements

After Hudson’s voyage, the Dutch began to explore North America. Eager for world trade, the Netherlands had a large fleet of trading ships that sailed all over the world. In 1621 the Dutch West India Company set up a colony, New Netherland, in North America. There they settled at Fort Orange (later Albany) on the Hudson River and on Burlington Island in New Jersey. They also set up Fort Nassau near what is today Philadelphia.

The center of the new colony was New Amsterdam, located on the tip of Manhattan Island, where the Hudson River enters New York Harbor. In 1626 Governor Peter Minuit paid the Manhates people 60 Dutch guilders (about \$24) in goods—cloth, axes, and hoes—for the island, which is today New York City.

 **Reading Check** **Analyzing** How did mercantilism create rivalries between European nations?

# Section 4 Review

**History ONLINE**  
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### Vocabulary

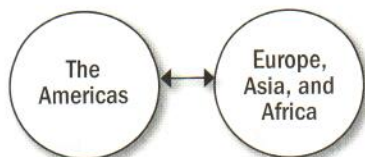
1. Explain the significance of each of the following terms by using it in a sentence: **mercantilism**, **globe**, **Columbian Exchange**, **chart**, **Northwest Passage**, **coureur de bois**.

### Main Ideas

2. **Explaining** What was the Protestant Reformation?
3. **Discussing** How did France’s goals in North America differ from those of other European nations?

### Critical Thinking

4. **Comparing and Contrasting** Discuss how Martin Luther’s beliefs differed from those of Roman Catholics of his time.
5. **Diagramming** Use a diagram like the one below to identify the resources that moved between the two hemispheres in the Columbian Exchange.



6. **Persuasive Writing** Write a speech that Henry Hudson might have given to his crew when they rebelled and threatened to kill him.

### Answer the Essential Question

7. **Essential Question** Why did European nations establish colonies in North America?