Karen Lawson

Say Thanks to the Authors
Click http://www.ck12.org/saythanks
(No sign in required)
To access a customizable version of this book, as well as other interactive content, visit www.ck12.org

CK-12 Foundation is a non-profit organization with a mission to reduce the cost of textbook materials for the K-12 market both in the U.S. and worldwide. Using an open-source, collaborative, and web-based compilation model, CK-12 pioneers and promotes the creation and distribution of high-quality, adaptive online textbooks that can be mixed, modified and printed (i.e., the FlexBook® textbooks).

Copyright © 2015 CK-12 Foundation, www.ck12.org

The names “CK-12” and “CK12” and associated logos and the terms “FlexBook®” and “FlexBook Platform®” (collectively “CK-12 Marks”) are trademarks and service marks of CK-12 Foundation and are protected by federal, state, and international laws.

Any form of reproduction of this book in any format or medium, in whole or in sections must include the referral attribution link http://www.ck12.org/saythanks (placed in a visible location) in addition to the following terms.

Except as otherwise noted, all CK-12 Content (including CK-12 Curriculum Material) is made available to Users in accordance with the Creative Commons Attribution-Non-Commercial 3.0 Unported (CC BY-NC 3.0) License (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/3.0/), as amended and updated by Creative Commons from time to time (the “CC License”), which is incorporated herein by this reference.

Complete terms can be found at http://www.ck12.org/about/terms-of-use.

Printed: October 20, 2015
8.15 Compare the government structures and economic base and cultural traditions of New France and the English colonies.

The history of Colonial America was continual change of European governments vying for land in the Western Hemisphere. Settlers came across the Atlantic Ocean for various reasons. Their home country’s governments were very different in their methods of governing. Spain and France were governed by monarchs who were absolute rulers, so their colonies were the same. The English colonists enjoyed a bit more freedom and were allowed to have some say in their local government. Spain and France did not encourage immigration to their colonies. Instead, the trappers and traders were business partners with the Native Americans of the Region. England did encourage immigrants to make the journey to North America and establish settlements. This boosted the population in the English colonies. By 1763, the population of English colonies surpassed both the French and Spanish colonies.
The French trappers traded furs with the Native Americans.

The English settlements took land from the Native American groups. The Native Americans had no concept of land ownership.

New France
The first French settlement was Acadia and was established in 1604 and the next was Quebec in 1608.

By 1660, there were 3000 people who lived in New France, but the colonies of France were never as populous as the English colonies.
At first, the French colonies were based on the trade of furs and pelts and, to a certain extent, fishing. Fur hats were very popular in Europe during the seventeenth century and the supply of fur pelts encouraged that luxury. The Native Americans and the French were both dependant on the fur trade. The French depended on the Natives to provide and cure the fur. The Native Americans were glad to trade their fur pelts to the French for metal items and weapons. The relationship between the two groups was often very good. The Native Americans often helped the French with farming and survival in the rugged wilderness. The English were not wanting to create a good relationship with the Native Americans. Instead, the English wanted to control the Native Americans - even those who were English allies. The French were on more equal terms with the Native Americans.

French Colonization of North America - by Tom Richey

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UqUSY59Kilk

Culture Clash Between Native Americans and the Colonists

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8zAeXdO1WtI

All of the French colonies were governed under the direct control of the King of France. However, because of the distance from France, the regions were governed by a governor-general. The French colonies were modeled the way of government in France. Plots of land were leased to local lords and to the Catholic Church. Many of the early plots of land were located along the St. Lawrence River.
While French colonial government mimicked the French government in England, class distinctions were not as clear. With fewer people in the French colonies, the settlers were dependant on each other for survival - no matter the social class. The nobility was never established in New France.

There was a gender inequality in New France. There was about six men to one woman so the population in New France didn’t grow quickly. Many French trappers and traders married Native American women. Eventually, Louis XIV, sent boatloads of women to New France and the population grew to around 15,000 by the mid-1700s.

**British North America - Virginia and New England**

The British colonies in North America used very different settlement models. In the southern colonies, a large farm or plantation model was followed. In the Middle Colonies, the farms were more of a family-farm model. Both types of farm settlements attracted about 100,000 inhabitants by the mid-1700s.

Originally, both the French and English, the desire of settlers was to search for riches. The Virginian Company was founded in 1606 in hopes of finding gold and silver. No riches of that sort was found, but the Virginians started growing a cash crop known as tobacco.

Growing tobacco required much intensive labor. A crop of tobacco took about nine months to cultivate. This crop intensified the demand of servants and slaves in the Virginia Colony.

Settlements in New England were much different than the settlements of the Middle and Southern colonies. In the New England region, settlements were built around the center of a town. Families were given acres of land to farm. Their lives centered around religion and their families.

While more Native Americans sided with and were allies with the French, there were groups of Native Americans who taught the English how to survive. With the gradual loss of land to the English, the relationship between the Native Americans and the English grew weaker. At many time periods, the New England settlers and the Native Americans were at war.