**Student Package – Chapter 2: The French in North America**

NAME:

DATE:

Vocabulary for this Chapter

Acadians Canadiens citizens colony coureurs de bois empire governor habitants imperialism seigneurial system

When Europeans first came to North America, they created new settlements called .

Define: colony

The earliest colonists in Canada came from .

Shade in France on the map below.



Define: **Empire** (below)

Colonies had no independence, meaning that the people living in a colony did not have control of their or affairs. Decisions about their future were usually made by the home country. This system of countries extending their control over other nations is called .

**New France**

From your textbook fill in the diagram below (pg. 31)

**European Imperialism**

Europeans began arriving in the land we call Canada years ago. They were the , who sailed from Scandinavia.

Why did Europeans decide to cross the Atlantic Ocean to North America?

1. Looking for a Road. (Explain this below)
2. Expanding Across the Ocean. (Fill in the chart below using pages 34-35)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Economics |  |
| 1. Competition |  |
| 1. Religion |  |
| 1. Curiosity |  |

*Complete the “Think it Through” Question #1 on page 35. Do this on a separate piece of paper.*

**France Takes an Interest in North America**

The kind of France sent a French sea captain named Cartier to find a passage through North America to Asia. In , Cartier set out across the Atlantic with two ships. After days at sea, he arrived off the coast of Newfoundland. Sailing around the north end of the island, Cartier entered a broad inland sea called the .

Cartier and his men came across a group of paddling their canoes. Cartier wrote about what happened next from his view point. Describe this below (found on page 36)

Challenges of Settlement

In July 1534, Cartier landed at a place called . There, he met a First Nations people called the Haudenosaunee and their leader, a man named Donnacona. After this meeting, Cartier took of Donnacona’s sons, Taignoagny and Domagaya, on board his ship. He sailed with them back to France to the king what he had found. In , Cartier returned to North America with three ships and 110 men. He brought Donnacona’s sons back with him. They guided the French up the St. Lawrence River, deeper into the continent. They went as far as , where Donnacona and his people lived.

Cartier and his crew decided to stay the . They built a small log fort near . However, they did not have enough fresh fruit and vegetables. Many of the crew became ill and died from , a disease brought on by a lack of vitamin C. But the Haudenosaunee had a cure for scurvy. Describe this cure below.

Without their help, Cartier and his men may not have survived the winter.

The Haudenosaunee told Cartier about a land northeast of their village where there were fruit trees, metals and gems. In the spring of , Cartier forcibly took Donnacona and nine other villagers back to . He did this so that they could tell the kind about the riches in North America. Cartier hoped this information would convince the king to pay for another cross-Atlantic trip.

Cartier returned to North America in 1542. He planned to set up a colony along the St. Lawrence River. By this time, all but one of the Haudenosaunee Cartier had taken across the ocean had died in Europe. Cartier told the Haudenosaunee that the people he took were well and living in Europe. As a result, the Haudenosaunee were hostile toward the French.

After another terrible winter, the French colonists decided to return to Europe. Cartier took examples of what he believed were gold and diamonds, but they turned out to be (fools gold) and .

**France Expands Its Empire**

Cartier’s settlement on the River had failed, but the French did not forget about North America completely. Fishing still came to the North Atlantic each year. Fur traders still came to trade with First Nations .

By the early , the demand for furs in Europe was growing. King Louis XIII decided that France should build a colony in North America.

Why would he want to do this? Put your answer below (\*Hint: look on page 39)

The King knew that a colony so far away from the mother country would be expensive for him to build and . So he decided to let someone else pay for it. The king granted a trade to a group of merchants.

Define monopoly below:

The merchants, in return, agreed to build in North America and find French citizens to live there.

**The French in Acadia**

In 1604, a French noble named received a monopoly. He took a map maker and explorer named . In the spring of 1605, de Monts established a settlement at Port Royal on the Bay of Fundy. The French called the area .

How did the Mi’kmaq who lived there respond at first to the newcomers? (write your answer below)

The Mi’kmaq were willing to share land as long as they had to it.

In time, more and more French people came to Acadia. Although life was hard, it was no harder than it had been back in France. Acadia offered poor from France the opportunity to make a new start.

**The Founding of Quebec**

Port Royal was a long way from the center of the fur trade, so de Monts and Champlain decided to move to the St. Lawrence River. They chose a site near Stadacona, where Jacques had built a fort many years earlier. The French Colonists called their settlement . The name came from an Algonquin word meaning “the where the narrows.” It was an ideal place to trade furs.

Read the Biography on Samuel de Champlain on pg. 41.

Complete the “Think it Through” Q#3. Create your own chart on a separate piece of paper.

**Exploring Deeper into the Continent**

The first people to leave the settlements of New France and begin roaming the countryside were the coureurs de bois (in English, “ of the woods”)

The coureurs de bois were a unique group of adventurers. They lives for long periods among the . In fact, many coureurs de bois married First Nations women, and these couples became parents to the first . They coureurs de bois learned to speak the First Nations’ languages and how to build canoes. The main interest of the young men who became coureurs de bois was fur , but they also acted as guides and interpreters for the French traders.

A young French colonist named was one of the first coureurs de bois. In 1610, the French and the Wendat agreed to a cultural exchange.

What do you think “cultural exchange” means? Answer below.

Brule, because of this cultural exchange, gained an appreciation for the Wendat way of life. Alternatively, the Wendat man, Savignon described France as a place where children were treated badly.

Two of the most adventurous coureurs de bois were Pierre Radisson and his brother-in-law, the . Radisson came to New France as a boy in 1650, and when he was a teenager a group of Mohawk took him to their home and adopted him into their family. He lived among them for years before returning to Quebec.

In 1659, Radisson and des Groseilliers embarked on a trading trip that would take them deep inland to the far end of Lake . No Europeans had ever been there before. In 1670, the two men travelled to because First Nations people had told them the land was rich in fur-bearing animals. Later that same year, a fur-trading business called the was founded as a result of the accomplishments of these two explorers.

The explorers also expanded their adventures southwards, towards Mexico. In 1682, a French fur trader named finally reached the mouth of the River at the Gulf of Mexico. Due to his expedition, France claimed ownership of all of the Mississippi country. They called it after the French King Louis XIV.

*Mini-project: French Explorer Trading Card*

* A) Make a colorful trading card to show the accomplishments of a French explorer. Your card should include:
  + Images of the explorer
  + Map(s) and/or photos showing the areas explored
  + An explanation of the challenges faced and there person’s contributions to the growth of the colony
  + Any other biographical information you can find
* B) In your opinion, how important was this person’s exploration to the future development of Canada? (answer should be on the back of your trading card)

Like people from the other imperial countries of Europe, the French claimed “ownership” of the territories they explored. They did not discuss land ownership with the First Nations or Inuit. Although a First Nation granted certain band or families the right to hunt or fish in a territory, no one land privately. First Nations believed land was to be by everyone.

**Economy and Government in New France**

As a colony, New France depended on for its survival. IT relied on the home country for colonists, supplies and military protection. In return New France supplied resources such as and . The colony made France richer and more powerful, which were the aims of .

In 1663, King Louis XIV took control of the colony from the merchants. He set up a Soverign to govern the country. This council had three key officials.

1. .

Job Description:

1. .

Job Description:

1. .

Job Description:

The Royal government paid the colony’s expenses, so taxes were lower than they were in France. The government of New France was all-powerful and the colonists had to follow the and established by the Soverign Council.

CASE STUDY: page 47 in your textbook. Do the “Respond” question.

**The Catholic Church in New France**

Religion had an important place in the lives of the Europeans. In , most people were Catholic. Therefore, almost all colonists in New France were Catholic, too.

Priests, , and missionaries who went to New France helped build the colony. They held religious services, taught school, ran , and cared for the poor. The colonists supported the church and its activities by donating a portion of their income, called the .

The most important goal of the Catholic Church was to…….. (Write your answer below).

The village of was founded as a place where missionaries could do this. Today we know this place as . Many of the missionaries were adventurous. They travelled and mapped out rivers and land. They kept journals of their travels which then became important historical documents. One example, called the were written by a special order of missionaries. The , who started arriving in New France in 1625, wrote mainly about their work and travels. They sent their journals back to France where they were published.

Aside from nuns, there were few interested in living in New France. It was far from home, and life there was very harsh. But the colony needed women to marry the male colonists and raise families. The king had solutions. Between 1665 and 1673, he sent about 900 single young women and girls to New France to become wives. Some of them were poor, others orphans. The women were known as the - the “kings daughters.” Within 14 years, the population of New France grew from 3200 to 10 000! These colonists are therefore the original .

The family was the center of daily life in New France. Women worked very hard alongside their husbands in the fields. They also cared for their and children and helped manage the family .

Girls in New France received a better education than they did in France. Many children had a better opportunity to attend in the colony than children in France did.

There was more to the economy of New France than the fur trade. Most of the French colonists were farmers. The social structure of New France was based on the .

Define seigneurial system below:

The citizens of New France had a much different life than they would have if they had stayed in France. They had more and better than people in the home country did. As well as being pioneers in the fur trade, they were explorers of the interior as far west as the plains and as far south as the Gulf of .