

WORLDS COLLIDE: COLONIZATION, CULTURES, AND CONFLICT

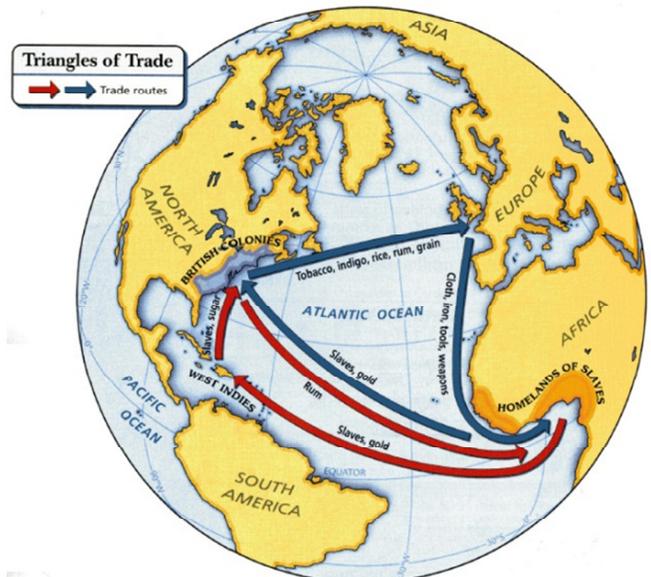
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Big Idea: The collision of Native Americans, European colonists, and Africans forced into slave labor in the colonies caused a series of conflicts and resulted in a new combination of cultures.

The Columbian Exchange - What did the explorers and early colonists share with the New World and what did the New World give to the Old World? Food products, livestock, minerals and resources, technology and farming methods, and even, unfortunately, diseases.



Triangles of Trade: Part of the Columbian Exchange was the transport of African slaves to the Spanish colonies to replace Native American slaves who died from disease or overwork. Slavery became common in the Caribbean island colonies, and was introduced in the English colony of Jamestown in 1619, where the slaves were put to work in the tobacco fields. African slaves were in high demand on the sugar cane, tobacco, rice, indigo, and later cotton plantations. Ship captains would take goods to trade for slaves on the African coast, deliver slaves to the plantation colonies in the Caribbean or Southern English colonies, then return to New England or Europe with colonial goods. The Middle Passages of these Triangles of Trade had African people transported in harsh and inhumane conditions.



The North American Colonies: European claims in North America were based on the activities of the explorers from 1492 into the 1600s. The fact the lands claimed were already inhabited by First Nations tribes did not affect the arguments and warfare between the European colonists and their home countries.

France: New France along the St. Lawrence River (Champlain) and the Great Lakes, and Louisiana (claiming all the land drained by the Mississippi River). A rich trade in animal furs and many different groups of Native Americans with whom to trade. The French, usually men, settled in the areas they explored and often intermarried with the local people. They often accepted the culture of the Native Americans rather than trying to change it. Very few French immigrated to New France and Louisiana and they would remain lightly settled.

Britain: The Hudson's Bay area of the far north (Henry Hudson) and the Atlantic coast of North America (John Cabot). The area around Hudson's Bay was only lightly settled by traders and trappers for the Hudson's Bay Company. The early colonists at Jamestown in 1607 were supposed to look for gold, spices, and a possible silkworm industry. They found none of these, but finally found a crop they could grow in the colony and sell to Britain—tobacco. The American colonies opened an active trade with European nations, especially England. The colonies would provide raw materials in exchange for finished products they could not make in the colonies. The **indentured servant system** encouraged people who could not pay for their passage from England to agree to **indenture**, (working for a period of time to pay back the person who had paid their way to the colony), with a chance of making a successful life after their period of indenture was over. When not enough workers arrived under the indenture system, large landowners turned to slavery. Large numbers of English and other Europeans arrived in the British colonies in the 1600s and 1700s, until there were far more British colonists than Spanish or French in the middle 1700s.

British New Englanders were small farmers, fishermen, or manufacturers, often involved in building ships from the wood of the forests. Many of these colonies were first established for the purposes of religious freedom for a particular group.

The Dutch in the New Netherlands were farmers and traders. Many stayed in the colony after it was captured by the British in 1664 and renamed the colony of New York. The capital, New Amsterdam, became New York City.

British Middle Colonies usually included farmers with some other occupations to provide needs. These farms provided most of the needs of the populations of all the British colonies, with enough left over to trade with the home country as well.

British Southern Colonists were either small farmers or large plantation owners. Some were fishermen or tradesmen, but most were in **agriculture**. Luxury lay in owning many slaves. The majority of southerners did their own labor, but the population of slaves on the plantations grew throughout the colonial period.

Spain: Florida (Hernando de Soto and Ponce de Leon), Mexico (Hernan Cortes), and the southwest (Francisco de Coronado). The Spanish came to the New World in search of gold, silver and other rich minerals. Missionaries were a part of many exploration groups, so Native American tribes were often forced to accept the Catholic religion. A small number of immigrants were given large land grants, or **encomiendas** in New Spain; when the gold and silver were gone, these large landowners turned to raising cattle or corn with Native Americans or intermarried families, **mestizos**, as workers on **haciendas**, or ranches.



European Claims in North America

British
French
Spanish
Disputed
1713 - after New Netherlands becomes New York