Chapter 4 Section 2

Competing Claims in North America

Setting the Stage: The success of Spain in discovering and settling the Americas did not go unnoticed. Other European nations soon sailed across the Atlantic in search of settlements and riches of their own.

Explorers Establish New France

The French had dreams of reaching the East Indies. Though their voyages did not lead them to Asia, they were successful in establishing settlements in North America.

After settling what is modern day ____________, the French moved south and covered the Midwest down to modern day Louisiana. They explored the Great Lakes and followed the Mississippi River to the gulf. These discoveries eventually became known as the French colonial empire of ____________ ____________.

Though the French North American Empire was immense, it was sparsely populated. These Frenchmen were not interested in settling down and raising families. They were more interested in the ____________ ____________.

The French were interested in making money off of the land more than anything else.

The English Settle Jamestown

_________ _____________ of England provided a ________________, or a contract of agreements to settle land, to a group of over 100 settlers. Their intention was to sail to the New World and settle an English colony. They sailed west until they hit land, reaching the coast of _________________. There, they settled the colony of _________________.

Their experience was a disaster. Most English settlers wanted to find gold and riches, rather than plant crops. Disease and hunger were common, as was Native American hostilities. Jamestown became England’s first permanent settlement in the America’s.

Their situation improved after the discovery of _________________. They were able to turn it into a valuable ____________ _____________, or a crop grown primarily for sale.

Native American Reaction

The ____________ and ____________ initially had a good relationship with Native Americans due to the fur trade.
The ____________, however, did not share the same strong relationship with the Indians.

- The English looked to populate their colonies in North America. As their population increased, so did their land. Tensions between the two sides grew.

- Religion was also an issue. The Puritans believed the Indians to be heathens.

In general, the Native Americans were no match for the white mans rifles and cannons.

Disease also devastated the native populations. Entire tribes fell to measles, small pox, and other illnesses.