

Class Discussion: What was North America like before the “discovery” of America by Columbus in 1492?



Before the arrival of Europeans, North America was dominated by diverse Indian

In the East, Indians like the Iroquois, Powhatans, & Cherokee were settled into farming villages



Cherokee farming village

Iroquois farmers

Before the arrival of Europeans, North America was dominated by diverse Indian

In the central plains, Indians like the Sioux & Cheyenne hunted buffalo using mass-hunting techniques



The "jump-kill" technique drove buffalo off

Before the arrival of Europeans, North America was dominated by diverse Indian

In central America, the Aztecs formed a powerful empire & dominated surrounding Indians

The Aztec capital of Tenochtitlan

Dominant Economic Activity

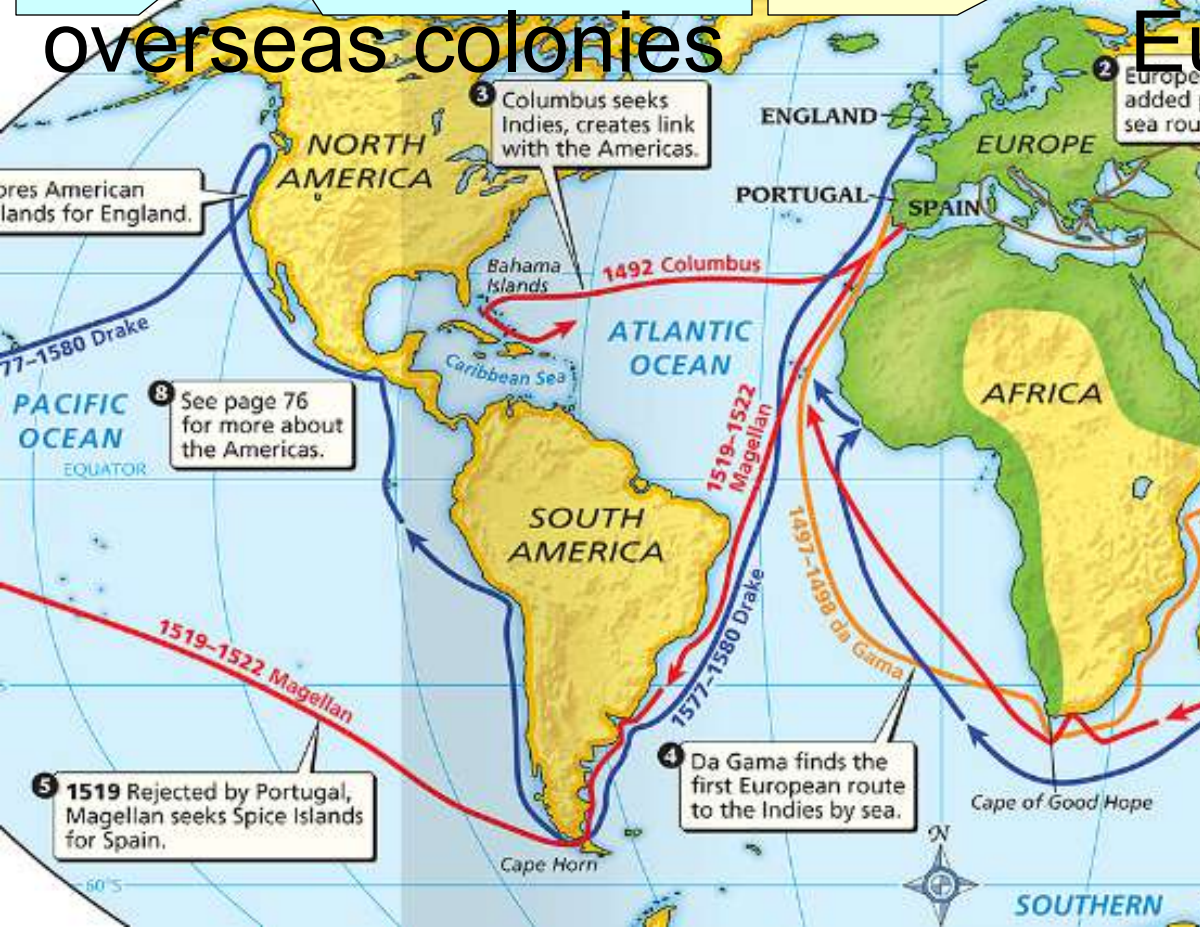
-  Agriculture
-  Hunting
-  Hunting-gathering
-  Fishing



During the Renaissance, a desire for new trade routes to Asia led to an Age of

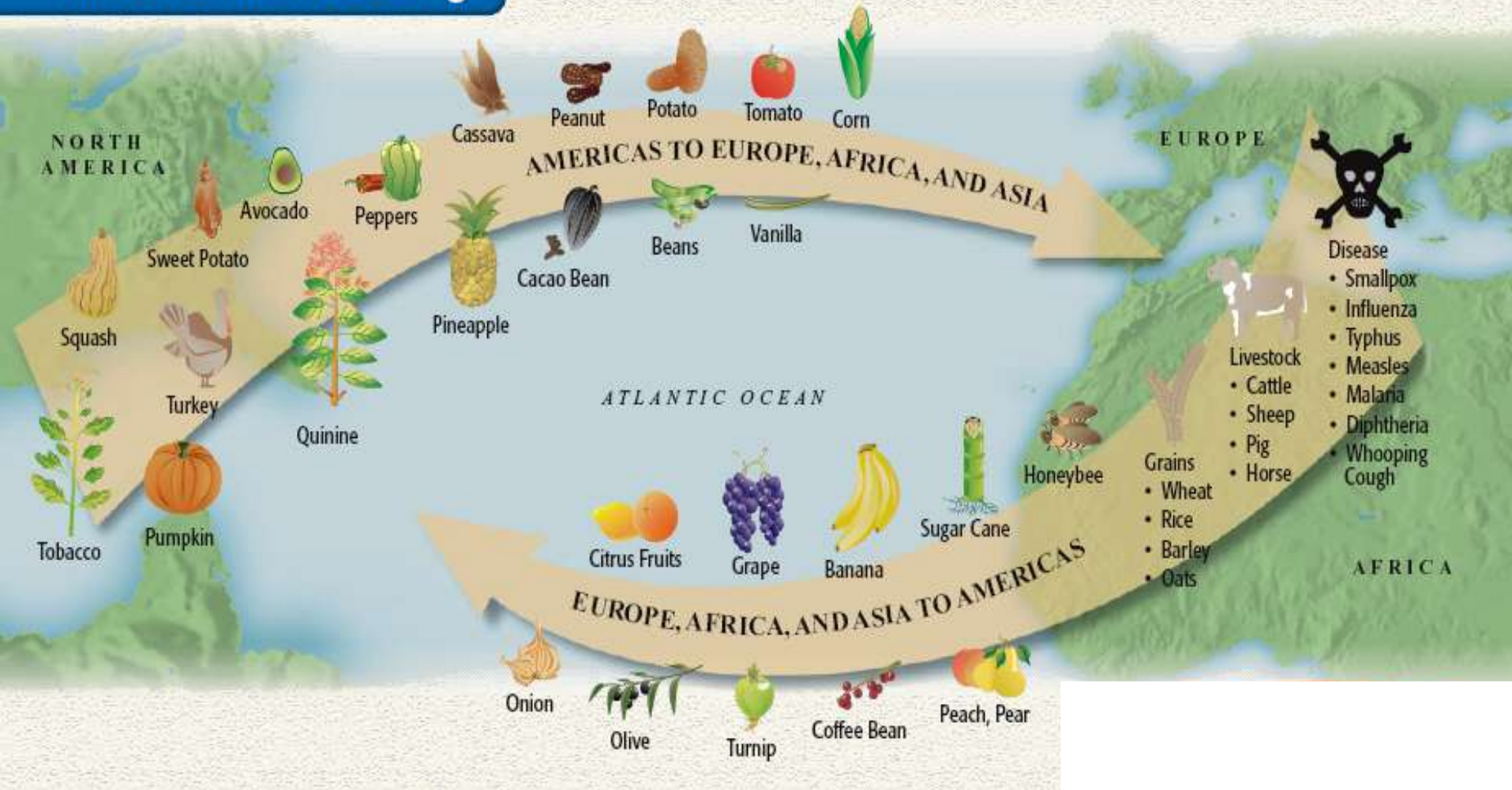
European explorers found new trade routes & formed overseas colonies

Christopher Columbus' "discovery" of America in 1492 transformed the future of American Indians &

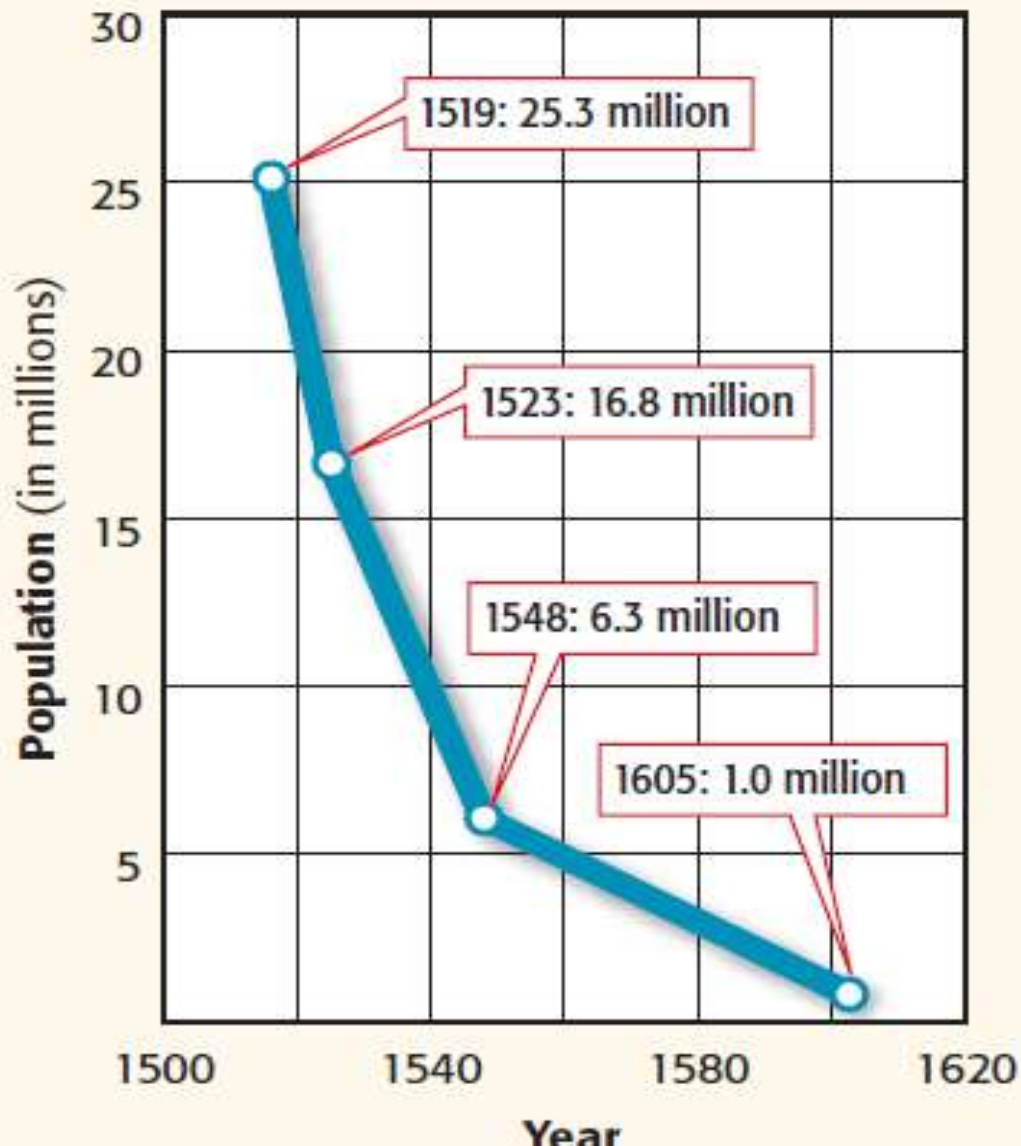


The arrival of Europeans led to the introduction of new products between Indians & Europeans called the Columbian Exchange

The Columbian Exchange



Native Population of Central Mexico, 1500–1620



The introduction of European diseases like smallpox & influenza killed as many as 90% of Native Americans

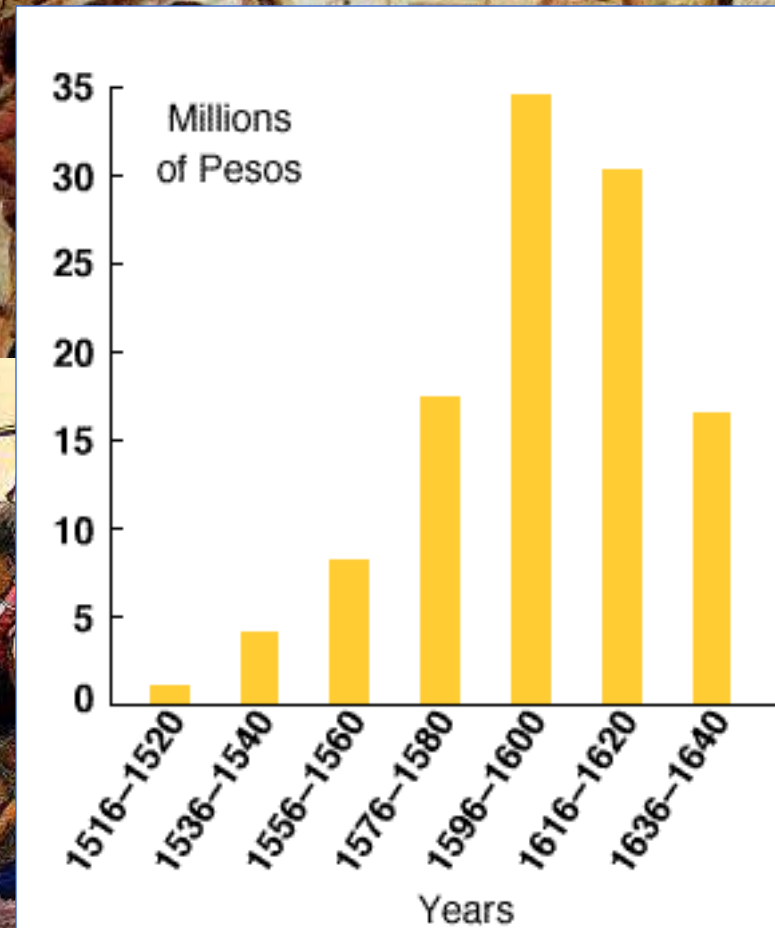
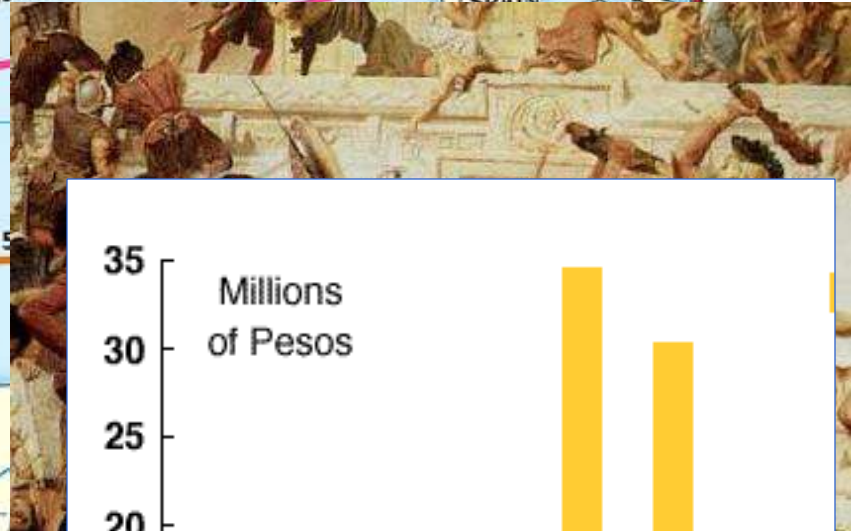


Spain sent explorers called conquistadors to the New World to find gold & conquer lands

Cortez conquered the Aztecs

Pizarro conquered the Inca

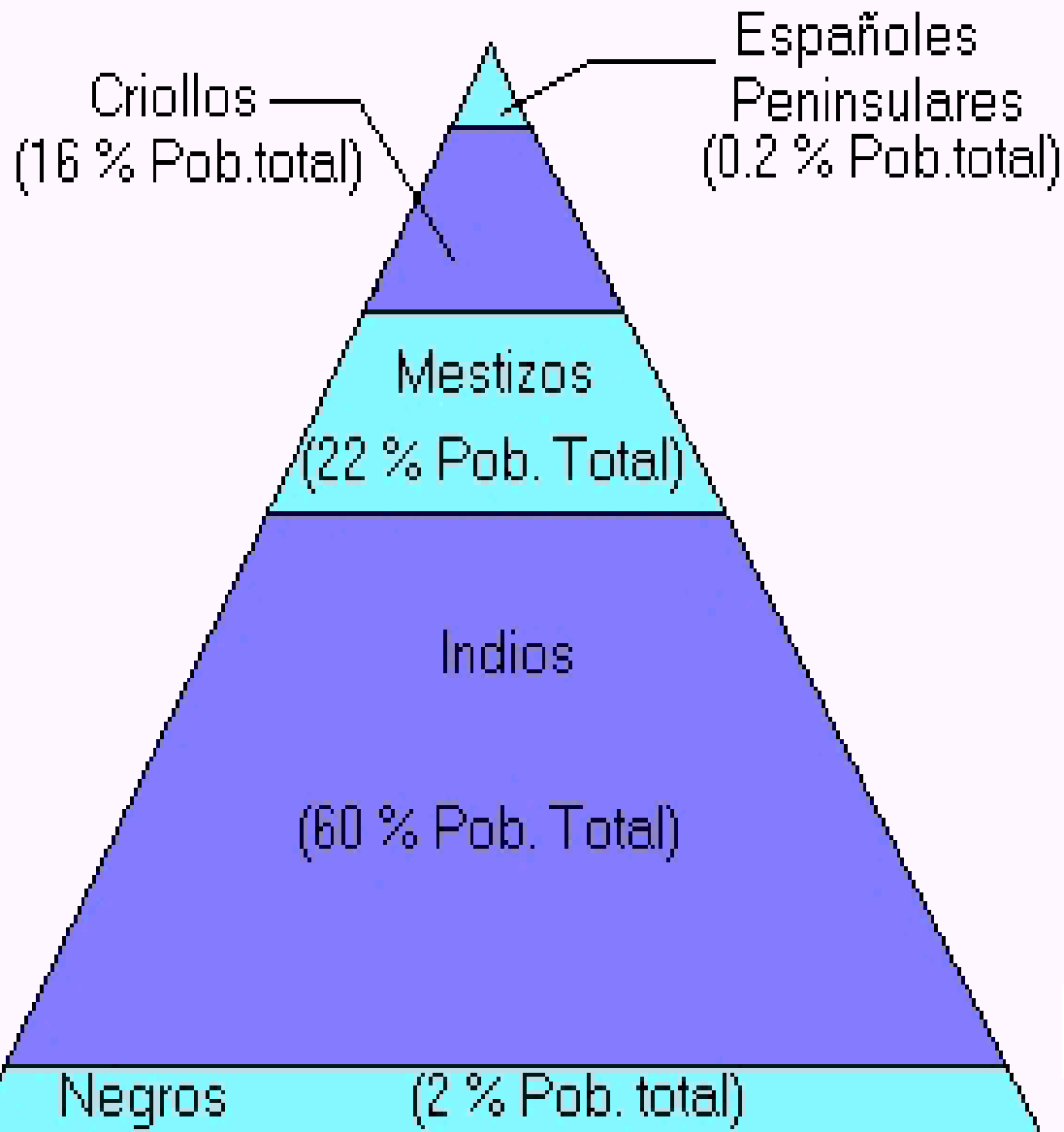
Gold from America increased Spain's wealth &



The success of the Spanish colonies encouraged other European powers to form permanent colonies in North America



Use these documents to guess what the Spanish colonies in North America were like



Spanish peninsulare
--Bartolome de las Casas

In the 1600s & 1700s,
Spain dominated
Central & South
Americas and the SE &
SW regions of North
America

Spanish conquistadors
searched for gold &

Spain converting
Indians to Catholicism
& created missions in
America

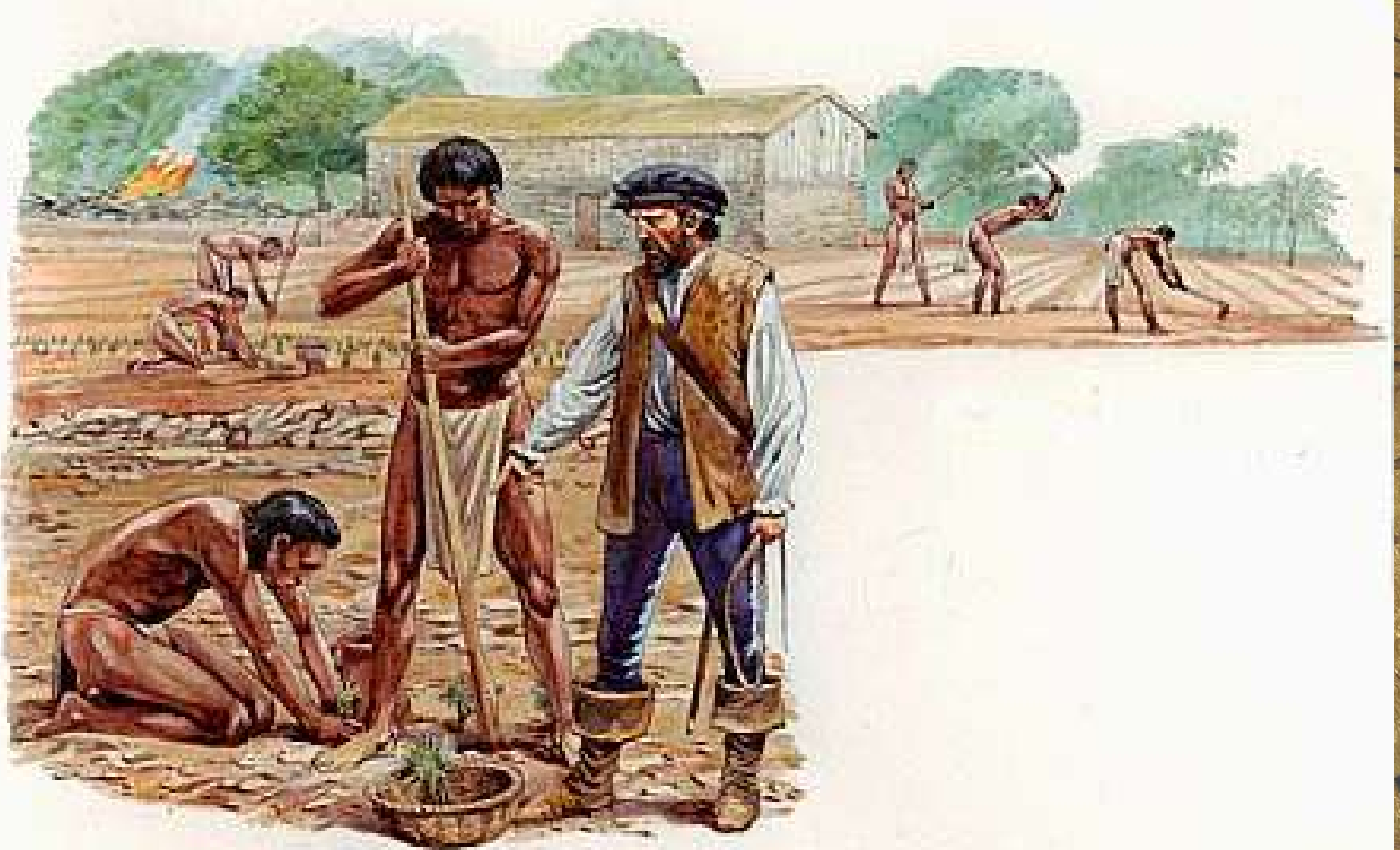


The King of Spain who sent viceroys to strictly govern the colonies
(Colonists could not vote & had few freedoms)



The economy of the Spanish colonies was based on mining gold & silver (bullion)

... & haciendas (plantations) using the encomienda system of Indian workers to farm cash crops like sugar



Spanish colonial society was strictly controlled

Viceroy (royal governor) had power & were at the top of society



(22 % Pop. total)



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&

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1. Español, e Índio, Mestizo.



(60 % P

Negros

(2 % Pop. total)

Use these documents to guess what the French colonies in North America were like



In the 1600s, French explorer Samuel de Champlain failed to find a NW passage through Canada but created the French colony of Quebec

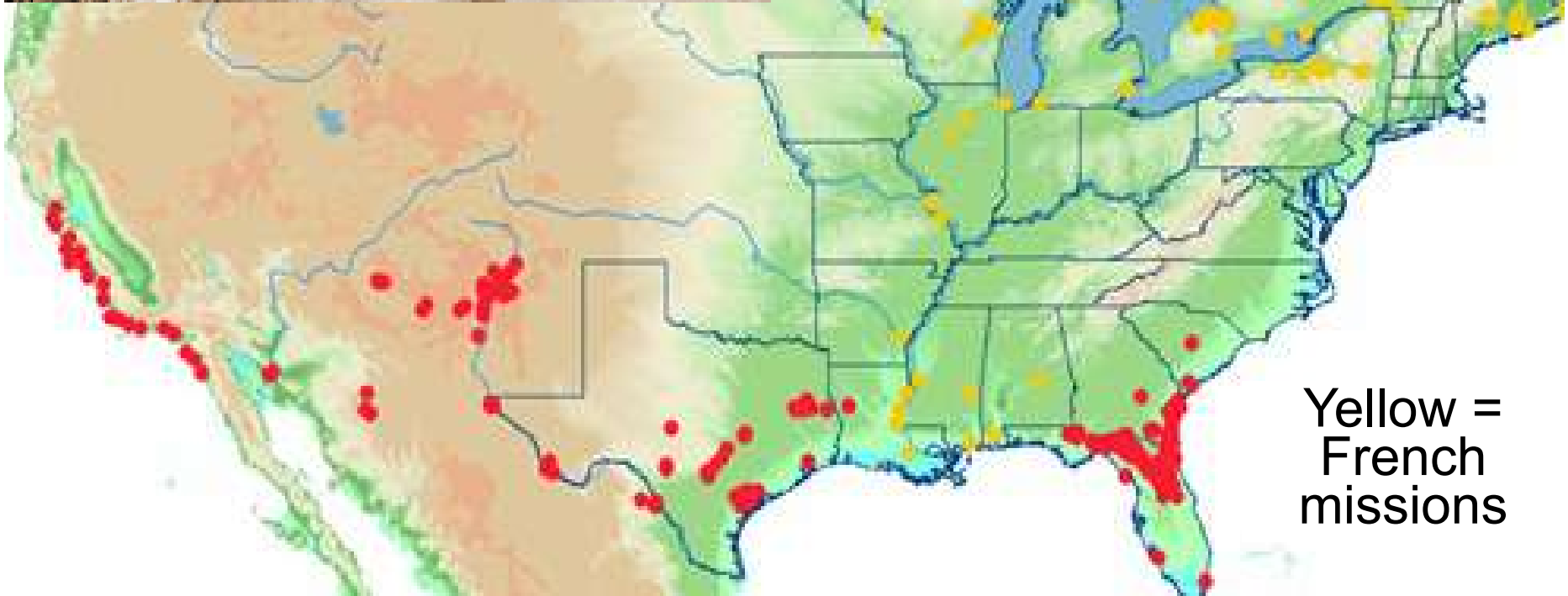
France claimed land from Canada to New Orleans & controlled territory along the Mississippi River

Why did the French colonize in America?





Like Spain, the French colonists focused on wealth & converting Indians to Catholicism



Yellow =
French
missions

Most French colonists profited from the fur trade, small-scale farming, or lumbering

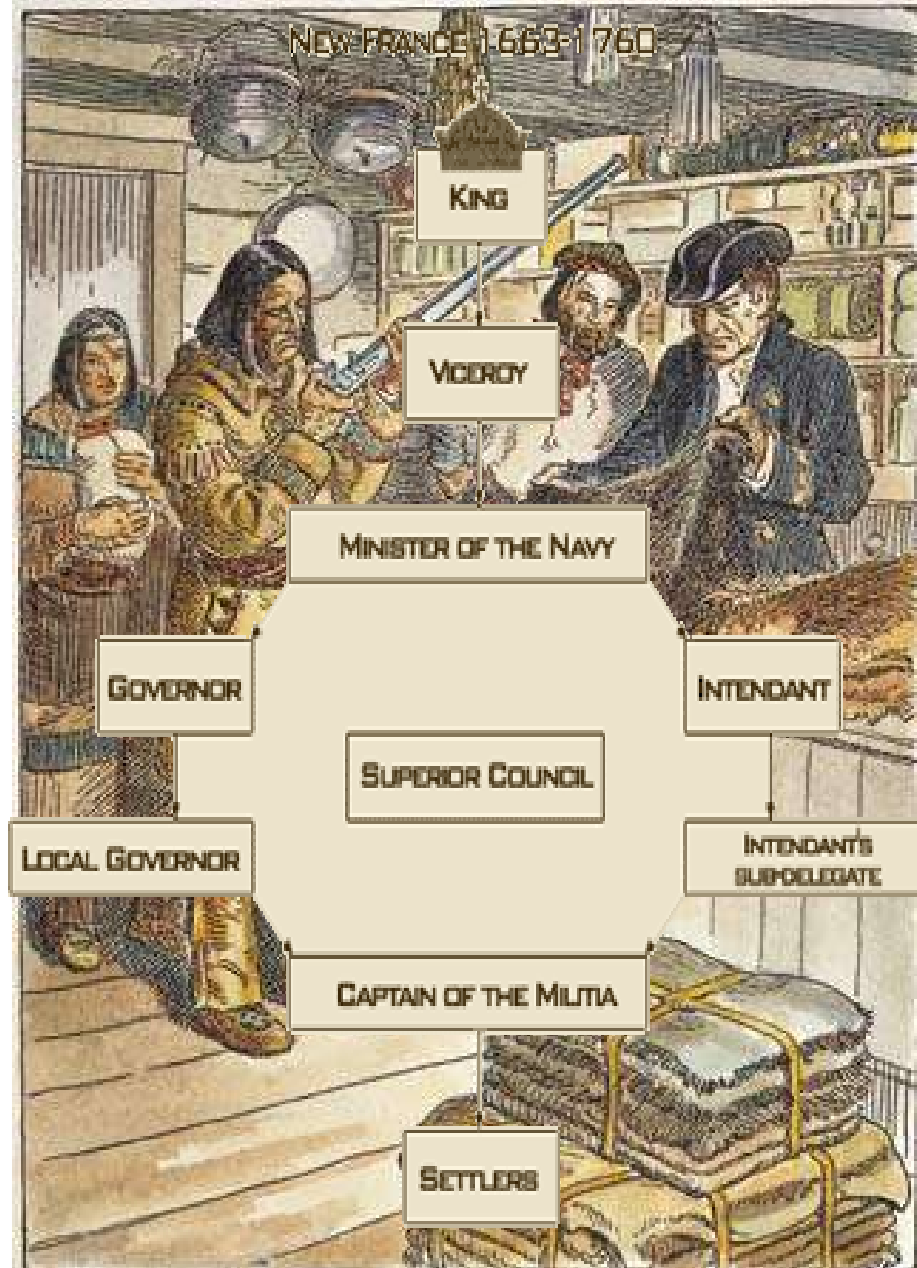
Because the French needed furs, they were the most friendly with the local Indians...

...French colonists had to be Catholic & few people immigrated to

America

Like the Spanish colonies, the French colonial gov'ts were strictly controlled by the King of France who ruled via royal

RELATIONSHIPS OF AUTHORITY



Use these documents to guess what the Dutch colonies in North America were like



ver-schen

*Nieuw AMSTERDAM, een stadken in Noord Amerikae
Nieuw Hollant, op het eiland Munkatzen: namaels Nieuw jork genaemt:
voen het zwaertje in 't gebied der Engelschen.*

*AMSTELODAMUM recens, postea Anglis illud possidentibus
dictum Eboracum novum, Hollandiae novae, id est Americae
Mexicanae sive Septentrionalis oppidulum.*

in-fol. c. v.

The Dutch created a colony in present-day New York City called New Amsterdam that became

Why did the Dutch colonize in America?

New Amsterdam was created by private investors of a joint-stock company who hoped to profit from trade in America.

To attract settlers, the Dutch gov't allowed anyone, regardless of religion or nation, to immigrate & granted political freedom to their colonists...

...As a result, New Netherland was one of the most free & diverse colonies in America.



Use these documents to guess what the
British colonies in North America were like





Like the Dutch, the British settled in America through joint-stock companies of private investors

British colonists came to America for a wide variety of reasons:
Some colonists came to America to escape poverty, gain wealth, or gain land

- Some came for religious freedom & to flee religious persecution
- Some colonists came to escape violence during the English Civil War

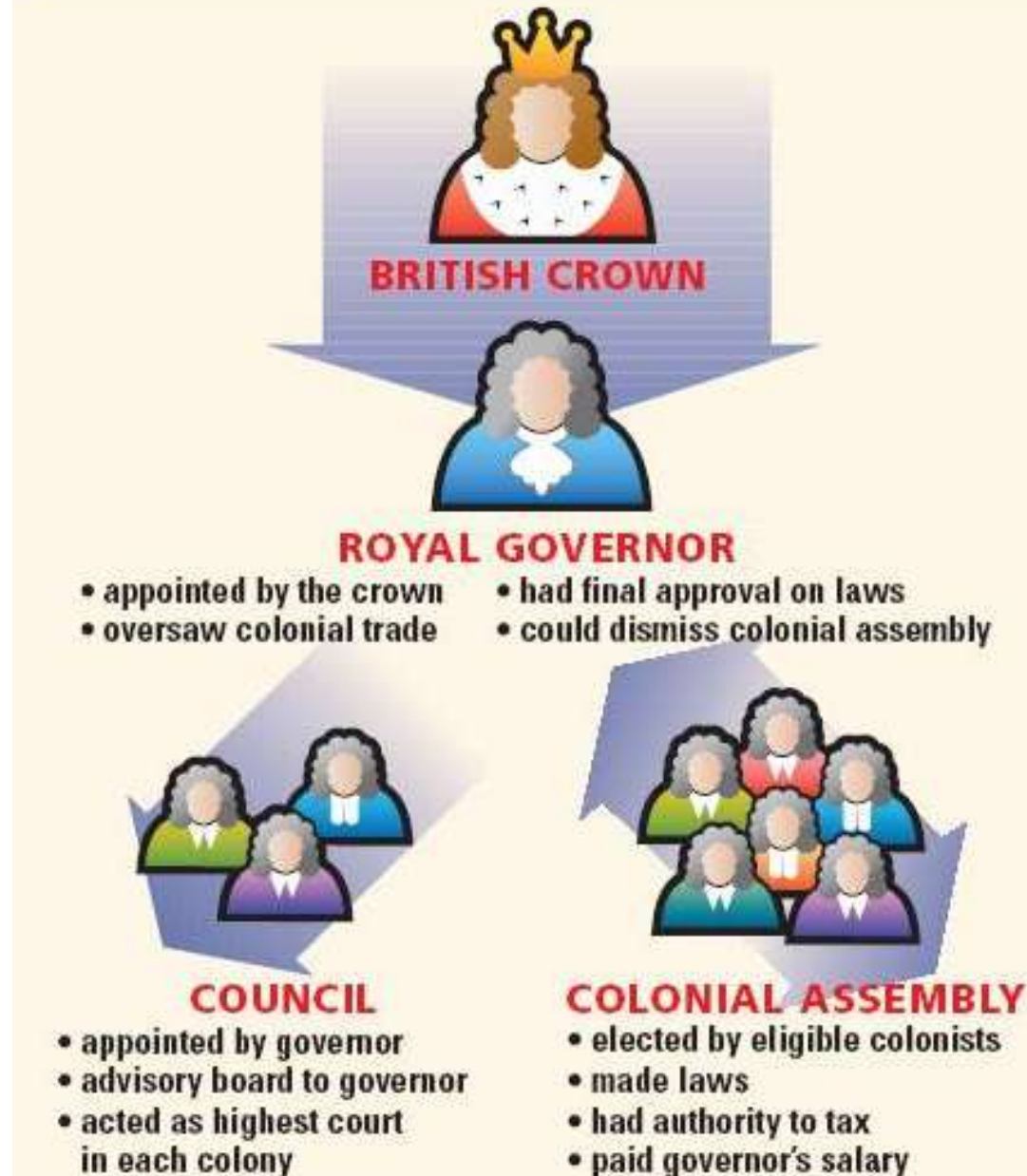
As a result, the British colonies were very different from each other & were never very unified



Britain developed a policy called salutary neglect that allowed colonists could create local laws & taxes in colonial

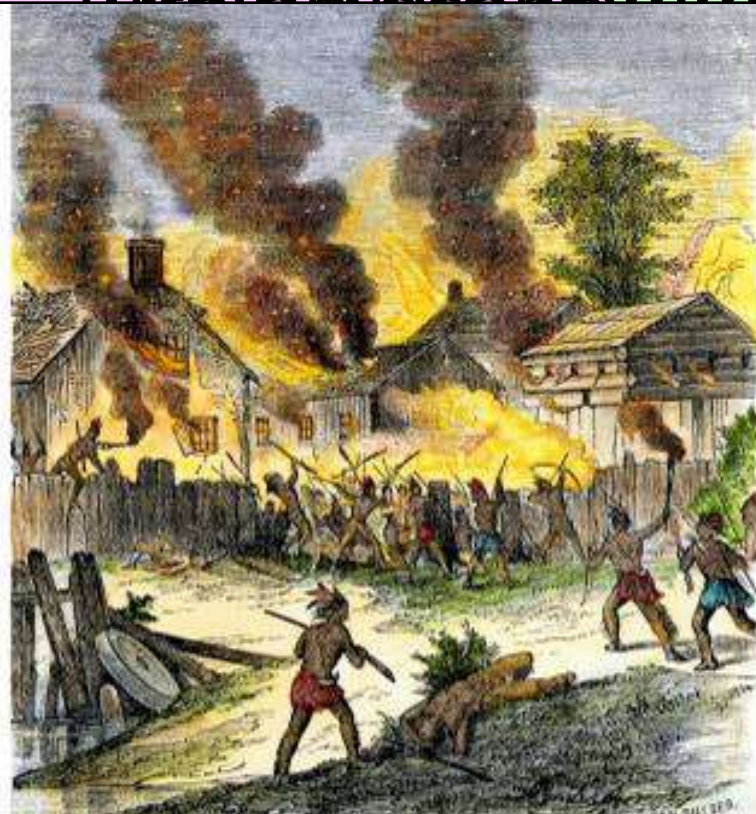
...Royal governors were sent by the king, but they had little power

Colonial Government



The societies & economies of the British colonies were shaped upon the reasons they were settled

Unlike the Spanish & French, the British colonists never tried hard to convert, marry, or trade with local Indians, although conflicts over land were common



Closure Activity

- To review the Spanish, French, Dutch, & British colonies, students will be presented with a series of “potential immigrants” to North America.
- For each “potential immigrant”
 - Determine the best colonial region for that person to move to
 - Give a brief explanation that supports your decision

Potential Immigrant #1:

A poor, unmarried man
looking to make his fortune

Potential Immigrant #2:

A person with
very religious beliefs

Potential Immigrant #3:

A woman looking for new
opportunities in America

Potential Immigrant #4:

A person looking for political
freedom & the ability help
make laws

Potential Immigrant #5:

A Native American
looking for freedom from
European control

Potential Immigrant #6:

A person who enjoys living
“where the action is”

(a place where something
exciting is always happening)

Potential Immigrant #7:

A father looking for safety &
security for his family

Potential Immigrant #8:

An entrepreneur looking for a location to open a business specializing in shipping