

Colonies in the Americas

	Spanish	Portuguese	French	British
Location	Vast empire stretching from California to South America and parts of the Caribbean	Large area of eastern South America (Brazil)	Nearly half of North America and parts of Caribbean	Coast of present-day eastern United States and parts of the Caribbean
Goals of Settlers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Gain lands and riches * Win converts to Christianity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Land, profits, establish plantations * Win converts to Christianity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Fishing, fur trapping, profits * Win converts to Christianity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Commercial ventures * Haven for persecuted religious groups
Government	King exercised strict control through Council of the Indies and viceroys	Grants of land issued to nobles who sent settlers to build towns	At first, France paid little attention Later, Louis XIV exercised increased control	Overseen by royal governors Colonists enjoyed large degree of self-government
Religion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Catholic Church influenced colonial government * Missionaries sought converts to Christianity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Landowners sent settlers to build churches * Missionaries sought converts to Christianity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Missionaries sought converts to Christianity * Louis XIV prohibited settling by Protestants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Haven for victims of religious persecution
Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Closely controlled trade * Silver and gold shipped to Spain * Encomienda system, African slaves provided labor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Portuguese nobles developed land * Brazilwood exported, plantation agriculture, cattle raising * Indians and Africans forced to work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Fur trading, trapping, and fishing * Plantations in Caribbean, enslaved Africans provided labor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Villages in New England * Plantations in South and a few Caribbean islands * Enslaved Africans provided labor