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Looking Back

Explorers in the New World

Europeans had been coming to North America for hundreds of years before New France was founded. Explorers such as Jacques Cartier came from Europe to find a seaway linking the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean. This would create a shorter trade route from Europe to the Far East. Jacques Cartier claimed the territory around the St. Lawrence River—in what is now Quebec—for France in 1534.

The Fishing Industry

Hundreds of fishing ships from France, England, Spain, and Portugal sailed to North America. The men aboard fished for cod in the waters off Newfoundland each summer. There was a great demand in Europe for fish. Cod was easy to catch and preserve for the trip back across the ocean.

At first, fishermen stayed on their ships most of the time. They only came ashore for fresh water and for firewood. There they met the First Nations people of the East Coast.

First Nations

First Nations peoples lived all across North America. Different nations lived in different ways. Most First Nations hunted, trapped, and gathered food for survival, but some also grew crops such as squash, beans, corn, and tobacco. They believed that the natural world belonged to everyone.

First Nations also traded with each other. Each nation had its own spiritual beliefs, but most believed in a Creator of all things.

The Fur Trade

Explorers began to trade with the First Nations in the early 1600s. They traded iron pots, kettles, and beads for beaver pelts. Beaver hats were very popular in Europe. The beaver furs were taken back to Europe and sold to hat makers. First Nations peoples introduced fur traders to the places where they could trap beavers.
Kings and queens in European countries such as France and England believed in building empires. They built these empires by claiming and colonizing new lands. The colonies were a source of riches and raw materials for the mother country in Europe. Goods from the mother country could also be sold in the colony.

The fur trade was the main reason France claimed territory in North America. The French King gave trading companies the right to run the fur trade. These companies were also supposed to colonize and settle the land.

In 1604, Samuel de Champlain set up the first French settlement in Acadia. Acadia was near the mouth of the St. Lawrence River, which was the main route for fur trading. This first settlement moved to Port Royal in 1605, but there were not enough settlers to keep the settlement going. By 1607, all the settlers had left. In 1608, Champlain set up a European settlement at what is now Quebec City. The English and the Dutch were also interested in Acadia because of the fur trade and the fish. They tried to take control of the colony. The English and French would battle for Acadia for many years.

The fur trade grew in North America, but the number of settlers did not. The trading companies did not spend time bringing settlers to Acadia and New France. As a result, settlers were scattered along the St. Lawrence River, and it was hard to defend them from raids by First Nations. The French built fort-like settlements so they could defend the colonists from attack. Control of the fur trade was also hard to defend. The King of France saw that New France needed permanent settlements so that defending the colony and fur trade would be easier.

The St. Lawrence River was the gateway to the fur trade.

Remember...
New France needed permanent settlements to help the colony keep control of the fur trade from the British and the Dutch.
Think About Your Reading

1. When you are starting a new unit of study, you can begin by thinking about what you already know, identifying new learning, and asking questions that the text did not answer.

   Complete the following graphic organizer:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Things I Already Know</th>
<th>New Things I Learned</th>
<th>Questions I Still Have</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. How did stopping to look at the map help you understand the text?
Why People Came to New France

People immigrated to New France for different reasons. Some were sent there. Others came to New France hoping to find a better life.

The filles du roi (King’s daughters) were women who agreed to go to New France to start new lives. The King hoped they would marry and have children so the population of New France would grow.

Many common people came to New France so they could buy land of their own. In France, only the wealthy could afford to buy land.

Many men who came to New France became fur traders or coureurs de bois (runners of the woods). Many coureurs de bois lived among the Wendat (Huron), a First Nations people. From the Wendat, they learned trapping, snowshoeing, and how to build shelters. These were important skills to learn in order to survive and to trap in the wilderness.

The Roman Catholic Church in France sent missionaries to New France. The Récollet priests came first. Then the Jesuits or “blackrobes” came. They learned First Nations’ languages and customs. They established mission churches on the land where the First Nations lived.

Soldiers came to New France to protect the colony. The King hoped they would settle there after they finished their three years of military service.

Immigration and the First Nations

The French wanted to change the First Nations peoples to the French ways of thinking. The Catholic missions were one way France tried to change the First Nations’ spiritual beliefs.

When Champlain arrived in North America, he worked with the Wendat, who lived on the land around the French settlements. The Wendat were known as a trading people, and they traded furs to the French in return for manufactured European goods.

The French fur traders and businessmen wanted the fur trade to make them rich. The more furs they sent to France, the richer they got. So the fur traders moved farther up the St. Lawrence River, trading for as many furs as they could. This threatened the livelihood of First Nations trappers, as more beaver were taken from the land.

Remember...
People came to New France to buy land, to work in the fur trade, to work as missionaries for the church, and to serve in the military.
The French and other Europeans brought new diseases to North America. First Nations peoples had no immunity to diseases like smallpox and typhus. Between 1634 and 1640, thousands of First Nations peoples died from these diseases.

I made connections to the text by noticing that people came to New France for many of the same reasons people come to Canada today. They came for work and for a better life.

Think About Your Reading

1. Describe one connection you made to the text. Think about the reasons people came to New France and the reasons people come to Canada today.

2. Make a cause-and-effect diagram to show how Europeans and First Nations affected each.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>Effect on First Nations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The French wanted the fur trade to make them rich</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europeans brought new diseases to North America</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Check Your Understanding

Pause and think about what you have learned. The following activities will help you review your learning.

Check Your Vocabulary

In your own words, write a definition of the following terms:

New France (page 3)

fur trade (page 3)

First Nations (page 3)

empire (page 4)

immigration (page 6)

Check Your Reading Strategies

You have used the strategies use text features and make connections to help you understand the text. Which strategy helped you the most? How did it help you?

Check Your Learning

What did you learn that was new or surprising? What did you learn that changed your opinion or your thinking?
# Study Notes

Use the two columns below to help you remember what you have learned. Take a blank piece of paper, and cover up Column B so you cannot see it. Read each term in Column A, and test yourself by writing down three or four key ideas about it.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Column A</th>
<th>Column B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>France began to colonize North America to increase the size and wealth of its empire</td>
<td>• The fur trade was the main reason for colonization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• France claimed most of the land from Hudson Bay to the Atlantic Coast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• These territories were Acadia and New France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• At first, there were no permanent settlements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People came to New France for many reasons</td>
<td>• Government controlled by Britain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Missionaries and soldiers were sent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Some people decided to come to buy land or to work in the fur trade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The French learned from First Nations</td>
<td>• French learned skills to survive in the wilderness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• French learned how to trap beaver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europeans changed the First Nations’ way of life</td>
<td>• Furs were traded for manufactured goods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• First Nations competed to work with Europeans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• More and more land used for the fur trade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• French tried to convert First Nations to Christianity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Europeans brought new diseases to North America</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Study Guide

Use the following graphic organizer to help you remember the important ideas you learned in this unit.

**New France**
- King of France wanted to increase population in New France to protect the fur trade and expand the colony
- People came to New France for many reasons

**The Fur Trade**
- European countries claimed and colonized new lands
- Fur trade from new lands brought great wealth

**Economic**
- Fur trade was main economic activity
- Farming, fishing, timber, trade, and raw materials became important parts of the economy

**Political Factors**
- New France was governed by Sovereign Council appointed by King of France
- Council was made up of Governor General, Intendant, and Bishop
- Common people had no political power

**Social**
- Land was divided into lots called seigneuries
- Seigneurs rented land out to habitants
- Habitants built homes and worked the land

**Religious**
- Missionaries tried to convert First Nations to Christianity
- Church in the colony was responsible for education and hospitals
- Each church parish had a priest

**French and First Nations**
- First Nations taught French the skills needed for trapping and survival
- French and Wendat were allies
- First Nations and French traded furs for manufactured goods
- Fur trade moved farther into First Nations’ lands
- Europeans brought deadly diseases to First Nations

**French and British**
- French and British fought for control of the fur trade
- The British won control of Acadia and expelled the Acadians for not taking an oath of loyalty to the British

**Fall of New France**
- The British attacked and took control of New France
- France gave up its colonial empire in 1763
Reflect on My Learning

Three new things I learned:

1.

2.

3.

Two things I already knew:

1.

2.

One thing I still have a question about:

1.