New France

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New France’s Early Life

● With New France’s establishment in north-eastern America, early settlers had an advantage.
● Their first area of settlement in the new Americas gave them a variety of tools for their success such as:
  ○ Rivers
  ○ Lakes
  ○ Coasts
  ○ Islands
  ○ Forests
  ○ Natives
● With these in mind, the abundance of rivers, islands, and coasts made it especially easy to trade and explore successfully.
● Nearby trees and lakes allowed the French settlers to be able to fish and build a sustainable colony.
● Above all, the Native Americans of the New World proved high significance towards the survival and flourishing of early New France.
The economic flourishing of New France is mainly held responsible by the Fur Trade, between the French settlers and natives. Mercantilism, as it was known in the 1600s and 1700s, was a very popular method of economic trade used by most, if not all, colonies of the New World. Mercantilism was a philosophy held by mother counties and its colonies, where the colonies of the New World were the money makers, or basically companies, for the homeland, or mother country, like France, Britain, etc. The picture on the bottom to the right was the main objective of Mercantilism, which would later evolve into the Triangle Trade. The Triangle Trade, similar to New France’s economy, was based on Mercantilism, and the main goal was to bring raw materials to Europe, and in return, finished products. However the Triangle Trade included slavery to the New World, which was not in New France’s early economy, and didn’t happen till much later. Overall, New France’s economy was very successful with their relationship with the natives of the New World.
Fur Trade

- The Fur Trade was the most important thing about New France.
- Trade between the natives and the French settlers of the New World brought prosperity to their economy.
- With this, the French were able to make lots of money by trading, especially with their location.
- The Fur Trade was the driving force behind exploration of the New World, because now, the French were well suited and supplied to claim more land.
- This relationship with the natives and the French settlers was very important, because now the French had help claiming the New World with the natives' knowledge of the land, and they also had help during the symbolic French and Indian War.
- Overall, the Fur Trade had a very positive impact on New France.
The Government of New France was led by a colonial governor. Each governor was appointed by the king, who was at the mother country, France. Under the king’s rule, the governor was led by the Sovereign Council. The Sovereign Council was made up of different representatives:
- The Intendant
- The Bishop
- Clergy
- Seigneurs

Although under the King’s command, the Sovereign Council acted as a lawmaker, and a court for civil or criminal issues. While the governor was the colonial representative, most power of New France was held by the Intendant of the Sovereign Council. This system was established by King Louis XIV of France in 1663, which turned New France colonies into royal provinces. The First, and most famous, intendant of the Sovereign Council was Jean Talon.
Expansion

- The colonization of the New World the French had done was remarkable.
- In only about 200 years, the French were able to explore so much.
- Starting from small settlements and colonies of New France in the St. Lawrence region, (left image), the French were able to journey through a large portion of America.
- Just before the French and Indian War, the French had conquered land from the Hudson Bay in the north, all the way to the Gulf of Mexico in the south, and reached out from the Rocky Mountains in the far west, all the way to the Appalachian Mountains in the east, (right image).
- All of this was due to many tools that the French were able to use, such as their relationship with the natives, and their abundance of rivers and lakes.
- While all this may seem like a lot, they will soon lose nearly all of it to the British.
Important People and Their Significance to New France
Samuel De Champlain 1574-1635

- Founded Quebec (1608)
- Also known as the “Father of New France”
- French Explorer, Navigator, Soldier, Geographer
- Created the first accurate map of the coast New France was built upon
- Son of a French marine (Antoine De Champlain)
- Commanded his first ship in 1599

Overall, Champlain’s impact on New France was crucial. Champlain created the basis for the success that we know New France had been. Not only did he found Quebec, but he carried on the Fur Trade, and established what future of New France needed, such as maps, routes, etc. Champlain is very responsible for the success of New France in many ways, and because of this, New France was able to learn from him to eventually conquer most of North America.
Jacques Cartier 1491-1557

- Established the Fur Trade
- Created early settlements of the St. Lawrence region (early New France)
- Skilled French navigator
- 3 voyages to the New World
- Gave Canada its name
- Born in Saint-Malo, France

Cartier created the overall basis of New France. Upon his 3 famous and successful voyages to the New World, St. Lawrence region, he started settlements and established the Fur Trade. Although his settlements were not very successful, the Fur Trade between the natives was still well alive. Because of this, Samuel De Champlain was able to learn from Cartier. Learning from Cartier’s mistakes and techniques, Champlain was able to start Quebec, also with the help of the Fur Trade that Cartier also established.
Sources

