

Name _____



Colonial Clashes

During the 1600s and 1700s, European nations fought to control North America. The British, French, and Spanish all wanted land, power, and wealth. These rivalries led to wars, shifting alliances, and lasting effects on the American colonies.

The Spanish: Seeking Gold and Glory

The Spanish were among the first Europeans to explore and settle in the Americas. They built missions and forts in Florida, Texas, and California. Their goal was to spread

Christianity, find gold, and expand their empire. However, they often clashed with Native American tribes and other European settlers.

The French: Fur and Friendship

The French settled in Canada and along the Mississippi River. They were interested in the fur trade, making alliances with Native American tribes like the Huron and Algonquin. The French and British became fierce enemies, often fighting over land and trade routes.

The British: Colonies and Conflict

The British established thirteen colonies along the East Coast. Their goal was to build settlements, grow cash crops, and increase trade. As their colonies grew, they pushed westward, coming into conflict with both Native American groups and the French.

The French and Indian War (1754-1763)

One of the biggest clashes between European powers was the French and Indian War. This war was fought between the British and French, with Native American tribes choosing sides. The British won the war, taking control of much of North America. However, this victory was expensive. To pay for the war, the British raised taxes on the colonies, leading to tension that eventually sparked the American Revolution.

Lasting Impact

European rivalries shaped the way America developed. Borders changed, cultures mixed, and conflicts continued. Many Native American tribes lost land as the British expanded. The war between Britain and France also increased colonial resentment toward British rule, setting the stage for the fight for American independence.