

Chapter 4: Building the First Colonies

Why did Europeans begin to set up colonies?

- Some Europeans left their home countries in search of **religious freedom** in the New World.
- Other Europeans came to the New World in search of wealth, trading **furs** or searching for **gold**.

Where did the Europeans build their colonies and what were they called?

- The Spanish built the colony of **New Spain** in 1535 in what would become Mexico.
- The English tried to start a colony in **Roanoke** in Virginia but when they returned to check on the colonists they had all vanished. It became known as the Lost Colony.
- The English later established **Jamestown** in Virginia and were led by John Smith.
- English Pilgrims established a colony in New England called **Plymouth**.
- French explorer Samuel de Champlain founded the colony of **Quebec** along the St. Lawrence River.

What was life like for the colonists?

- Government
 - The colonists in Jamestown set up the **House of Burgesses** to govern their colony.
 - The colonists in Plymouth used the **Mayflower Compact** as a form of self-government.
- Relationships with Native Americans
 - The colonists in Jamestown initially fought with Native Americans but the princess **Pocahontas** brought about a short peace time.

- Other
 - It was very hard to live in the New World; harsh winters and food shortages caused many colonists to die.
 - Colonists in Jamestown grew **cash crops** like **tobacco**.
 - In order to grow so many crops cheaply, the colonists used Native Americans and later Africans as **slaves**.

Important Vocabulary- see the glossary of your book for definitions and write them in here for practice :)

- Ally
- Cash crop
- Colony
- Compact
- Haciendas
- Indentured servants
- Legislature
- Mission
- Pilgrim
- Profit
- Raw material
- Slavery