

# Competing for the Colonies

How can location affect opportunities and challenges?

What are the consequences when different cultures interact?

What factors in Europe influenced the colonization of the New World?

# Causes: The Three G's

- 1. God:** the evangelistic need to spread Catholicism to all peoples drove the exploration of new lands.
- 2. Gold:** younger sons of the more prosperous middle class often had to seek employment away from their families or local communities because the eldest son of an English family inherited all the property from his father's estate. There was no land or wealth left over for younger sons.
- 3. Glory:** competition between monarchies drove kings to establish claims to new lands as a means to strengthen their political positions in Europe.

# Who: European Countries Involved...

## Portugal

- Pioneered overseas explorations in the New World due to favorable geographic location facing the Atlantic.
- First recorded encounters with peoples in other lands dates back to later 1400s (West & Central Africa).
- Promised Pope to evangelize and colonize the “heathen” people encountered.

## Spain

- Pioneered overseas explorations in the New World due to favorable geographic location facing the Atlantic.
- Motivated by a tradition of Christian crusading.
- Chartered Christopher Columbus, who was seeking an alternate sea route to the silk and spice rich lands of China, but ultimately discovered the Americas.
- Promised Pope to evangelize and colonize the “heathen” people encountered.

## France

- Growing fearful of Spain’s growing political power and influence, France set out in search of a Northwest Passage to Asia.
- This fostered a race to settle the New World.

## Netherlands

- Dutch exploration began almost accidentally when English navigator Henry Hudson was hired to find a safe passage to the Spice Island of the East He set out in April 1609 with a desire to avoid Cape of Good Hope and find a westward passage to the Far East (Asia).
- Hudson made contact with the New World near the Chesapeake Bay and Delaware River. By September of 1609 he entered what would later be called New York Harbor and the Hudson River.

# Who: European Countries Involved...

England

- By 1570, Spain had really only settled lands in present-day Florida.
- Their political presence was highly recognized, so this led England to get involved in exploration.
- Cue: English dominance in the New World...