



Seventh Grade Social Studies

KCS home

Summer Edition

There will be a short video lesson of a Knox County teacher to accompany this task available on the KCS YouTube Channel and KCS TV.

7th GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES TASK WEEK 2:

Task: Write a letter or design a brochure to tell someone “back home” about a settlement in the New World

During the time of exploration, a person would join a voyage to the New World. He/she would use their trip to explore the new settlements, scout the region around the settlements, and figure out the best place to start their new life. After that, they could write home and tell their family everything that they had found and what to expect upon arrival. That’s your job here.

Imagine you have been in one of the settlements for a few months, and explain it to your loved ones in your home country. Perhaps you would rather “sell” your new home to a larger group of people so you can design a brochure instead of writing a personalized letter. Here are some of the things you want to think about as you write or design.

- Explain the official religion of your chosen settlement. Do they welcome freedom of religion or require following the official religion? Are they interested in spreading the religion to the Natives?
- Explain what type of crops/foods are available in your community
- Explain skills that might be useful in your region
- Describe the climate in your settlement
- Imagine other things to put in your document and be creative!

Here is some helpful information

Spain and Portugal

- Explorers landed in the Caribbean, Florida, Central America, and Northern portions of South America
- Mayan, Aztec, and Inca land
 - Superior weapons and disease made it easier for European Conquistadors to conquer these people
- Spanish and Portuguese Kings encouraged settlements to spread Christianity (Catholicism)

France, England, and the Netherlands

- Explorers landed in North America
- French settlers built in Canada and focused on the fur trade
 - Later traveled south along the Mississippi River to colonize Louisiana
 - They were mostly Catholic

- English and Dutch (Netherlands) settlers focused on building shipping harbors and plantations on the east coast of the United States to establish trade
 - These groups were mostly protestant and desired religious freedom
 - They were less interested in spreading Christianity than the Spanish and Portuguese

European Colonies in the Americas



There are a couple tasks to help you check your knowledge prior to starting your letter or brochure.

After you have done these mini tasks, it will be time to prepare your letter or brochure to teach someone about your new home. Pretend you are on a voyage to help establish one of these communities. Pick which of the settlements you want to help build and let everyone back home know why.

-For a challenge, use the numbers listed next to the settlements. Assign them to the numbers on a dice/spinner. Roll the dice/spinner and do your assignment with whichever settlement number you roll.

-Try to imagine yourself as a 17th century explorer excited about what you have found and have fun!

Mini Task 1- Match the Settlement with the people that founded it.

____Dutch

1. Jamestown, United States

____French

2. New Amsterdam, United States

____English

3. Porto Seguro, Brazil

____Portuguese

4. Quebec, Canada

____Spanish

5. St. Augustine, United States

Mini Task 2- First, label the 5 settlements above on the map below. Second, color the regions controlled by each European nation. Third, draw vertical lines (up and down) in each region that is Catholic and horizontal lines (right and left) in each region that is Protestant.

