Lesson 2: New European Colonies

Vocabulary

Northwest Passage a waterway connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans
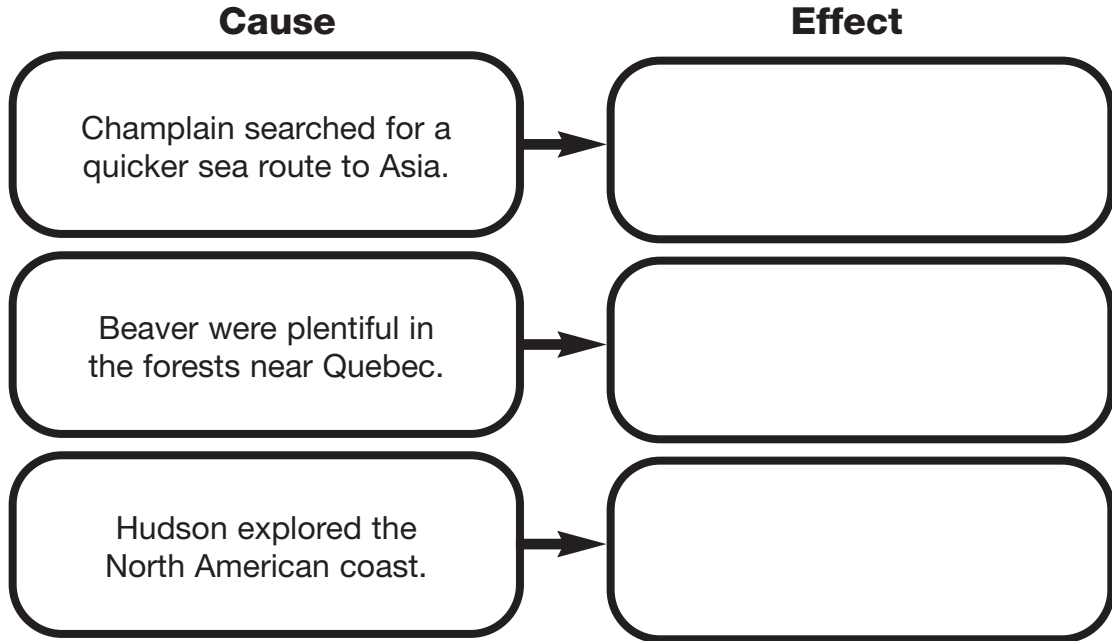
French and Dutch Settlements

In the 1600s explorers searched for a **Northwest Passage.** The Northwest Passage was a waterway connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. The passage would make it easier for trading ships to travel from Europe to Asia. The route was never found because it does not exist. However, explorers looking for the passage founded new colonies. In 1603 Samuel de Champlain looked for the passage while exploring the St. Lawrence River in present-day Canada. In 1608 Champlain founded the French colony of Quebec. The lands around Quebec were filled with beavers. Quebec became a trading center. Beaver furs were sold for a lot of money in Europe. More French colonies grew up in other areas. These colonies became known as New France. Dutch leaders sent Henry Hudson to search for the Northwest Passage. This Englishman searched along the North American coast. He explored 150 miles of what later became known as the Hudson River. He claimed the land for the Dutch. The Dutch colonies in North America were called New Netherland. New Amsterdam was a Dutch town built on Manhattan Island in 1624. The Dutch controlled trade on the Hudson River from New Amsterdam.

New Amsterdam Grows

The Dutch wanted many people to move to New Amsterdam. People from all over Europe moved to the Dutch town. New Amsterdam was later taken over by the British. It was given a new name: New York City.

Lesson 2: Review

1. Cause and Effect Fill in the chart below by listing one important effect of each cause.

Cause		Effect
Champlain searched for a quicker sea route to Asia.	→	
Beaver were plentiful in the forests near Quebec.	→	
Hudson explored the North American coast.	→	

2. How did the search for a Northwest Passage lead to the founding of New France and New Netherland?

_____

_____

3. What kind of benefits did France gain from its colony of New France?

_____

_____

4. Why was New Amsterdam a good location for a city?

_____

_____

5. Critical Thinking: *Drawing Conclusions* Do you think Native Americans played an important role in the growth of French and Dutch settlements? Explain.

_____

_____

© Scott Foresman 5