Chapter 3

Content Statement 3: European exploration and colonization had lasting effects, which can be used to understand the Western Hemisphere today.

Key Terms
agriculture
colonization
exploration
language
place name
religion

There’s No Place Like Home

The countries in the Western Hemisphere were primarily settled by people from Spain, France, England, Portugal, the Netherlands, and Russia. When these European explorers established settlements in North and South America, they brought their cultures with them! The lasting effects of these cultures can still be seen today in the cultural practices and products of the Western Hemisphere, with the Spanish, French, and English cultures having the strongest influence. Examples include place names, languages, religions, and agricultural practices and products.

Spanish and Portuguese—First to Arrive!

Spanish and Portuguese explorers were the first to colonize lands in the Western Hemisphere. By the mid 16th century, Spain had gained control of most of South America and southern North America. Portugal had claimed eastern South America, which is today’s country of Brazil.

The most famous explorers were Spanish conquistador Hernán Cortés, who defeated the Aztecs in Mexico, and Francisco Pizarro, who took over the Inca Empire in western South America. Because they controlled so much territory, the Spanish had a tremendous cultural influence on Western Hemisphere countries. Spanish place names dominate North, Central, and South America. Examples include Central American country names like Costa Rica (translated as “rich coast” in English, and El Salvador (“the savior”). Spanish city names are very common in the region, ranging from San Francisco, California; to Buenos Aires, Argentina; to La Paz, Bolivia.

Vocabulary
architecture: the style of a building with regard to a specific period, place, or culture

culture: ideas, skills, arts, tools, customs, and way of life of a certain people
The Spanish and Portuguese also brought their languages to the region. Half the population in the Western Hemisphere speaks Spanish. Citizens of Brazil, the largest country in South America, speak Portuguese. Today, the United States has the fifth-largest Spanish speaking population in the world (after Mexico, Spain, Argentina, and Colombia), and hundreds of English words come from Spanish words. Just a few examples include rodeo, patio, tornado, fiesta, and vanilla. Many Americans love Mexican food like tacos, burritos, and enchiladas. Traditions like breaking a piñata came here from Spain.

The Spanish also spread their Catholic religion and architecture throughout the Western Hemisphere. Examples of architecture include the beautiful missions built by Spanish priests throughout the western United States, designed to look like the elegant churches in Spain and Mexico. The missions were built to help spread the Catholic religion in the New World.

Look It Up! – Spanish Place Names

Look at a map of the Western Hemisphere. Find five Spanish place names and list them here.

_______________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________

CCRI.5.7

Essential Skills

Write F if the statement is a fact, and O if it is an opinion.

____ 1. Spanish-style buildings in the southwestern U.S. are more attractive than buildings that reflect French architecture.

____ 2. It was important for Spanish explorers and settlers to spread their religion as they moved into new countries.

____ 3. Approximately half the population in the Western Hemisphere speaks Spanish.

____ 4. Portuguese is easier to learn than Spanish.

____ 5. Spanish and Portuguese explorers were the first to conquer lands in the Western Hemisphere.

____ 6. Americans use many Spanish words in everyday language.

____ 7. Breaking a piñata is a fun tradition.

____ 8. Many place names in the United States are Spanish in origin.

CCRI.5.2
Vive la France!

In the 1600s, the first French explorers arrived on the east coast of Canada. They spread down the St. Lawrence River, through the Great Lakes region, and down the Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico. Place names along their path reflect French influence. Have you ever heard of Montreal, Canada; St. Louis, Missouri; or New Orleans, Louisiana? Those place names are French in origin!

French culture is particularly strong in Canada. More than 80 percent of citizens living in the province of Quebec are of French origin and speak the French language. In fact, the city of Montreal, Quebec, is the second-largest French-speaking city in the world! The French also set up colonies on a number of Caribbean islands. One example is the island of St. Domingue, known today as the country of Haiti.

Founded by the French in 1718, New Orleans, Louisiana, is the best-known American city of French origin. Its downtown French Quarter reflects European architecture with courtyards, balconies, and detailed iron railings. A tasty treat in New Orleans is the beignet, a French-style doughnut drenched in powdered sugar.

Many French words are part of the English language, including blonde, brunette, petite, and souvenir. Americans enjoy French food including croissants, quiche, and éclairs. (No, we didn't forget French fries…but experts just don't agree on where they came from!)

The French also spread their Catholic religion throughout North America. Many traditions from the Roman Catholic religion come from France, including the tradition of Midnight Mass the night before Christmas.

Quick Quiz

1. Which North American country includes a province where most of the residents speak French? _____________________________

2. What city is the second-largest French-speaking city in the world? _____________________________

3. What Caribbean island country was originally a French colony? _____________________________

4. What American city shows a strong French influence in its culture? _____________________________

5. What religion did the French spread throughout North America? _____________________________

CCRI.5.2
Writing Prompt

Why do states bordering the Mississippi River have many place names of French origin? Cite evidence from the text and other sources to support your answer. Include examples of French-origin place names in your response.

CCRI.5.9; CCW.5.1

Enrichment – Primary Source Analysis

These photographs feature European architecture brought to countries in the Western Hemisphere. Look at the photographs and answer the questions.

1. What similarities do you find in the three photographs?

2. Find each location on a globe or a map. Below each picture, write the continent where the building is located.

3. By looking at these photos from different countries, what can you conclude about the influence of European architecture on countries in the Western Hemisphere?

4. Why do you think that settlers to a new land bring architecture from their old country with them?

Barcelona, Spain

Mexico City, Mexico

New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

CCRI.5.1; CCRL.5.7; CCW.5.1; CCW.5.8
English Rules!

The most obvious effect of English exploration and colonization in the Western Hemisphere is the language of the United States and Canada—English! There were many more colonists from England than any other country. The English came here to settle and build a new life, while many people from other exploring nations like France and Spain were looking for ways to make money in the New World.

English place names can be found all over North America. Examples include Windsor, Ontario in Canada; New London, Connecticut; and Cambridge, Massachusetts. The English religion of Protestantism spread throughout the American colonies as colonists exercised their right to freedom of religion—one of the main reasons many of them had left England in the first place!

The English brought us fish and chips, mayonnaise, and the sandwich. The tradition of sending greeting cards during the Christmas season can be traced back to English merchants sending leaflets of good wishes to their customers. As for the English influence on architecture, the English colonists’ house plan is still the most popular architectural plan in the U.S. today. A colonial-style house has a central door with two windows on either side, plus five windows across the second floor.

Hard to Believe But True!

Englishman John Montagu, the Earl of Sandwich, invented the sandwich in 1762. Why? He wanted a small meal that could be eaten with one hand so he didn’t have to stop playing cards!

Quick Quiz

Decide if the statements below are true or false. Write T for true, and F for false.

1. More colonists came to the United States from England than from any other country. 
2. English is the language of the United States and Canada. 
3. San Francisco, California, is an example of an English place name. 
4. English settlers spread the Catholic religion throughout North America. 
5. The English “colonial style” house plan is still popular in the U.S. today.

CCRI.5.2
Map Activity – Colonization of Western Hemisphere

Review the map representing the colonization pattern in the Western Hemisphere. Then complete the activities.

1. Label North America, South America, and the Caribbean Islands.

2. Use the map legend to identify and then circle the Spanish settlements in red, the French settlements in green, and the English settlements in blue.

3. Which two countries settled most of South America?

____________________________  
____________________________

4. Which three countries settled most of North America?

____________________________  
____________________________  
____________________________

5. What country colonized the area in the U.S. where you live?

____________________________

CCRI.5.7
Essential Skills

Complete the table to identify place names, languages, religions, foods, and architecture that Spanish, French, and English explorers brought to the Western Hemisphere.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place Names</th>
<th>Spanish</th>
<th>French</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religion</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Food</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Architecture</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CCRI.5.2

Big Changes in Agriculture

Besides bringing their culture with them, the European colonists brought agricultural practices and products to countries in the Western Hemisphere that greatly impacted the future progress of those countries. Before European colonization, most people living in North and South America were subsistence farmers. This means that they raised just enough food to take care of their own families. They did not have large farms where they raised animals and sold food to make a profit.

When Europeans arrived in the Western Hemisphere, they changed agriculture in the region in several ways. First, they brought domesticated animals such as horses, pigs, goats, cattle, sheep, and chickens. Animals like the horse helped the farmer cultivate more land by pulling a plow. Other domesticated animals provided food to sell (like chickens laying eggs and cows producing milk).

Vocabulary

agriculture: growing crops and raising animals to provide food

domesticated animals: animals that have been tamed so they can live closely with people as pets or work animals

commercial agriculture: production of food to sell to others
Second, Europeans introduced new products to the Western Hemisphere like apples, coffee, soybeans, sugarcane, and rice. Many of these new crops significantly changed economies in the region. For example, sugar soon became the backbone of economies in the Caribbean and Brazil.

And third, Europeans cleared the land and put new farming methods in place, leading the way to a strong commercial agriculture industry in the Americas. In particular, the Spanish brought their custom of clearing large tracts of land for farming, mining, and ranching. New patterns of trade were established, with crops grown in the New World shipped back to Europe to feed people eager to consume them.

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**Essential Skills – Cause & Effect**

How did European colonization affect agriculture in the New World? Read each cause on the left and write its effect on the right.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>Effect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Europeans discover the New World and find an abundance of natural resources.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Europeans bring the horse to the New World.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Europeans bring domesticated animals to the New World.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Europeans clear tracts of land to plant large quantities of crops.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Food products from the Americas are sent back to Europe.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*CCRL.5.5*
**Essential Skills**

Complete the graphic organizer to describe the effects of European exploration and colonization on the Western Hemisphere.

**Writing Prompt**

Summarize this chapter. Describe the lasting effects of European exploration and colonization on countries in the Western Hemisphere. Support your summary with examples from the text and your own research.

*CCRI.5.2; CCW.5.2; CCW.5.7; CCW.5.9*