New France

**European Arrival**
French explorers traveled along the St. Lawrence and Mississippi rivers and made claims to large areas of North America for France. They called their land New France. Voyageurs built a network of trading camps in New France. Europeans wanted the furs of beaver, fox, and other animals to make hats and clothing. Canadian Indians wanted goods such as knives and copper pots.

**Settling New France**
Voyageurs lived in Indian villages and had children with Canadian Indians. Some Métis formed communities that grew into cities. To encourage settlement, the French king gave about 200 large tracts of lands to seigneurs. These wealthy landowners had to find habitants, or farmers, for their land, and build mills and settle disputes between habitants. Catholic missionaries came to New France to convert Canadian Indians.

**Before You Read**
Find and underline a form of each vocabulary word.

- **voyageur** noun, a woodsman, trapper, or explorer hired by a French fur company
- **Métis** noun, people with European and Native ancestors
- **seigneur** noun, a wealthy owner of land
- **habitant** noun, a farmer in French Canada

**After You Read**

**Why did Europeans want animal furs from New France?**
Circle the sentence that tells the answer.

**How did seigneurs help New France grow?**
Highlight the sentence that gives the answer.

**Skill Reading Maps**
Which French explorer or explorers went the farthest south on the Mississippi River?
Draw a circle around the correct name or names in the map legend.