Test on Activity in the Americas as the British Colonies Began

* Be able to list the European nations active in the Americas when the British colonies begin.
* Know what activities each European nations was involved in. Given an activity, be able to say which nation did that activity.
* Be able to explain different important aspects of the native culture that impacted their interaction with the British: their lifestyle, their social and political organization, their settlements.

Spanish

* Presence in Americas began with military being sent to “conquer” land
* Later government takes control and gives large tracts of land to people
  + Along with the right to the land also given the right to demand/to force either labor or tax payments from Natives
* Established
  + Mines – for gold and silver
  + Plantations – large farms worked by laborers not the farmer himself
  + Ranches – raising sheep and cattle
  + Missions – religious settlements for converting Natives to Christianity
* Later turned to importing Africans as slave labor
* Had a rigid social class system (meaning people did not rise within the system) based on birthplace and ethnicity

(Note – wealth and power increase as rise in social class system, decrease as fall)

Top – Born in Spain

Born to 2 Spanish parents in the Americas

1 Spanish and 1 Native Parent

1 Spanish and 1 African Parent

Natives, Africans

France

* Activity began in early 1600s
* Activity extended along the Saint Lawrence River from its mouth on the Atlantic Ocean, along the shores of the Great Lakes, and down the Mississippi River to its mouth on the Gulf of Mexico
* Traveled in large voyageur canoes
* Sought trade with Natives for fur – especially beaver fur, as it is waterproof, warm, light, and thin Quebec and Montreal
* Mostly men
* Established trading posts – the largest being Quebec and Montreal
* Lived with Natives, married Native women
* In 1660s, King Louis XIV sent settlers, including unmarried women
  + population grew
  + large scale farming began

The Netherlands

* activity on the Hudson River
* two settlements on land purchased from Natives – one at the source the other at the mouth of the Hudson
* trade with Natives for fur

Sweden

* activity funded in by company with Swedish, Dutch, and German investors
* settlements along Delaware River
* traded with Natives for fur and tobacco
* taken over by Dutch but allowed to rule self

(Natives – On back)

Natives of Northeast

* Lifestyle – subsistence – hunt, gather, and farm
  + farm - corn in central mound, beans grow up corn stalk, squash along ground preserves water, keeps down weeds - creates high yield, is highly nutritious
* Gender roles - women - farmed , gathered, men – hunted , prepared fields
* Villages - varied – 1 or 2 houses to large towns
  + often come together in winter
  + land held in common by all
* Houses – wigwams/ some make longhouses - sapling frames covered by bark, mats, or skins
* Political organization - leaders chosen and/or hereditary, often two - one military, one political
  + Famous Iroquois Confederacy - alliance of 6 tribes that lasts 100s of years
* Social Organization - clans - descended from common male or female ancestor represented by animal totem
* Religious practices - guardian spirits, shaman/medicine men

Natives of Southeast

* Lifestyle – Subsistence - Hunt , Fish , Gather , Farm – corn, beans, squash, as in NE
* Gender roles – women – gather, farm, men – hunt, prepare soil
* Settlements – most have large permanent towns
  + Planned out – streets, public and private areas
  + earthen work walls topped by sharp poles (palisades) and a moat
* Houses – walls of interwoven poles covered by mud-plaster with thatched roofs
* Social organization – clans based on female ancestor
  + lived in wife’s village near her mother and female relatives on land owned by clan
  + Each clan associated with a certain type of leader – political, military or religious
* Political organization – highly military chiefdoms governed by religious beliefs
  + Settlements are independent but form alliances
  + Religious practices - focus on building harmony: sacred fires, celebration at planting and harvest