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| Major Issues in Colonization: Comparing Spain, France, England, and the Netherlands |

We’ve covered these facts above, but we can now look at them side by side in the table. The table also shows you who will eventually win in North America.

Look at each row in the table. Ask yourself what is the **difference in the practical consequence**s if the Europeans are:

* Predominantly individual **males** **OR** come with their **families**?
* Few in number and spread out **OR** concentrated in one place?
* Doing agriculture **OR** trading with the native population?
* Are individual farmers **OR** large-scale agriculture such as tobacco or later cotton with many laborers needed?
* Believe they **must** convert the Indians **OR** **not?**

| **Trait** | **Spanish** | **French** | **English** | **Dutch** |
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| Where they went? |  |  |  | Area later called New York (Most of their colonies are in the Far East.) |
| Demographics of the colonies? | * 450,000 through mid-1600s
* Mainly **males**
 | * 15,000 by 1700
* Mainly **males**
 | **Families:*** 2,000 early 1600s
* 50,000 by mid-1600s
 | **Families:**> 300 in early 1600s |
| Demographics of the colonies? (Would ordinary people come?) |  |  |  | Some Protestant refugees[[1]](#footnote-1)  |
| Economy of colonies? |  |  |  | Fur trade, breweries, agriculture  |
| Large landholdings? (feudal landholdings) | **Tip:** *encomienda* |  |  | Yes, called patroonships  |
| Local governance? |  |  |  | No, a Dutch administration |
| Missionary effort? |  |  |  | ⎯ |
| Mix with the native population, including intermarriage? |  |  |  | ⎯ |

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1. Once the Spanish–those who were persecuting the Dutch Protestants—were forced out of the Netherlands, Protestant families were safe without moving to colonies. This and the remaining entries in the column are from the *Oxford Companion to United States History*, p. 199. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)