

**Did the institutions of New France contribute to population growth in the St. Lawrence Valley?**

Step One: Read the introduction

Step Two: Find Information in the documents provided

Step Three: Write an essay of about 150 words that ANSWERS the QUESTION

In the late 16th century and early 17th Century, France indicated its intention to establish a permanent presence in North America by settling New France. Until the Conquest, it focused its efforts primarily on the St. Lawrence Valley, then called Canada.

In varying degrees, the main institutions in New France, such as the fur-trading companies that administered the colony until 1663, the Royal Government, the Catholic Church and the seigneurial system, all played a role in organizing and managing the development of this new society. Their political, social and economic actions thus had an impact on the growth of the colony's population.

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## Document File

### Fur Trading Companies:

#### Document 1

“The company promised to recruit and transport 4000 colonists of New France within 15 years and to shelter and nourish them for three years...Difficulties appeared from the start...since it was no longer making a profit, the company stopped sending colonists in 1634.”

#### Document 2

“In 1666, Canada’s first census found that there were 3418 inhabitants, 63% of them male. This small number of colonists [suggests] that the trading companies has little interest in boosting the colony’s population. Furs were more profitable in their eyes than the settlement of the territory”

### Royal Government:

#### Document 3

“Once the Crown had placed the colony under its direct control, in 1663, it was able to... implement a real policy...[colbert] promoted...immigration to New France. To encourage former soldiers...to remain in the colony he gave them land...He sent women, often orphans, of an age to bear children, who were willing to marry and settle in the colony.”

#### Document 4



## **Document 5**

“In the wake of the intendant’s measures, mirth 1200 French settlers came to Canada. the number of marriages and births increase considerably...The impact of Jean Talon’s policies was of limited duration, however. Immigration dropped again after his departure.”

## **Document 6**

“The French government took over [the recruitment of colonists] from the chartered companies, but did not obtain better results...It must be recognized that there was never a strong flow of immigration to New France: only about 10 000 colonists settled there. This was due to the fact that New France offered few commercial opportunities. The fur trade - the basis of the colony’s economy - required a limited number of European [workers]...On the other hand, because of the colony’s high bird rate, the population reached 70 000 in 1765”

### The Catholic Church

## **Document 7**

“Between 1650 and 1760, new Amerindian populations were settled along the St. Lawrence, as missionaries established villages for converts to Christianity.”

## **Document 8**

“...1000 to 4000 [Amerindians], depending on the period, whom they had more or less succeeded in settling in the St. Lawrence Valley, but who were not all integrated into Canadien society... despite the efforts of the missionaries, the Amerindians’ culture was too strong, and above all too different from that of the French, to allow them to be easily assimilated...The Amerindians...maintained their traditional way of life, keeping there distance from White society, and adding [relatively few] members to the colony’s population”

### The Seigneurial System

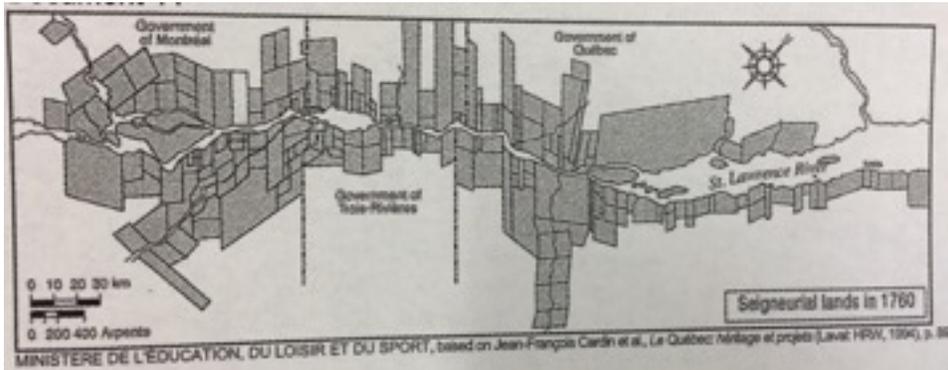
## **Document 9**

“The fact that they did not have to pay for the land they received [from the seigneur] encouraged the colonists to settle on his seigneurie and farm the land”

## **Document 10**

“The Company of One Hundred Associates - and, later, the crown - hoped that seigneurs would become colonization agents, since it was in their interest to settle their land. Few seigneurs paid immigrants’ passages however, since business or service to the crown, rather than seigneurial revenues...provided the bulk of their income.”

## Document 11



## Document 12

“Throughout the 17th Century and the first decades of the 18th century, Canada’s population was so small that it was not rare for seigneuries to be empty, or only partly occupied, for several years at a time.”

## SETTLEMENT OF NEW FRANCE DIAGRAM

**FUR TRADING (CHARTERED) COMPANIES:**

MEASURE:

RESULT:

REASON:

**THE SEIGNEURIAL SYSTEM:**

MEASURE:

RESULT:

REASON:

**ROYAL GOVERNMENT:**

MEASURE:

RESULT:

REASON:

**THE CATHOLIC CHURCH:**

MEASURE:

RESULT:

REASON:

