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**What You’ll Do**

Welcome to Decisions, Decisions: Colonization! You and your classmates will all be role-playing the same character: the President of the United States. To help you make decisions, you have four advisors, represented in the different Advisor Briefing Books. You are responsible for sharing the information in this book with your teammates. Use your Decisions Log (provided by your teacher) and the outline below to guide you through the decision-making process.

**Analyze the Situation**
- Watch the introduction on the computer.
- Read The Situation on pages 5–6.
- Read the Letter from Your Advisor and the Summary on pages 7–9.

**Determine Your Goals**
- Read pages 10–11 and then follow the directions on page 12 to prioritize your goals.
- Enter your goals into the computer and get ready to make your decisions.

**Consider Your Options**
- The computer will give you a keyword that matches one of the briefings found on pages 13–29.
- Read the briefings and share the information with your group.

**Make a Decision**
- Discuss your options with your group. When ready, enter your decision into the computer.

**Examine the Consequences**
- The computer will display the consequences of each decision and direct you back to this briefing book for more information.

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**The Situation**

It’s the future, and a worldwide energy shortage threatens the planet.

Many nations have turned to space in the search for new **resources**, setting off to **colonize** new worlds.

The United States, however, has been left behind.

But now, the Astro Company has offered to set up a private colony in space.

The company needs government approval and support for its proposal.

But should a private company or the government control such a colony?

Or, for that matter, can you find everything you need right here on Earth?

You’re the President, and it’s an election year. What should you do?

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*Words in bold are defined in the glossary starting on page 30.*
Cast of Characters and Countries
You — President of the United States.
The Astro Company — a company that wants to search for new energy resources in outer space. Astro is asking you to help the company establish a colony there.
The colonists — the people who will become inhabitants of any colony you establish in space.
Rival nations — countries around the world who are competing to find new energy resources. Will one of these countries gain control of the world’s energy supply?

Your Four Advisors:
Rick Armstrong — A historian, Rick Armstrong is the author of several books on using history to improve decision-making.
Zoë Louie — This independent economist has given sound advice to several Presidents.
Eddie MacMurray — Mr. MacMurray is your Secretary of Commerce and a longtime advisor.
Yelena Krechenko — As your Secretary of Space Exploration, Ms. Krechenko is one of the world’s top experts in this field.

Now...

Independent Economic Council
P.O. Box 87391
New York, NY 01101

To the President,
This is just a quick note to let you know how excited I am to be one of the four advisors to help guide you through this incredible situation. I promise I won’t let you down. I’ve been researching how leaders have dealt with situations like this in the past, and started by writing you a summary of the situation as I see it. I’m sure I’ll have a lot to offer you each step of the way. I can’t wait to get started.

Sincerely,

Zoë Louie
Zoë Louie
Senior Economist

Read the Letter and Summary from your advisor on pages 7–9 and then turn to page 10 to determine your goals.
I remember my grandmother telling me about an energy crisis in the late 20th century. But that was nothing compared to what the nations of the world are facing today in the 21st century. The United States has almost completely used up its supplies of oil, gas, and coal. The price of energy has been going up, up, and UP! I don’t need to tell you what those high energy prices are doing to the economy. It’s bad.

We’ve got to solve this problem fast. Some nations have started looking for energy resources in outer space. China, Russia, Japan, and many European nations have developed sophisticated space programs. They have sent groups of people to colonize planets and asteroids. Any nation that discovers rich deposits of oil or a new energy resource will have an advantage over other countries.

Should the United States join this new space race? You’re the President, so it’s up to you to decide. But I know this: if the U.S. doesn’t find its own sources of energy, we will become dependent on other nations. The U.S. might even be forced to ask its rivals for energy resources. That situation would leave us in a very weak economic position. Control of energy can give the nation power in more ways than one.

The answer may be in space. On the other hand, it may not. Space could be just a vast wasteland. In that case, sending expeditions to planets and asteroids would be throwing away the taxpayers’ money. We’d be better off spending that money on developing new energy resources right here on Earth.

We do have another possible solution to our problem. A group of adventurous businesspeople has started a company called the Astro Company. The owners of Astro have a plan for setting up a colony in space. They will pay for the colony and provide a spaceship, colonists, and supplies. They want you to approve their plan. They also want to use a launching site in the United States to launch their spaceship. This plan could save the country a lot of money. However, some of my colleagues think it’s risky to let a private company have so much control over such a precious resource.

You have a lot of decisions to make. You will be up for reelection in less than a year. We need a solution to this energy crisis fast!
Determine Your Goals

Before you start making decisions, take some time to think about what you hope to accomplish. In your position as President of the United States, you have four goals which are listed below. Bearing in mind my comments from the previous pages and your other advisors’ opinions, think about which of these goals is most important to you. Then put the goals in order, from most to least important.

A. Get control of energy resources.
Right now, the United States must rely on foreign nations for its energy resources. Part of fulfilling this goal is making the U.S. energy-independent. You must make sure that the U.S. has energy resources so that we will not need to buy these resources from other countries. To fulfill all of this goal, though, you must do more than that. You must make sure the U.S. gets new energy resources which other nations do not have. This will put the U.S. in a much more powerful position in the world and give us an advantage over our rivals. It doesn’t matter whether you find energy on Earth or in space, just as long as you get control of more energy.

B. Protect your nation and citizens wherever they are. Keep the U.S. safe from all attacks.
Achieving this goal means keeping U.S. citizens safe, whether they’re in outer space or at home on Earth. Foreign nations are establishing colonies in space. Some of your citizens worry that these nations may become more powerful than the United States. They fear the country might not be able to protect itself against attacks from space. If you send colonists into space, how will you protect them?

C. Get reelected as President of the United States.
The main question facing you in this goal is, What will impress the voters of the nation? You must appear to be taking strong action to prove that you are a good leader. But what actions do your voters want you to take? Do they support the colonization of space? Or do they want you to spend money on developing Earth’s resources? How much are they willing to spend on these projects? It’s difficult to know the answers.

D. Spend money wisely. Don’t waste the taxpayers’ money.
At first glance, this goal seems easy to accomplish: just don’t spend any money. But how will you achieve your other goals without spending money? You can spend as much money as you want and still give yourself full credit for reaching this goal, as long as you spend the money wisely. The key to success is paying for projects that actually provide energy resources and benefit the nation. But how can you be sure that your efforts will pay off?
Now...

- Use your Decisions Log to guide you through the decision-making process.

- Consider what each goal means to you.

- On your Decisions Log, rank the goals in order from most important to least important.

- Share your rankings with your group, and together agree upon a set of priorities.

- When you’re ready, enter them into the computer. You will then see a recap of your situation and the choices facing you.

- Next, the on-screen advisors will point you to a passage in this briefing book. Look it up (they’re listed alphabetically), read it, and summarize the information for the others in your group. Then discuss the issues and make a decision.

Good luck!

Boundary

There are many examples of border disputes throughout the history of the United States. Believe me, the situation you’re in now is not the first. Sometimes it’s best to keep your claim on a territory until you can reach a compromise. Once you give up your claim, it will be hard to get it back. The northern border of the United States was disputed several times. The French and English fought over it during colonial times. Then there was the Aroostook War in 1839, fought between Canadian lumberjacks and Maine militiamen. In addition, there was a dispute with the British over the northern border of the Oregon Territory. Have you ever heard the slogan “Fifty-four Forty or Fight?” The Americans claimed that the northern boundary was at latitude 54° 40'. But the British wanted the territory divided at the Columbia River. The two countries almost went to war before compromising on latitude 49° as a boundary. Some of these disputes were resolved in battle and some by negotiation. How can you resolve this dispute over boundaries?

California

The colonists haven’t found any valuable resources on the asteroid yet. But that doesn’t mean there aren’t any. You don’t want to make the same mistake the Spanish did with California.
The Spanish gave up California without realizing that the area had abundant natural resources. The United States won the territory from Mexico, and gold was soon discovered. The Russians also were not aware of Alaska's mineral wealth when they sold it to the United States. Secretary of State William Seward was criticized for his purchase of Alaska in 1867 for $7,200,000. Alaska was nicknamed Seward's Ice-Box, Seward's Folly, and 586,000 square miles of icebergs and polar bears. However, Seward's Folly actually contained some extremely valuable mineral resources. Gold was discovered in Alaska around the turn of the century. Later, people discovered coal, iron ore, silver, and then oil. Do you think this asteroid might turn out to be another Alaska or California?

**Charter**

I think this kind of agreement with the Astro Company is similar to the **charters** granted by the English kings. The kings granted charters to companies and groups that wanted to start colonies in the New World. Each of these charters gave a group of people permission to set up a colony in a specific place for a certain period of time. Sometimes, the charters even described how the colony should be ruled. However, if the king didn't like the way a colony was operating, he might revoke, or cancel, the charter and take over the colony himself.

For example, in 1684 an English court **nullified** the charter granted to the Massachusetts Bay Company because the colonists were acting too **independently**. The colonists refused to obey the trade restrictions that the English had placed on them. I think you should agree to Astro's demands now. You can always cancel the agreement later if things don't turn out the way you want them to. Then you can take over the colony. What do you think about that idea?

**Choices**

You've got a tough choice. I don't know what you should do. On the one hand, you want to protect the money you've **invested**. I'd hate to see you lose everything because you didn't go just a little bit further. On the other hand, you don't want to get into a situation where you have to keep sending military forces into outer space. That would be very expensive. I think it might be better to let the colony become more **independent**. The colonists should protect themselves. Which choice do you think is the best?

**Defense**

Many of your citizens are worried about what your rival nations are doing in space. Do these nations have military forces in space? People fear that the United States could not protect itself against an attack from outer space. This kind of fear could
easily spread across the country and cause panic. If you choose to improve space defenses, you won’t be able to spend so much money on energy research. Instead, you’ll be spending the money on the development of satellites and other space defenses. How will this action affect energy research? It might slow down the research, or it might have no effect at all. At least your voters would feel more confident that the nation could protect itself. Which is more important, improving space defenses or putting all the money into energy research? Which will get you more votes?

**Drastic**

I know that this is your last chance to act before the election, so maybe this is the time to take drastic action. The timing might be perfect. Your bold action will make the headlines. At election time, voters will remember what you did. Don’t you think politicians take bold actions right before an election?

**Earth**

I don’t think you should give up on searching for new sources of energy right here on Earth. First, there are lots of places on the planet that haven’t been thoroughly explored yet, such as the ocean floor. Second, a useless resource could become valuable if a new technology is invented. Look at what happened with oil. For most of the 19th century, oil was used mainly to make kerosene for lamps. In fact, gasoline was a by-product of the process that converted oil into kerosene. People threw the gasoline away because they had no use for it. In the 1890s, however, the internal combustion engine was put into cars, and the value of gasoline and oil increased tremendously. Can you think of any other examples where a new use was discovered for an old resource?

**Ethnocentric**

I think that any of the leaders of the European colonies in the 16th or 17th centuries would have taken over the natives’ territory without hesitation. That is, in fact, what they did. These leaders believed that their culture was the most highly developed and advanced in the world. This view is called “ethnocentric.” The leaders felt that cultures whose technology wasn’t as advanced as their own were inferior. They believed that their civilization was superior. These leaders thought the cultures they took over benefited from being part of their superior civilization. I think the leaders thought they were doing the natives a favor. Do you think that some cultures are superior to others? How do you feel about the natives on this asteroid?
Investment
You’re in a tough spot. You need a new energy resource, and you’ve got to figure out the best way to get it. Some of the choices require bigger investments than others, and some are riskier, but they all promise many benefits if they work out. I don’t know which is the best way for you to go. Exploring new worlds is very risky, but it paid off for the European powers of the 15th and 16th centuries, didn’t it? On the other hand, Americans have not needed to go beyond their borders in the past. For instance, when faced with shortages of natural rubber during World War II, the United States government quickly set up a large synthetic rubber industry. The atomic bomb was developed by using existing resources in new ways. Why would you want to make an investment in outer space instead of investing right here?

Jamestown
When you pick a location for a colony, you’ve got to consider more than its military advantages. It’s important for an area to have a strategic location for battles, but other things such as fertile land are also important. Think about the case of Jamestown. When the colonists arrived, the first task they worked on was building a fort. They selected a spot which was ideal for defending themselves, and they began to build the fortress and the colony. Unfortunately, although it was an excellent strategic location, it had little else to offer. The land was swampy and mosquito-infested. As a result, the colonists suffered from diseases and other problems. Do you think the location you have chosen for this colony is a good one? Should you expand beyond the colony’s borders?

Labor
The colonies need more workers. They have a labor shortage problem. It takes a lot of effort to mine the resource you want. There aren’t enough colonists to do all the work. Where are you going to get the workers to do it? This is just like the problem faced by England’s southern colonies in the New World. They grew crops of tobacco and cotton. Large numbers of people were needed to farm these crops. However, many early colonists were gentlemen who had no experience doing hard manual labor. They didn’t want to do it, either. How did the colonists solve their labor problem?

Mercantilism
From the 16th to the 18th centuries, European powers followed an economic policy known as mercantilism. According to this theory, in order for a nation to be powerful, it must export more than it imports. When a country exports, or sells things to other
countries, it brings wealth in, and when it imports, or buys things from other countries, it spends its wealth. If a country brings in more wealth than it spends, it increases its wealth.

This theory encouraged the European powers to develop colonies around the world. They hoped to get valuable resources from their colonies. The mother country would then no longer have to import those goods from foreign nations. This would make the mother country more powerful. Can you see why the English colonies were restricted to trading only with England? How does the theory of mercantilism apply to your situation?

**Objections**

I have a feeling that whichever choice you make here, some people will disagree with you. If you decide to grant the colony independence, then many of your citizens will be angry at you for wasting their tax dollars. They paid to establish a colony in outer space, and then you gave it away. On the other hand, if you appoint a governor and try to rule the colony from Earth, you may run into trouble with the colonists. These colonists want to be independent. After all, they had to be strong, independent individuals to go into space in the first place. Which choice do you think will be the safest?

**Mother Country**

You are your colony’s mother country. Your colony is supposed to depend on you. That’s one of the ways you keep it under your control. If the colony can’t depend on you, the colonists may turn to others for help or they may become more independent. Where would that leave you? I’m sure other nations would be happy to come to the aid of your colony in exchange for certain privileges, such as access to its valuable resources. How much did the French help the American colonies in their fight against England? Why did they help the Americans?

**OPEC**

What does it mean for a country to be dependent on other groups or nations? Let me give you an example. Throughout the 20th century, the world, including the United States, depended on oil for its energy. One of the main sources of oil has been the Middle East. For a long time, that didn’t cause any problems. U.S. companies could operate as they pleased in the Middle-Eastern oil-producing nations. Energy was plentiful and cheap. However, political changes in the Middle East created conflicts between several Arab countries and the United States.
Many of the leaders of these oil-producing nations decided to join together so that they could control this vital resource to their advantage. They formed the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

In the 1970s, many of OPEC’s members agreed not to sell oil to the United States until the country changed some of its policies. This oil embargo drove the price of oil up and put the United States on the verge of an energy crisis. The U.S. refused to give in to OPEC’s demands and worked hard to become independent from the rest of the world for its energy needs. You must never let an independent group control your access to important resources. You never know when that group might turn against you. But how should you attempt to avoid it in this situation?

**Precedent**

Astro’s financial well-being is not your responsibility. Astro’s owners knew the risks when they began the colony. Besides, the colony is so far away that it may not even be worth saving. In addition, you don’t want to set a precedent for giving aid to every company that asks for your help. Think about what it’s like in a classroom when one student wants to get a drink of water. Sometimes a teacher will say “No” because if one student is allowed to go, they’ll all probably want to. If a teacher does give permission to one student and refuses to allow the others to go, the teacher will be accused of favoritism. However, if a student is sick or has a cough, it’s okay to make an exception. Do you have a good reason to make an exception here with Astro Company? How will your voters respond if you spend more money?

**Peacekeeping**

I think the main question you face here is one of trust. Now that these boundaries have been established, do you trust the other nations to recognize and respect them? If you trust them, remove your troops. If you don’t, keep your troops there. Remember, too, that leaving your forces in space may upset and frighten the neighboring colonies. They might think you’re planning to attack them. Do the colonists really need your help, or can they defend themselves?

**Priorities**

I know that protecting the natives and preserving their culture is not one of your top priorities. It wasn’t a priority for most of the early colonists in the Americas either. However, I think it’s important to think about the rights of the natives. They were living on the asteroid before you arrived. Don’t they deserve to keep their home? How would you feel if you were in their shoes? Staying out of the natives’ area may
not help you achieve your goals, but it still may be the right thing to do. What would have happened if someone in the 16th century had said, “No, we must not settle in North America. The Indians live there”?

**Profit Motive**

We must face the facts. There’s no doubt in my mind that Astro’s goal in space is to make money. But that could be good. The company will pay for the expensive expedition, and that means you won’t have to use tax dollars. It might not matter which nation provides a launch site for the company. Once it’s in space, the company will only want to make a profit for itself. It probably won’t give special treatment to the **sponsoring** nation. As long as the U.S. offers Astro the highest price, Astro will sell its **resources** to the U.S. Did England’s colonies trade only with their **mother country**?

**Quartering**

If you choose to leave the troops in the colony, someone is going to have to provide them with food and shelter. It will have to be the colonists. There’s nothing up there but the colony. Who else can do it? This act of supplying food and shelter is called “**quartering**.” How do you think the colonists will react if they have to take care of the troops? How happy are they now?

**Reactions**

One thing you have to consider in this situation is how other nations, especially your rivals, will react to your decision. How do you think the French and Spanish felt when England began building colonies next to theirs in the New World? They had settlements in North America long before the English. Would your rivals see the establishment of a military colony as an act of aggression? How would you respond if you were in their shoes? In fact, maybe you shouldn’t go into space at all. It’s extremely expensive. Do you think it’s worth spending so much money? Is there anything you’d miss by trying to develop Earth’s **resources** instead of going into space?

**Risks**

I don’t know what you should do. Both choices are risky. If you threaten to keep vital supplies from the colony, the colonists might ask another nation for supplies. That other nation might even be a rival who would want you to lose control of your colony. If you send in troops, that might lead to war. Look at how the American colonies responded to having British troops in their midst. I just don’t know how these colonists will respond. What do you think?
Sanctions

Rival nations can try to influence or threaten you by using economic and political pressures called sanctions. For example, in response to the Soviet Union’s invasion of Afghanistan in 1979, President Jimmy Carter placed sanctions on the Soviet Union. Carter imposed a grain embargo, meaning that he refused to sell American grain to the Soviet Union. He also called for a boycott of the 1980 Olympics in Moscow. Both of these actions are types of sanctions. In this case, your rivals are threatening to withhold energy resources from you. Would you be able to survive such a sanction?

Smuggling

I don’t think you should waste your time and money trying to restrict the colony’s trade. You’ll never succeed. The English tried to impose trade restrictions on their colonies in America, and the colonists just ignored them. They often smuggled goods to other countries. The English were too far away to stop them. Have you ever heard of “avoiding the middleman”? Well, that’s exactly what the colonists did. The colonists found that they could make a better profit by selling their products directly to other countries than they could by going through England. If you did put trade restrictions on your colony, how would you make sure they were carried out?

Tax

Someone has to pay for protecting and taking care of the nation’s interests in space, just as someone had to pay for England’s management and protection of its colonies in America. The question you have to face is “Who?” Should all your citizens share in the expense of having colonies in outer space, or should the colonists themselves pay most of the taxes? I don’t know the answer. But I think you should ask yourself who’s getting the most benefit from the presence of military forces in space. Don’t you think that the group receiving the most benefits should pay?

Tordesillas

I think that you should divide up space among the major powers. That’s how Spain and Portugal solved their disputes over who should control which part of the world in the 15th century. The two nations were the first to begin exploring and colonizing newly discovered areas of the globe. They often ran into conflicts with each other. They were on the verge of war when they agreed on a compromise. In 1494, the two nations accepted the Treaty of Tordesillas, which divided the non-Christian world in half, part for Spain and part for Portugal. That seems like the best solution here as well. Just divide up space, and that will be that. What could possibly go wrong?
Trade

The colonists who occupy the colonies in space right now are little different from the colonists who settled in the New World from the 16th to 18th centuries. Colonists are independent-minded people, filled with a sense of adventure and hope. They’re interested in doing whatever they can to make the best of their situation. If they can make a better deal trading with another nation, then they will. Although they weren’t supposed to, the American colonists (especially those in New England) traded with other countries. Of course, such actions angered England, but what could England do from so far away? Why would the colonists turn down an opportunity to make more money?

Untapped

You may not agree with me, but I think that the Earth still contains valuable resources. There are probably many untapped sources of energy we have not yet discovered or considered. We still haven’t fully explored the ocean floor. Look at it this way. In 1859, the first commercial oil well barely reached 70 feet into the earth. How many people then believed that, by the 1980s, oil wells would go as deep as two miles into the earth? They probably couldn’t imagine it. Don’t you think that new advances in technology could open up new resources here on Earth just as easily as they could in space?

Trust

I know there are risks involved, but I think that you should pull back your military forces. This base is expensive to maintain. The colonists haven’t found any valuable resources on this asteroid. In addition, I think that pulling back your military would help to create trust between you and the other nations, at least in outer space. This trust would allow you to negotiate with them about how space should be controlled. We don’t want the conflicts among nations on Earth to be brought into space. What’s the worst thing that could happen?
ally — a country or state which has agreed to support another in a treaty or other special arrangement.

   England is one of America’s closest allies.

asteroid — one of the thousands of small planets located between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter.

   Some scientists believe that the asteroids are pieces of a planet that blew apart.

balance of trade — the difference between the total amount of a country’s imports and exports during a specific period of time.

   In order to have a favorable balance of trade, more money must come into a country than the country spends. The country must export more than it imports.

border dispute — a conflict between two or more states about boundaries.

   The United States has had numerous border disputes with both its neighbors, Canada and Mexico.

charter — a written agreement from a government granting permission for the establishment of a colony.

   The colonial charters granted by the King of England described the privileges and responsibilities of each colony.

civilian — a person who is not part of the military.

   Should your colony be run by the military or by civilians?

colonize — to make or establish settlements in a new territory that maintain ties with the parent country.

   England colonized many territories in North America.

compromise — a settlement to a conflict in which each side gives up some of its demands.

   If the colony and the mother country are unable to reach a compromise, they may end up going to war.

dependent — relying on someone for support.

   Some people are afraid that the United States might become dependent on foreign countries for energy resources.

deprecated — used up or reduced in quantity.

   The United States’ reserves of oil were severely depleted.

deposit — a natural buildup or accumulation of a resource.

   The explorers were seeking a rich deposit of oil.

embargo — a government prohibition on trade or shipping.

   The Arab nations’ embargo against the U.S. forced the Americans to get their energy elsewhere.

empire — a group of nations or states that is under the rule of a single government.

   England’s establishment of colonies all over the world gave the country a great empire.

ethnocentric — considering one’s own culture to be superior to others.

   Many of the European colonists had an ethnocentric view of the world. They thought that other cultures were inferior to them.

export — to send products or resources out of the country for use elsewhere.

   The United States exports grain to many parts of the world. This brings money into the country.

headright system — a plan to encourage immigration to the Virginia colony in the 1600s.

   The Virginia Company offered fifty acres of free land to each new settler for himself and for each person he brought with him. The headright system brought many new colonists to Virginia throughout the 1600s.

import — to bring in from a foreign country; goods brought into a country this way.

   The United States imports some of its oil from countries in the Middle East. Food and water are important imports for a space colony.
indentured servant — someone who agreed to work for a period of time, usually seven years, in exchange for something, often passage to the new world.

Many of those who couldn't afford passage to the colonies in America chose to become indentured servants.

independent — self-governing; not under the control or influence of an outside source.

Many colonists wanted to be independent, free from the control of the mother country.

investment — the outlay of money, time, or other resources in the hope of making a profit.

The Astro Company hopes that its investment in a space colony will bring the company a great deal of money.

joint-stock colony — a colony established by a joint-stock company.

The joint-stock colony shipped bags of gold and silver back to its founder, a wealthy joint-stock company.

joint-stock company — a business formed when individuals pool their money and receive shares of stock (representing partial ownership of the company) in proportion to the size of their investment.

Many colonies were established by joint-stock companies that were hoping to strike it rich in the New World.

labor — workers employed to do a certain job.

The space colonists had a shortage of labor to work in the mines.

mercantilism — an economic system used by European countries in the 1500s and 1600s. In this system, a nation was supposed to increase its power by maintaining a favorable balance of trade.

The theory of mercantilism prompted many European nations to establish colonies in other parts of the world.

militia — a citizens' army.

The colonial militia acted only in times of emergency.

minutemen — special members of the colonial militia in New England who could be ready for action at a minute’s notice.

The colonial citizens who were minutemen always had to be prepared to fight.

mother country — the nation from which people leave to settle or colonize new lands.

England was the mother country of many colonists in the New World.

nationalize — to give ownership of something to the national government.

Some countries have nationalized their oil companies to give the government control over this important resource.

native — an original inhabitant of a particular area.

The colonists were surprised to find natives on the asteroid.

negotiation — a discussion intended to lead to an agreement among the participants.

It took a lot of negotiation, but the colonists and the mother country finally reached a trade agreement.

nullify — to make ineffective or worthless; to invalidate.

The king decided to nullify the charter he had granted to the Massachusetts Bay Company because the colonists had become too independent.

pacifists — people who are opposed to the use of violence.

The Quakers were pacifists, so they didn’t use force on the Native Americans.

quartering — the providing of food and shelter to someone.

The colonists might get upset if you make them responsible for quartering the troops you have left behind.

resources — items or supplies that have important uses.

Oil, coal, and water are important natural resources.
**royal** — owned by a king or queen.

Colonies that were taken over by the king were called royal colonies.

**sanctions** — special actions, often penalties, imposed by a nation or group of nations on another country to force a change in that country’s actions.

The United States placed sanctions on the Soviet Union when the Russians invaded Afghanistan.

**sponsor** — to support and be responsible for.

Every colony needs a government or private company to sponsor its development.

**strategic** — of special value, often political or military; giving an advantage.

The colony had strategic importance, since it provided a crucial source of energy that the mother country lacked.

**suppress** — to stop or put down, often by force.

The President called on the army to suppress the rebellion.

**venture** — a risky undertaking, especially in business.

Astro Company executives are willing to spend money on this venture because they expect it to make a good profit.

**veto** — to refuse to approve legislation, so that it does not become law.

The royal governors had power to veto the acts passed by the colonial assemblies.

**vital** — something necessary or of great importance.

In order to survive, the country needs to get more vital energy sources.