

# EUROPEAN COLONIES

**B**<sub>B</sub> British

**D**<sub>D</sub> Dutch

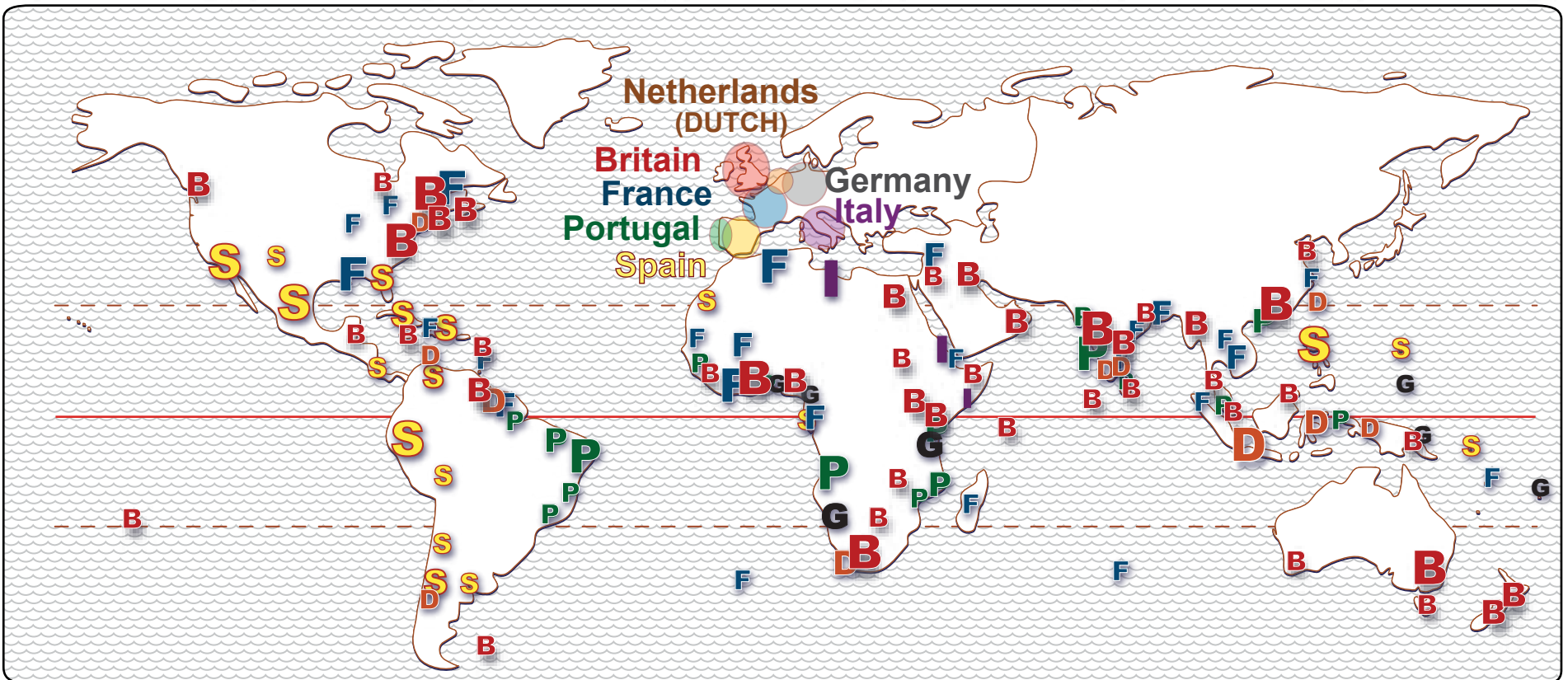
**F**<sub>F</sub> French

**G**<sub>G</sub> German

**I**<sub>I</sub> Italian

**P**<sub>P</sub> Portuguese

**S**<sub>S</sub> Spanish



This map shows the colonial claims made by seven small European countries. Larger symbols indicate larger claims. Examine the map, and try to identify the "Top-10" places where European countries might have fought with each other to defend and/or extend their colonial claims. Draw a box around those places on the map

Choose one of those places of possible conflict, and do some research to see if there was a conflict in that place. Be prepared to present a summary of your findings.

## Teacher's Notes: **European Colonies Map Activity**

Overview: Without necessarily learning a lot of historic details, students examine maps of European colonies and write generalizations about geographic patterns. They then look at pairs of countries and try to identify places in the world where those countries might be fighting (e.g., the French and Indian War in northeastern North America or the Boer War in South Africa).

GLCE: 6G441, HS World Era 5

Common Core links: ELA

Related Discipline: History

Time: ½ to 1 class period

**Setup:** One setup is to look at maps of language and ask why people in many parts of the world speak European languages – especially Portuguese, Spanish, French, and English. Another setup is to mention some early colonial conflicts (there is no shortage of movies and TV episodes that use these conflicts as background for their stories).

**Procedure:** Have students examine maps of each country's colonies separately, and try to make a generalization about the geographic pattern (e.g. Spanish mainly in South America, Central America, and western North America).

Then show the colonies of pairs of countries and looks for places where there might be conflicts.

Alternatively (if you cannot show the clickable pdf), use the composite map handout. It is much more complex – students should be advised to look at one country at a time and then consider pairs of countries that might get involved in conflicts in particular places.

### **Answers:**

Likely colonial conflicts include:

- France and Britain in northeastern North America, western Africa, India, and Southeast Asia
- Britain and Spain among Caribbean islands and between mainland SE Asia and the Philippines
- Spain and Portugal in west-central and southern South America
- Britain and the Netherlands in South Africa and Indonesia

**Debrief:** Reassure students that the goal is not to memorize a lot of details about these colonies – our goal is to build a solid mental map so that future studies are well grounded. Why do we want to know this? Because many modern events, such as trade connections and terrorist attacks, often have roots that can be traced to the geographic patterns of the colonial age.

It is also worth emphasizing that many of the preferred colonies occur in a narrow range of latitude, in the so-called “middle latitudes” between the hot rainforests and deserts of the equatorial and tropical regions and the cold forests and tundras of the arctic regions.

**Vocabulary:** colony map pattern core area archaeology conflict over-extended

### **Extensions:**

Research the places where multiple European countries vied for control of a specific resource, such as gold (Mexico, Peru), shipbuilding wood (India, Malaysia), sugar (Caribbean islands)

Examine maps of resources that were desired by Europeans – gold, spices, sugar, tea, tropical woods, and, later, rubber, coffee, oil. Try to identify the lures that attracted people to specific parts of the world.

Identify structures associated with the colonial era – forts, other buildings, ports, etc.

Identify other “legacies” of the colonial era – railroads, universities, languages, economic ties, misplaced political borders, etc.