



A circular icon divided horizontally. The top half is red with the word "MAP" in white capital letters. The bottom half is purple with the word "SKILL" in white capital letters.

**REGIONS** By 1682, the English, the French, and the Spanish had claimed lands in North America. In which year did La Salle travel near Kentucky?

# British Explorers

Many Virginia colonists saw Kentucky as a land of opportunity. Exploring it was not easy, however.

## The First Explorers

In 1674, **Gabriel Arthur** was one of the first Virginians to travel to Kentucky. Friendly Native Americans helped him. He returned to Virginia, telling stories of his adventures. He said that Kentucky would be a good place to live in.

In 1750, the Ohio Land Company received from the government a land grant of 200,000 acres, part of which

was in Kentucky. A **grant** is an official document that gives permission for something. **Christopher Gist** explored the land for the company. He cleared a trail and scouted for resources.

At about the same time, Dr. Thomas Walker explored a land grant given to the Loyal Land Company. This grant covered 800,000 acres in Virginia and southeastern Kentucky. High mountains separated Kentucky from Virginia. They kept most people from entering Kentucky from the east.

## READING CHECK ⚡ CAUSE AND EFFECT

**How did Gabriel Arthur encourage people to explore Kentucky?**