

Date:

Student Name:

Week 25 - Colonists and Native Americans

General Information for All Grades

In our studies of Colonial America this week, we are going to focus thematically on the relations between European settlers and Native Americans. Specifically, we'll look at how Native Americans lived before the Europeans arrived, and then look at the worst of the violent interactions between them. Our goals this week are to understand the common grace that was evident in the Native American cultures and also to see how Europeans approached and interacted with the Native Americans.

There was a titanic clash of cultures when European settlers arrived on Native American shores. They were markedly different in beliefs, cultural values, and modes of living. Whenever sinners are put together in trying circumstances, one can predict conflict, apart from the grace of God. In the interactions between these two cultures, Europeans in particular are not portrayed well. Many individuals acted sinfully and selfishly. This is especially grievous because most Europeans were professing Christians. It would seem to be an inescapable conclusion that, if some individuals were Christians, they neglected to extend Christlike charity, hospitality, and fairness to their fellow humans. Many settlers were probably not Christians in heart, so it is not surprising that they acted without restraint and even wickedly. Many of the authors you will read this week are quick to point this out. What is less clearly indicated in accounts of the period, especially in current resources, are the years of peaceful coexistence and mutual aid between Indians and settlers, the attempts that sincere Christian missionaries made to bring the gospel to the Native Americans, and the ways that Indians sinned against their white neighbors. In some places, notably Rhode Island and Pennsylvania, the first settlers treated the Indians with dignity and courtesy that befitted Christians. Under the leadership of Roger Williams in Rhode Island and, later, William Penn of Pennsylvania, settlers bought their land from Natives at fair prices (though English law did not require them to do so), treated them well when they visited, attempted to preach the gospel to them, and then let them live as they saw fit, in friendship, with fair trading practices. In some places, Europeans wouldn't have survived without the aid and good will of their Indian neighbors, such as Pocahontas in Jamestown and Squanto and Massasoit in Plymouth. At other times in the self-same places, there was tension between Native Americans and settlers, including conflict in Jamestown with Powhatan and in New England with Philip, Massasoit's son. While the Native Americans sacrificed much in the wake of European immigration, so did many European individuals. John Eliot and Experience Mayhew dedicated their lives to bring the gospel to Indians in their own language.

In all places that they met, Indian culture was affected by European influences. Some modern historians paint this as a bad thing, but you should judge for yourself. The Europeans did carry unfamiliar diseases—like smallpox—causing entire villages to be wiped out, but this was hardly intentional. Many Indian families were enriched by trading opportunities offered by Europeans. Though Europeans had a military technological advantage when they arrived that allowed them to dominate the continent from the start, they also shared beneficial advances freely with the Natives. Thus, the Indians' lands, tools, farming techniques, and ability to hunt improved from contact with their white neighbors. Nor was warfare something that Europeans introduced, or even inspired, in their new neighbors. Before the Europeans arrived, Indians warred with each other. Tribes formed alliances and made enemies, struggling for dominion of territories and murdering one another in sudden raids. Unfortunately, Europeans accelerated the Native Americans' ability to kill by introducing guns, horses, and alcohol. European encroachments on Indian hunting territories and competition for access to trading outposts only heightened existing temptations to violence.

As you study this week, try to keep a balanced perspective on the story being told. You have learned so far in your study of world history that no human society is without sin or perfect in all its ways. All have strengths and weaknesses because all have been ordained by God for a time and a purpose. As far as you can this week, try to keep an eternal perspective on the accounts you read. Mourn where men act grievously, but also rejoice that a good God was working all things together for His purposes, which are always perfect.

READING

ALL Reading

- The Gift of Music by Jane Smith, Chapter 2**
- Streams of Civilization Vol. 2 p 44 (start Feudalism) 49,56 (sections on Lock only) 142 (Start at Issaac Newton) - 151**

LG Reading

- The Courage of Sarah Noble, by Alice Dalgliesh (Chapters 6-11) (Week 2 of 2)**

UG Reading

- Story of the World Vol. 3 Chapters 14,15 (first section only), 16-18

DIALECTIC & RHET Reading

- William Penn Biography
- Pageant of Philosophy supplement - Sir Isaac Newton
- This Country of Ours by H. E. Marshall, chapters XXXII and XLIII

Lower Grammar Words

stockade

raid

ammunition

league

longhouse

middleman

pelt

clan

wampum

Upper Grammar Words (All Lower Grammar Words +)

tsar

retaliate

nomad

siege

naval

shipwright

embassy

Only Upper Grammar People

Peter I (the Great) of Russia

Wamsutta-Alexander

King Philip (Metacom)

King George I of Britain

