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Humanities

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Native Americans Resist Colonial Expansion

The Jamestown English Settlers:

- Jamestown colonists' desired more land for their growing numbers and more crop space- led to warfare with Native Americans
- The English followed a pattern of driving away the people they defeated
- Eventually they defeated the Native Americans which led to the English settlers having no desire to live or want any relation to them at all (blood or marriage)
- Powhatan tribe would not give up easily, and they did the same thing back; refused to socialize or give the English anything
- Jamestown's leaders demanded corn and labor from local natives. To accomplish, soldiers set Powhatan villages on fire, kidnapping hostages who were mainly children.
- Pocahontas was one of the many children that were kidnapped by the English settlers, and later on in 1614, she ended up marrying John Rolfe
- Marriage between Pocahontas and Rolfe was the groundwork for a half-hearted peace that would not last, as colonists continued using/seizing Native American land for tobacco
- Chief Powhatan's brother, Opechancanough was out of patience- led to Powhatan raiding parties striking colonial villages on the James River, killing more than 340 colonists

- England sent troops to help colonists conquer Powhatan tribes- by the end 10,000 English men and women were living in Virginia, while the Powhatan population kept falling

The Puritans:

- Trade helped puritan merchants prosper
- Native Americans helped the colonists by providing land, giving them agricultural advice, and engaging in trade
- Conflict between the Native American people and settlers was caused because the rapid spread of settlers would put an end to the natives way of life along with natives dying because of European diseases
- Land and religion was the main issue between the Native Americans and Puritans
- The Native Americans saw land as belonging to everyone. Treaties with the Europeans were agreements because they received gifts, but not land sales.. Europeans saw the treaties as a one time deal where Natives permanently sold their land to new owners.
- Puritans considered Native Americans as people without faith/ “agents of the devil”, and tried to convert them into religion
- The Pequot War: first major conflict between the Pequot Nation and colonists
- War ended in 1637, 90 english colonists and hundreds of Native Americans set the Pequot fort on fire and started to shoot the Pequot men, women, and children
- King Philip’s War (1675): Native Americans attacked and burned settlements throughout New England
- Colonists started killing as many Native Americans as possible
- Food shortage, disease, and casualties caused the Natives to surrender/flee

- Higher proportion of the population died in King Philip's war than the American Revolution and Civil War

The Dutch:

- Dutch believed people approached in friendship would respond in friendship.
- Before going to North America, they arranged to have a letter sent to the tribe inhabiting Pennsylvania.
 - They let them know of their arrival and that they were not going to be a threat.
- The dutch regulated trade with the tribe to pay them for inhabiting some of the native american's land.
- They also provided a court made up of both native american's and colonists to settle differences between the two.
- William Penn (proprietor of the dutch colony) had been respected by the native's for more than 50 years because of his kindness.
- Penn needed to attract settlers, farmers, builders and traders.
 - For a more profitable colony.
 - Settlers started to come in numbers
 - Germans, dutch and french all came to the delaware.
- Penn never profited financially as a proprietor & died in poverty.
 - His idealistic vision faded, but had not failed.
- His vision of equality, cooperation, and religious tolerance would eventually become values of the new american nation.

Focus Questions:

1. Why did it take the Powhatan tribe so long to fight back against the English settlers, and what caused them to fight back?
2. What was the Quakers approach towards the Native Americans? And how did this help the colony?
3. How was there conflict between the Native Americans and Settlers?

Vocabulary:

1. Powhatan- A member of the Indigenous Algonquian people that are traditionally from Virginia; a tribe
2. Proprietor- the owner of a business, or a holder of property.
3. Pequot- a member of a North American people of southern New England.
4. Quakers- a group of Christians who use no scripture and believe in great simplicity in daily life and worship. Mostly silent meditations.