

Name: _____

Colonial Perspectives: Native Americans

When the colonists first landed in America they did not know how to survive off the land. They had brought limited supplies and quickly began to starve. In the fall of 1609 five hundred colonists lived in Jamestown, Virginia, the first settled colony in America. By the spring of 1610 only sixty colonists were still alive. The colonists who survived had to learn quickly how to live off their new land. The Native Americans, often called American Indians, taught them how to farm and hunt. Settlers and Indians would often trade furs, food, and land in exchange for tools, pots, hatchets, and even guns that were brought over from England. The new items made life easier for the Indians but the settlers also brought diseases over with them from England. Thousands of Indians died from sicknesses brought over because they had never been exposed to them. Through all of this the Indians and the settlers still managed to live peacefully with one another.

Soon the settlers began to take the Indians lands without trading them anything for them. The Indians attacked the colonists at Jamestown but could not win because the settlers had guns. As more and more settlers came to America, the Indians lost more and more land. The colonists quit trading the Indians for their land and just began to take it. The only fair colonists were the religious Quakers, they continued to pay fair prices for land from Indians and they were the only group the Indians trusted. By 1675, over fifty thousand colonists lived in New England, on former Indian land.

The Native Americans became frustrated and Chief Metacomet of the Wampanoag tribe convinced other tribes to gather together and fight. Thousands of Indians and colonists died. However the Indians again did not have enough men or guns to take back their land and they surrendered or were killed. The settlers called Metacomet by a different name, "Philip", and this battle became known as "King Philip's War". Native Americans were pushed further and further away from their lands and the only civilization they knew and were forced to either move away from the colonies or become slaves of the settlers.



Name: _____

Colonial Perspectives: Kekata

I was here when the white people came in on their boats. We watched them from far off at first. They seemed harmless and a little dumb. They brought food with them but some of it was already bad when they unloaded it. My people and I did not know why so many of them came. The chief told us not to talk to them, but then they started dying. It was obvious that they did not know how to survive here. The winters here are very cold and they did not bring anything to keep them warm. They didn't know how to build wigwams, and they didn't have any more food once winter hit. The chief finally told us to take them some corn. We were all ready to help them and the first time we met them they were very nice. We helped them survive through the winter and they gave us metal things that shot out fire and could kill a deer much faster than a bow and arrow. They called them guns.

We started trading beaver skins, food, and warm coverings for these guns. They would also give us other stuff they brought with them but we really just wanted the guns. I think the chief thought one day we might need them. And he was right. The next year more white people came on boats. They didn't need us as much as the first group did. They asked the other white people for help and before long there were more and more of them. They started building houses on land that my people used to hunt so we had to go further out for food. Before long they were taking over land where we grew crops, without giving us any guns or things that they brought. If we tried to tell them no they would just take it anyway. Our people started going missing. We realized they were taking our people and making them work in their fields. We decided it was time to fight back. We used those guns and all the men we had to keep them from stealing our land but it was too late. There were too many of the white people and not enough of my people. We were forced to leave everything we knew or stay and work for the white men. I chose to leave. I am still glad we helped them but I wish they had understood we could have lived together, side by side.

