

## Chapter 3:

# Becoming New York

England and the Netherlands had been **allies** in the past. However, by the mid-1600s the two countries were competing for goods and land in America. The English wanted New Netherland because it was located between their New England and Maryland colonies. England's King Charles II gave his brother James, the Duke of York, land in America that included New Netherland. But first the English had to take the land from the Dutch.

New Netherland prospered under the control of Peter Stuyvesant, but he was an unpopular leader. In late August 1664, a fleet of English warships carrying more than 400 troops sailed into what is now New York Harbor. They were ready to go to battle with the Dutch to take over New Amsterdam.

Stuyvesant tried to rally troops, but the Dutch settlers offered him no support. Instead they drew up a document outlining the terms of their surrender. With no military support to back him up, Stuyvesant was forced to surrender New Amsterdam to the English. Without firing a single shot, the British took control of the city. Soon after they took over all of New Netherland.



James, the Duke of York



In 1664 the Peter Stuyvesant surrenders New Netherland to the English without a fight.

### Critical Thinking with Primary Sources

The Dutch wrote up their own terms of surrender to the English. In the document shown here, which point talks about the Dutch being allowed to keep their land? Which point talks about freedom of religion?

3. All people shall continue [to] enjoy their Lands, Houses, Goods, Ships ...
6. It is consented to, that any people may freely come from the Netherlands and plant in this Country ...
8. The Dutch here shall enjoy their Liberty of ... Divine Worship and Church Discipline.
9. No Dutchman here or Dutch ship here shall upon any occasion be prest to serve in Warr against any Nation whatsoever.

