



# What do you know about Powhatan & Jamestown?

INVESTIGATE



**3.4**

# **Eastern Woodlands & Powhatan Confederacy**



## **As a Young Historian, I will be able to...**

- **Analyze past attempts that historians viewed Indian relations with the U.S.**
- **Examine the Woodland people**
- **Investigate the Powhatan Confederacy & Jamestown**

# **U.S. Cultural Conflict (Past)**

**There are good & bad people on both sides.**

**American culture is a mix of all ethnic groups**

**The frontier is the interaction of cultures, not  
European advancement**

**There was always dialogue between groups & the  
country is a “nation of immigrants”**



# **Facts About Tribes**

**There are multicultural interpretations of what happens, but Indian gifts were often stolen**

**There are about 500 federally recognized nations & 3 million people.**

**1881- Indians held about 156 million acres, 50 million by 1934**



# Basics of American Colonialism

Europeans believed they were superior to Indian groups

Slavery was important & very beneficial to the United States

**Genocide-** Act or acts committed with the intent to destroy, in whole or part, a national, ethnical, racial, or religious group

# **What is Genocide?**

**Killing members of a specific group (as mentioned in definition)**

**Causing serious physical or mental harm & the creation of conditions to bring destruction**

**Imposing birth control measures**

**Forcibly transferring children outside of group**

# 17th Century Woodlands

**Weroance-** Algonquian hereditary chiefs

**Tsenacommacah-** Algonquian word meaning “Our Land” present-day Virginia

**Wahunsuacock-** Also known by **Powhatan** by the English, who viewed him as a king

The Powhatan confederacy had about 30 tribes near the James River to Potomac



# Policy of Region

**Powhatan consolidated power through war,  
marriage, & patterns of trade**

**Trade items were seen as evidence of power, mirrors  
from Europeans were a big deal**

**Paquiquineo- Spanish named him *Don Luis de Velasco*.**

**Traveled to Mexico, learned Spanish, brought back  
knowledge to Powhatan Confederacy**

# **Don Luis**

**Jesuits came to region with nothing to trade, did not ask for help until winter brought famine**

**Father Segura from Spain blamed Don Luis for “backsliding” into Indian ways of life.**

**Don Luis eventually kills Spanish with their own weapons**

**He disappears from the history record, taught Powhatan about Europeans**

# Jamestown

English enlists the Virginia company to build a fort for trade. Fort had brackish water & poor food

Fort refuses trade with Algonquins leading to violent skirmishes.

**John Smith** became governor to keep colony alive & began to fight with tribes for corn in winter

Smith is captured by the Pamunkeys, but Powhatan's brother, **Opechancanough**, orders his release believing him to be valuable

# Algonquin beliefs

**Manitous-** Algonquin spirits who inhabited the forests, trees, & waters

**Manit-** Algonquin word for “power”

Powhatan saw the English as a potential ally & source for copper, so he begins to send food with a spy

Smith eventually “crowns” Powhatan in a farce ceremony. Powhatans seeing this as giving respect to him, English as him accepting England as power

# Pocahontas

**Powhatan orders Jamestown to move & prove loyalty to him. Smith refuses**

**Battles begin & smith is captured. Powhatan either dramatically adopts Smith or spares his life**

**Smith claimed he was saved by Powhatan's daughter  
*Matoaka or Pocahontas* (Playful one)**

**Smith is eventually wounded by a rival captain & returns to England**

# Jamestown in Chaos

**Quartermaster begins to sell supplies & keep money,  
Powhatan stopped sending food supplies**

**The Starving Time-** Jamestown lost 3/4ths of colony  
to starvation or cannibalism

**Jamestown begins to fight with Powhatan & demand  
food over the next several years**

# **The 1<sup>st</sup> Powhatan War**

**English begin to seize crops & Powhatans brother commands warriors to fight back.**

**Matoaka was kidnapped, befriends John Rolfe & become Lady Rebecca.**

**Marries John Rolfe to create a peace treaty between Jamestown and the Powhatan Confederacy**

# **The 2<sup>nd</sup> Powhatan War**

**Powhatan dies & his brother, Openchancanough  
decides to eliminate the English**

**1/4 of Virginia colony are killed, but more English  
arrive**

**A stalemate begins & a treaty is created to set up a  
permanent boundary between the tribes &  
the English**



# **The 3<sup>rd</sup> Powhatan War**

**Powhatans kill more English settlers (1644-1646)**

**Openchancanough was shot & a peace treaty was created that destroyed the Powhatan Confederation**

**By 1670, only 2000 Powhatan remained & by 1700 the entire confederation was gone**