

Native American-European Contact in the Colonial Period

Native American-European Contact is a cross-curricular lesson plan that explores the nature of the first encounters between Native Americans and Europeans in colonial Pennsylvania. Drawing on the concept of worldview, students learn to think critically about the cultural differences between Europeans and Native Americans, and how those differences shaped interaction and potential misunderstandings between the groups as they negotiated trade and diplomatic relationships.

Essential Questions

- How has social disagreement and collaboration been beneficial to Pennsylvania society?
- What role does analysis have in historical construction?

Concepts

- Textual evidence, material artifacts, the built environment, and historic sites are central to understanding the history of Pennsylvania.
- Conflict and cooperation among social groups, organizations, and nation-states are critical to comprehending society in the Pennsylvania. Domestic instability, ethnic and racial relations, labor relation, immigration, and wars and revolutions are examples of social disagreement and collaboration.
- Artists often address social issues or concerns in their artwork.
- People use analytic processes to understand and evaluate works of art.

Competencies

- Summarize how conflict and compromise in Pennsylvania history impact contemporary society.
- Analyze and interpret the work of a contemporary artist who addresses social issues or concerns.

Background Material for Teacher

- Christine Leigh Heyman. "Native American Religion in Early America." TeacherServe, National Humanities Center.
- Jane T. Merritt, "Quakers and the Language of Indian Diplomacy," in *At the Crossroads: Indians and Empires on a Mid-Atlantic Frontier, 1700-1763*. The University of North Carolina Press, 210-218. Used by permission of the publisher.
- Lois Scozzari. *The significance of wampum to seventeenth century Indians in New England*. Originally published in *The Connecticut Review*.
- Karim M. Tiro, "Introduction to Words and Deeds: Native, Europeans, and Writing in Eastern North America, 1500-1850." Rosenbach Museum & Library Exhibition, November 25, 1997 - March 8, 1998.
- Barre Toelken, "Cultural Worldview." *Dynamics of Folklore* (revised and expanded edition), Logan: Utah State University Press, 1996.

End of Unit Assessment

Have students create a presentation or write an essay comparing and contrasting how artwork and literature depict the relationships between the Native Americans and Colonists. Students should use the engravings and pictures from the unit as well as the letters and journals.