

Pocahontas, the Native American Princess - Storynory



Pocahontas is a useful short story for us to read as we move from the October 12 Holiday, Columbus Day and Indigenous People Day, to the Thanksgiving Holiday. Remember Columbus Day, a controversial holiday? Some people agreed with the holiday and some people did not. Now Columbus Day is a national Holiday, all 50 states in the USA celebrate it, and Indigenous People's Day is celebrated in some states but not all of them.



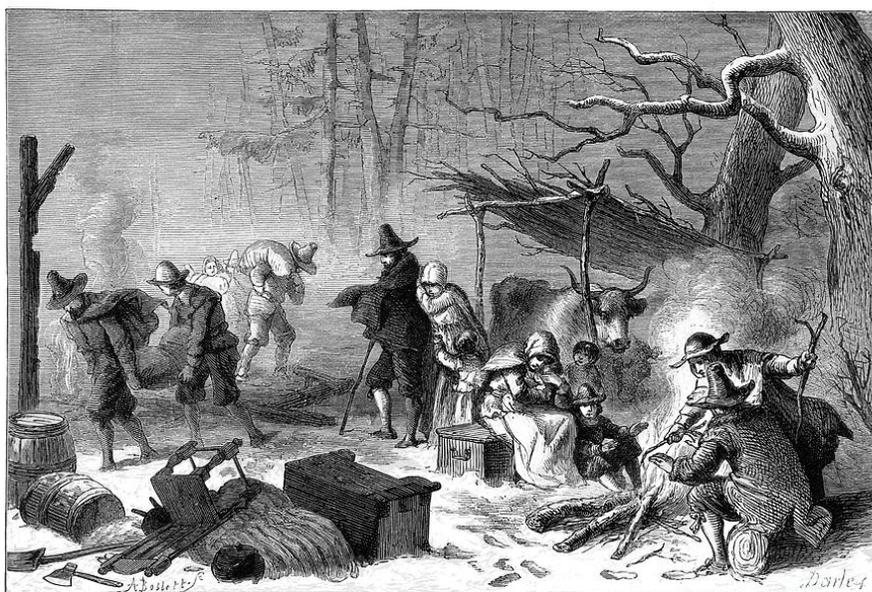
Columbus and other people and their three ships landed in the Bahamas in 1492, but Pocahontas's story is from about 1595 until 1617. During this time, people

from England were coming to North America. Pocahontas was born in North America. She was a native American and a Powhatan Indian . What do you think the Native Americans, Indians, and the people from England did when they saw each other for the first time?



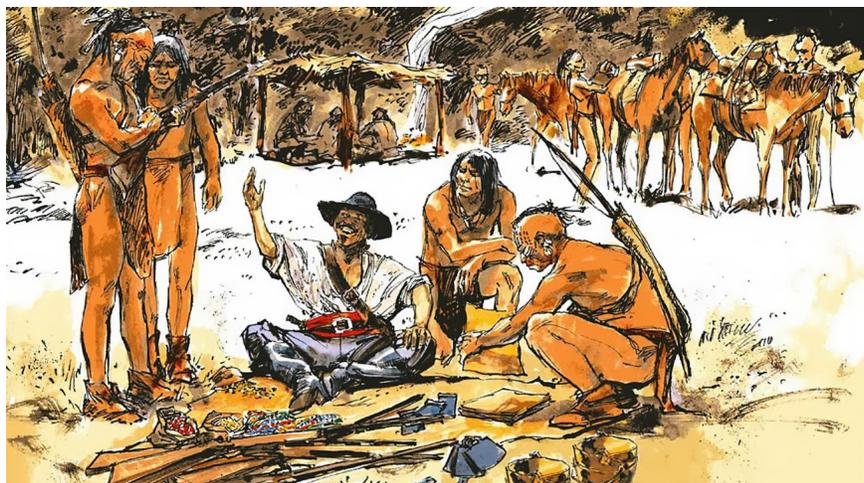
Sometimes they were friendly with each other and sometimes they were not. They did not speak the same language so communication was difficult. Life was difficult for these people from England. They did not know how to plant vegetables, hunt for animals or fish for fish because the land was new for them. However, little by little they learned how to feed themselves. You would too, right? Did the Indians help them?

Sometimes the Indians visited the people from England. These first meetings were friendly. They traded things. The Indians traded food and the people from England traded metal tools. They didn't understand each other, so how did they trade? Body language must be the answer. Try to trade something with your classmate but do not speak.



ENGLISH SETTLERS IN AMERICA.

Do you like the winter season? How was the first winter season for these people from England in a new country? Winter was difficult for them, so they visited the Powhatan Indians because they probably wanted to trade with them. The people from England could give guns and swords and the Indians could give food. These meetings were not friendly.



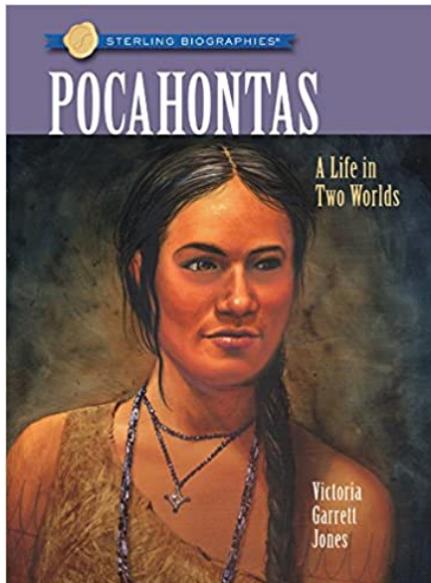
Days, weeks, months, and years passed and the Powhatan Indians and the people from England began to learn more about each other. They visited each other more often and Pocahontas visited these people from England. Some of the Indians learned English, and some of the people from England learned the Powhatan language.

What happened to Pocahontas? She married a man from England. Can you believe that? She also travelled to England with her husband. That's unbelievable! Unfortunately, she died in England at the age of 22. Also unfortunately, the Powhatan Indians and the people from England did not become more friendly. More and more people from England came and the Powhatan Indians lost more and more of their land.

There is a Disney movie about Pocahontas. You can watch the movie here:

[Pocahontas \(full movie\) - YouTube](#)

There are also books and paintings about her. She is very famous.



EXERCISES

Some of the following questions are difficult and confusing. Have some fun with your classmates and teacher and answer them, and of course practice your conversational English skills.

1. You are a Powhatan Indian and you see a person from England for the first time. How do you feel?
2. Where did the Indians come from?
3. Why did people from England come to North America?
4. Where was Pocahontas born?
5. When do you think Pocahontas was born?
6. Where and when did she die?
7. You are a person from England and you see a Powhatan Indian for the first time. How do you feel?

8. Circle the connecting word in this sentence. It has the same meaning as “while”.

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9. Circle the connecting word in this sentence. It has the same meaning as “however”.

Columbus and other people and their three ships landed in the Bahamas in 1492, but Pocahontas’s story is from about 1595 until 1617.

10. Find more connecting words and speak about them with your classmates and teacher.

Most of the information you read above comes from this website:

[Pocahontas, the Native American Princess - Storynory](#)

I adapted it which means I changed the language but not the ideas so it would be easier and hopefully more interesting for you to read. I added some information about how Pocahontas connects Columbus Day with Thanksgiving.



My mom, brother and I came to the USA on the Cristoforo Colombo Ocean Liner in 1956. I have mixed feelings about Columbus Day because of what happened to the Native Americans like the Powhatans but am very thankful for

Thanksgiving Day. My name is Alessandro Massaro.

Happy Thanksgiving!