

**Reading Strategies for *History of US* Chapters 2-7
Teaching American History Grant, Dec. 9, 2004**

CA H-SS Standards

5.3 Students describe the cooperation and conflict that existed among the American Indians and between the Indian nations and the new settlers.

1. Describe the cooperation that existed between the colonists and Indians during the 1600s and 1700s (e.g., in agriculture, the fur trade, military alliances, treaties, cultural interchanges).
2. Examine the conflicts before the Revolutionary War (e.g., the Pequot and King Philip's Wars in New England, the Powhatan Wars in Virginia, the French and Indian War).

Setting the context before the Pocahontas lesson:

1. Timeline of Chapters 2-4
2. As the students read they find the answers to the following focus questions:
Ch. 2: Who were the people that left England? When and why did they go to the New World?
Ch. 3: Who were the people already living in the New World? Describe their lifestyle.
Ch 4: What happened when the English settlers arrived?

Chapters 5-6-7

From Peter Senghe: Five Whys?

(A) Why is Pocahontas an important person in this period of American History? [OR Why is Pocahontas included in the study of American History?]

1. saves Smith's life
2. brings food to settlers
3. converts to Christianity
4. daughter of Powhatan
5. is kidnapped and held hostage in Jamestown
6. marries John Rolfe
7. goes to England

(B) Why is Pocahontas bringing food to the settlers important?

1. she visited Jamestown
2. brought food to settlers
3. taken hostage
4. became a Christian
5. takes a Christian name
6. brings peace
7. bridges two cultures - acts as a go-between

(C) Why is her role as a go-between the Powhatan and the settlers important?

1. conflict over land
2. settlers' survival depended on Indians for food
3. Settlers and the Powhatan had taken hostages in their conflicts

4. settlers depended on trade with the Powhatan
5. Powhatan allows the settlers to keep her and she marries Rolfe (becomes part of Jamestown settlement)

(D) How does control of land lead to conflict between the settlers and Indians?

1. England overcrowded
2. English timber/ farmland scarce
3. Powhatan controlled large
4. control of land leads to conflict over resources
5. more settlers arrive and take over more of Powhatan's land

(E) Why is conflict over resources important during this time period?

1. whoever controls the resources and trade has power and wealth
2. survival
3. leads to open warfare
4. settlers and the Powhatan had conflicting ideas about land ownership

Paragraph Structure 2(Possible model)

Question:

What can we learn about American history by studying Pocahontas's life?

Mini-thesis (Topic sentence):

The life of Pocahontas tells us that there were conflicts over resources between the Indians and the settlers.

Evidence A:

The colonists settled on land that was part of Powhatan's tribal territory.

Evidence B:

The settlers tried to survive off the land but depended on Powhatan to help provide food.

Pocahontas acted as a go-between for the settlers and the Powhatan tribe.

Evidence C:

When more settlers arrived, the Indians and settlers fought over land because resources became scarce.

Analysis:

This shows that the settlers didn't recognize the Indians rights to the land they settled on.

(or)

This is important because it shows whoever controls the resources has the most power.

Concluding Sentence:

Pocahontas is important because she served as go-between at a moment in history when two cultures

came into conflict over control of land and resources.
