

5th Grade Pocahontas Writing Prompt

Background: In 1607, English settlers arrived in the New World. They built a fort and town, Jamestown and tried to survive the poor conditions, lack of food and poor organization in their settlement. The natives that lived in the area were the Algonquin, ruled by Powhatan. Powhatan's daughter, Pocahontas became known to the settlers and eventually married one. Her story has become one of the legends of American history.

Question: *Why is Pocahontas included in the study of American history?*

What does the life of Pocahontas tell us about this period of American history?

Expectations: The best papers will include:

- Two paragraphs
- Topic sentences that answer the questions
- At least three examples of historical evidence of support in each paragraph
- An analysis that explains the importance of the reason that Pocahontas is included and what her life tells us.
- A concluding sentence that restates your topic sentence.
- Proofreading for spelling and grammar

For teachers: An example of analysis

The life of Pocahontas shows _____

Pocahontas's marriage to Rolfe was important because _____

Pocahontas taking food to the settlers is significant because _____

Focus Questions for Chapters 2-4
The Historical Context for Pocahontas

As you read Chapters 2, 3 and 4 find the answers to the following focus questions:

Chapter 2:

Who were the people that left England?

When and why did they go to the New World?

Chapter 3:

Who were the people already living in the area these English landed in the New World?

Describe their lifestyle.

Government:

Language:

Food:

Roles of men and women and children:

Clothes/ Customs:

What were the English ideas about them?

Chapter 4:

When did they land?

What happened when the English settlers arrived?

Where did they settle?

Why was it so difficult for them to survive?

How many survived the first winter?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Main Ideas	Details	
Summary:		

Note taking pages for Chapters 5-6-7
The 5 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) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

5) _____

6) _____

7) _____

8) _____

9) _____

10) _____

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

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____
- 6) _____
- 7) _____
- 8) _____
- 9) _____
- 10) _____

Note to students: These notes will help you write paragraph #1

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

- 1) _____

- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____

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

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____

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

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____

Paragraph Structure 1

Question:

Why *is Pocahontas included in the study of American history?*

Mini-thesis (Topic sentence):

Evidence A:

Evidence B:

Evidence C:

Analysis:

Concluding Sentence:

Paragraph Structure 2

Question:

What does the life of Pocahontas tell us about this period of American history?

Mini-thesis (Topic sentence):

Evidence A:

Evidence B:

Evidence C:

Analysis:

Concluding Sentence:

Analyzing Evidence

Essay Question:

Thesis Statement:

Evidence	Analysis

Essay Question:

Thesis Statement:

Evidence	Analysis