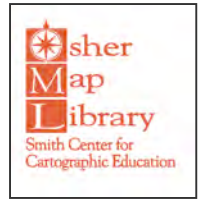


Colonial Consequence: King Philip's War



ANSWERS

A devastating outcome of European colonialism in the New World was a series of wars that involved and affected both Europeans and Native Americans. The bloodiest of these wars was King Philip's War. This exercise uses a map made in 1677 by John Foster, an English colonist who was attempting to illustrate the locations of the significant battles of King Philip's War. Before beginning the activity, note the compass rose on the bottom of the map.

What direction is placed at the top? **west**

Precursors to the Conflict – Land Encroachment

The English colonists were especially guilty of land encroachment. By the time Metacomet, known as King Philip to the English, became Massasoit ("Great Leader") of the Wampanoag Confederacy, the English had already founded several towns in Wampanoag territory, even though Metacomet's father had been a loyal ally to the English.

A few of these towns include:

- ❖ Hartford
- ❖ Winsor
- ❖ Springfield
- ❖ Hadly
- ❖ Northampton
- ❖ Deerfield

Find each town on John Foster's Map.

What do each of these towns have in common? **They are all on the Connecticut River**

Why would European settlers be attracted to this area? **Access to water for crops and for transportation**

Foster marks the territories of the Pequids, the Nipnucks, and the Narragansett on his map.

Whose territory is closest to Plymouth? **Narragansett**

Why do you think the Wampanoag Territory wasn't included? **They had lost the war and their territory by the time this map was made.**

Precursors to the Conflict – Suspicions and Rumors

Metacomet's older brother, Wamsutta, had been chief for only a year when he died suspiciously on his way home from being detained by the governor of Plymouth Colony. Metacomet, already distrustful towards Europeans, likely suspected the colonists of assassinating his brother.

Matters only worsened when English colonists arrested three Wampanoag men accused of murdering John Sassamon, a Native American man converted to Christianity. A jury convicted the three men of the murder and sentenced them to death in June of 1675. The Wampanoag Confederacy was independent from the English, and many Wampanoag felt that this act slighted the Wampanoag sovereignty.

It is unknown if Metacomet was behind the first attacks, but soon after the execution of the three Wampanoag men, several English farms were raided in the Plymouth area. In retaliation, the colonists marched on a Wampanoag town in Mount Hope, destroying the town entirely.

Find Mount Hope on Foster's map.

What large island is Mount Hope near? **Rhode Island**

Winter of 1675-76 – Wampanoag Attacks

During the Fall of 1675, many of the towns along the Connecticut River in Wampanoag territory were attacked, including Hadly, Deerfield, and Springfield. The English, in turn, attacked the Narragansetts, who'd sheltered some of the Wampanoags. A great number of Narragansetts took refuge in a fort in a Rhode Island swamp, but the colonists overtook the settlement, burning it to the ground. The English success did not last long—the winter of 1675 – 76 saw dozens of Wampanoag attacks on colonial settlements. Some of the towns attacked by the Wampanoag include:

- | | | |
|--------------|---------------|------------|
| ❖ Chelmsford | ❖ Marlborough | ❖ Scituate |
| ❖ Groton | ❖ Medfield | ❖ Sudbury |
| ❖ Lancaster | ❖ Providence | ❖ Weymouth |

Find each town on Foster's map.

You'll notice that most of these towns are on a river. Europeans did not know the land as well as the Native peoples and relied on river-travel for transportation. Why do you think the Europeans did not return the attacks on the settlements of the Wampanoag during the winter of 1675-76?

The rivers were frozen, so the Europeans would have had to travel by land.

The attacks on Scituate and Weymouth made the English especially nervous. What major English town is nearby?

Plymouth

The Turning Tide

In Spring of 1676, the tide turned in favor of the colonists. While most of the English had been driven into fortified towns, the native warriors were dependent on European weapons and ammunition. With military supplies running low, the native peoples could not defend the areas where they fished and grew crops, and many were forced to relocate to Maine or land past the Connecticut river.

Find this image of Native American warriors:



Foster locates them in one of the areas to which the Wampanoag fled. What modern-day state is this? **Maine**

Wampanoag Defeat – Southern New England

By the end of spring 1676, the Narragansetts had been defeated, and with the help of their Indian allies, the Mohegans, the English had won back a number of their former settlements. A last battle with King Philip in August of 1676 ended the war in southern New England. Metacomet was shot in the heart during battle. The colonists quartered his body and displayed his severed head in Plymouth for two decades.

Wabanaki Victory – Northern New England

Even though the war was in its closing stages in southern New England, the Wabanaki of northern New England joined the effort during late summer of 1676. Over thirty colonists were killed or captured in Casco Bay alone. The residents of Portland, then called Falmouth, took refuge on Jewel's Island and Andrew's Island, from where they viewed Wabanakis razing their town. By September, those who escaped had taken refuge in southern New England. All English settlements east of the Saco river had been abandoned, and no colonist would live in Casco Bay for many years.

Find the mouth of the Saco River on Foster's map.



With all towns east of the Saco abandoned, which English settlement large enough for Foster to name was the furthest north? **Dover**

Reflection

Thousands of people lost their lives because of colonial ambitions in New England. King Philip's war was ironic in addition to violent. When the pilgrims first landed at Plymouth, it was the Wampanoags who helped them survive their first winters. In fact, Metacomet's father was Massasoit ("Great Leader") of the Wampanoags at the first Thanksgiving feast in Plymouth, where sixty years later, the severed head of his son would be on display.

If the Wampanoags had known about the future consequences of the European colonization, do you think they would have responded to the English differently? How?

If Europeans had known about the future consequences of their colonialism, do you think they would have done anything differently? How?

Foster's map reveals much about New England and its inhabitants in 1675. What are some particulars you can discover by examining Foster's map?
