

Colonization of New England

Introduction

The land that comprises modern-day New England was once the center of a series of violent conflicts. The Dutch, British, French, and various Native Peoples fought to control the land and its resources. We're going to look at a few maps of New England that were produced by mapmakers with radically different views of the region.

This map was made by a French explorer named Samuel de Champlain, who was governor of New France in what is now Canada.

This map depicts several important resources of New France and New England, including cod, minx, beavers, seals, and whales.

Interaction: Does anyone know why cod was such an important resource for Europeans? (it was a fish that preserved very well and, at first, was incredibly populous. Explorers reported that if you dropped a basket into the Gulf of Maine, you would pull up a basketful of cod. Skeletons of codfish from a few hundred years ago have shown that a full grown codfish can weigh as much as a full grown man. They have been so overfished that we have only very young cod left).

Interaction: Can anyone tell me why a French map of the New World will include pictures of minx and beavers? (they were especially interested in furs)

Interaction: Why would Europeans picture Native Americans on their maps? (there was a lot of curiosity about Native Americans in Europe)

The French typically had better relations with Native Americans than the British because they relied on them for fur trading. Also, unlike the British, the French were not really interested in agriculture so there was not as much land encroachment. One interesting part of this map is that it shows Lake Ontario, which was far beyond where Europeans had explored at this time. Champlain had to have been told of Lake Ontario from Native Americans.

This is the first map to use the name "New England." It was created by John Smith, who you may have heard about in connection with Jamestown colony.

John Smith was an incredibly ambitious man. This map accompanied his book, *Prospect of New England*, which he believed would bring him riches and power down the road.

Interaction: How could Smith have made money from his map and book? (They were intended to entice colonists to join him in creating a settlement in New England).

One of the lines used by Smith to describe New England was: "Here everyman may be master and owner of his own labor and land...if he have nothing but his hands he may...by industrie quickly grow rich"

This map of "Nova Belgii" claims land in New England and present-day New York for Holland.

While the author of this particular map was actually German, it is based on a map by a dutch mapmaker named Jansson.

Interaction: Which area do you think the dutch mapmaker was claiming for Holland. (The yellow land-- by far the biggest area).

Interaction: The image to the left of the map title shows a European king being presented with lumber. Why was lumber such an important resource during the colonial era? (necessary for buildings, ships, and fuel, etc.)

Interaction: The view of the city at the bottom of the map is labeled "Neu Amsterdam." What modern day city do you think that became? (New York. The Dutch and the English fought over land in North America, and eventually the British won "New Netherlands" and renamed the region "New York." "New Amsterdam" also was renamed "New York."

This is the first map of the region actually printed in New England. It illustrates a 1677 book about King Philip's War.

As British settlers began using land that belonged, even according to their own treaties, to Native Peoples, raids and battles broke out throughout New England.

Activity Transition

One of the many consequences of colonialism in New England was King Philip's War. We're going completing a worksheet that uses this last map to illustrate the story of the war.

