

Unit 1, Lesson 1: A Child's World

Maryland Social Studies Standards and Framework

Standard: 2.0 Peoples and Nations of the World

Topic: Native Cultures

Standard: 5.0 History

Topic: Settlement and Beginning of New Societies

MCCR Grade 4

MCCR Standards: RL.4.1, RL.4.7, SS.6.5

Objective

Students will:

- Compare and describe the elements of culture of Native American societies concerning agriculture, hunting, and other foodways.
- Compare and describe the elements of culture including shelter, recreation, education, oral traditions, art, music, and language of Native American societies.

Essential Questions

How do the lives of Native Americans 400 years ago compare to yours today?

Grade Level

3rd-5th

Teacher Background

When European explorers first came to the Americas, there were over 10 million people already living here, speaking over 500 different languages. Along the east coast of North America, immense forests of huge trees covered much of the land. The native groups that lived here adapted a lifestyle that was oriented to these forests. These groups are collectively referred to as the Eastern Woodland Indians.

Maryland's Woodland Indians share many cultural and social similarities to the groups living in surrounding states. The Powhatans, who lived in the Virginia tidewater coastal plain, were encountered by the English in 1607 when Jamestown was first settled. The writings of Captain John Smith and other early colonists provide us with a picture of Woodland Indian lifestyles at the time.

The story of Pocahontas saving John Smith has become part of American mythology and nearly everyone recognizes her name. Pocahontas did actually exist, and was the daughter of Powhatan, the powerful chief that controlled most of eastern Virginia. Anthropologists and historians have provided a more accurate picture of who Pocahontas really was and how she would have lived. Her childhood lifestyle is representative of Woodland Indian culture and society in the Late Woodland time period.

Lesson Procedure

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1. Briefly introduce Pocahontas to the class. Explain that she was a real girl who lived in Virginia 400 years ago at the time that the Europeans were first settling in the area. Explain that there are a lot of myths and romantic stories that have developed over the years that are not necessarily true. For instance, the Disney movie is a fantasy tale and not real.
2. Read aloud "Young Pocahontas in the Indian World" to the class.
3. Either individually or in small groups have the students fill out the A Child's World worksheet. This may also be done as a whole class and written on the blackboard.
4. Bring the class back together and discuss the results.
 - a. What are the differences?
 - b. Are there any similarities?
5. Ask the students "Would you have been able to live with Pocahontas? Could you survive without modern conveniences?"

Materials

Book: *Young Pocahontas in the Indian World* by Helen C. Rountree

A Child's World Worksheet

Related Recourses:

Feest, Christian F. *The Powhatan Tribes*

Porter, Frank W., III *Indians in Maryland and Delaware: A Critical Bibliography*. The Newberry Library Center for the History of the American Indian Bibliography Series. Indiana University Press, Bloomington. 1997

Rountree, Helen C. *The Powhatan Indians of Virginia: Their Traditional Culture*. University of Oklahoma Press: The Civilization of the American Indian Series. 1990

Rountree, Helen C. and Thomas E. Davidson *Eastern Shore Indians of Virginia and Maryland*. University Press of Virginia, Charlottesville. 1997