

## **Lesson 18**

# **Colonial Changes**

How was the way of life different for the colonists?  
What was the attitude of the colonist towards the land and water?  
How did the Native Americans react?

**GOAL** To compare and contrast lifestyles of the colonists and Native Americans

**OBJECTIVES** Students will:

- ✓ read a story that reflects colonial lifestyles
- ✓ identify particular aspects of colonization, such as land changes, water changes, houses, foods, and community differences.
- ✓ identify what the colonist did for a living

**MATERIALS** story, paper, pencils, poster board or butcher block, markers

### **CORE CURRICULUM CONTENT STANDARDS**

- Language Arts 1(1,11-14), 4(4,5)
- Science 2(4), 7(5), 8(7), 14(1-3, 5)
- Social Studies 1(1,3,5,6), 2(1,3), 3(1-3), 4(1,5)
- Arts 1(3,4), 4(1-3)

**VOCABULARY** sawmills, traders, colonial, gorge

### **PROCEDURES**

1. Begin by referring to previous lesson about Native Americans. Explains that the story about the river is continued and depicts the colonial way of life.

(Excerpt from *A River Ran Wild*, by Lynne Cherry)

“The Native Americans had lived for generations by the clear, clean flowing river when one day a pale-skinned trader came with a boatload full of treasures. He brought shiny metal knives, colored beads, and cooking kettles, mirrors, tools, and bright cloth. His wares seemed like magic. The Native Americans welcomed him, traded furs, and soon a trading post was built. In the many years that followed, the settler’s village and others like it grew. The settlers worked together to clear land by cutting down forests, which they thoughts were full of danger – wilderness that they would conquer. They hunted wolves and beaver, killing much more than they needed. Extra pelts were sent to England in return for money and goods.

The settlers built sawmills along the river that the river's current powered. They built dams to make the millponds to store water. They cut down the towering forest and floated tree trunks down the river. The logs were cut up into lumber, which was used for building houses. The settlers built fences for their pastures, plowed the fields, and planted crops. They called the land their own and told Indians not to trespass. Hunting land disappeared as the settlers cleared the forest. Indian fishing rights vanished as the settlers that lived during that time claimed the river. The Indians' ways were disrupted and they began to fight the settlers. The settlers' rifles drove the Indians away from the land. Through a hundred years of fighting, the river was healthy, still flowing wild and free. Muskrats, fish and turtles still swam from bank to bank. Deer still came to drink from the river, and owls, raccoons, and beaver fed there."

1. Have students work collectively in groups to answer the questions.
2. Compare the colonist way of life to the Native American.
  - a. What did the colonist look like? How did this compare to the Native Americans?
  - b. How did they make their homes?
  - c. What did they eat?
  - d. Why did they clear the forests?
  - e. What are sawmills and how were they powered?
  - f. How was the way they treated the land and river different from the Native American way of life?
  - g. Approximately what time frame or dates did the colonists arrive?
  - h. How did they travel?
3. Ask what story tells of how the Native Americans felt when their "ways" were disrupted. Ask what happened. Ask how they would feel if you lived during that time. (from a colonist perspective and from a Native American viewpoint)
4. Referring back to the previous lesson, remind students that there were tall forests during the Native American times. Later, when the colonists arrived, the story mentions that the colonists cut down the trees for fear of the woods, pastures for the animals and to grow crops on farmland. Ask what this indicates about the trees that they see where they live. How old are they?
5. Early settlers that went from Windsor to Simsbury had to pass the Tariffville Gorge. The same settlers that had to escape back to Windsor because of the wars and raids of the Native Americans. This is a deep, narrow valley or cut in rock formations where falls are located. Instruct students to imagine they had to travel by foot or by horse in this manner and cut across a gorge. It was very dangerous and people could easily be swept down the river to drown. (*The spray of water from the falls, rapids in the river below, the rocks were very slippery and sharp*) Describe what you think the settlers experienced at the gorge. Draw a picture.

## **EXTENSIONS**

1. Create a colonial farm, pasture and house. What did it look like?

## **GLOSSARY**

**colonial** - of or relating to the 13 British colonies that became the original United States of America

**gorge** - a deep, narrow passage with steep rocky sides; a ravine

**sawmills** - a plant where timber is sawed into boards

**traders** - one that trades; a dealer