

Lesson 20

Colonial Times

What did the settlers think of America when they arrived?
How did settlers alter the landscape?
How has the land changed in modern times?

GOAL To understand that the settlers altered the landscape

OBJECTIVES Students will:

- ✓ read a letter written by a colonist upon his arrival to New England
- ✓ describe the land then and compare to modern day changes
- ✓ write a letter describing current land usage

MATERIALS letter copies, pencil, lined paper for writing, construction paper for drawing, crayons or markers

CORE CURRICULUM CONTENT STANDARDS

- Language Arts 1(1,5), 2(2-4), 3(3), 4(4)
- Science 8(2,6), 14(1-3)
- Social Studies 1(1,2), 4(1,2,5), 9(1,5)

VOCABULARY colonist

PROCEDURES

1. Begin by explaining that when the settlers arrived from Europe, they found a land inhabited by the Native Americans. The Native Americans lived in tribes and taught the colonists many things about the land and water: how to care for it, how to plant, how to hunt and how to fish.
2. Distribute copies of a letter from William Hilton after his arrival to New England (letter at end of lesson). Have students read letter and write down descriptions of Hilton's perception of the area.
3. Instruct students to draw a picture of what he saw and imagine the sounds he heard.
4. Then, instruct students to imagine they are arriving at the town in which they live. They have arrived by ship and/or other means and are waiting by the river. Have students write a letter to someone they left behind. Describe the scene.
5. Ask the students to compare how the area has changed from Native American times as a result of the Colonist settlements.

EXTENSIONS

1. Have students conduct research to find other letters written during the 1600's or 1700's. Have them describe what was written in the letters.
2. Ask students how the land changed with the colonists' arrival in New England.
3. Ask what the colonists' primary occupation were (*farmers*).
4. Discuss how houses were built.
5. Compare Colonial hunting to Native American methods.
6. Trace the history of the Farmington River from Native American times through Industrialism. Explain how the river was affected.

RESOURCES

<http://members.aol.com/calebj/hilton.html>

GLOSSARY

colonist - an original settler or founder of a colony

A letter written by William Hilton after his arrival in New England on the ship *Fortune*, 1621

Loving Cousin,

At our arrival at New Plymouth, in New England, we found all our friends and planters in good health, though they were left sick and weak, with very small means; the Indian round us were peaceable and friendly; the country very pleasant and temperate, yielding naturally, of itself, great store of fruits, as vines of sorts, in great abundance. There was likewise walnuts, chestnuts, small nuts and plums with much variety of flowers, roots and herbs, no less pleasant than wholesome and profitable. No place hath more gooseberries and strawberries, nor better. Timer of sorts you have in England doth cover the land, that affords beasts of diverse sorts, and great flocks of turkeys, quails, pigeons, and partridges; many great lakes abounding with fish, fowl, beavers and otters. The sea affords us great plenty of all excellent sorts of sea-fish, as the rivers and isles doth variety of wild fowl of most useful sorts. Mines we find, to our thinking; but neither the goodness nor quality we know. Better grain cannot be than the Indian corn, if we plant it upon as good ground as a man need desire. We are all freeholders; the rent-day doth not trouble us; and all those good blessings we have, of which and what we list in their seasons for taking. Our company are, for the most part, very religious, honest people; the word of God sincerely taught us ever Sabbath; so that I know not any thin a contented mind can here want. I desire your friendly care to send my wife and children to me, where I wish all the friends I have in England; and so I rest

Your loving kinsman,

William Hilton