
Pocahontas

WORKSHEET A

Native North American Pocahontas was born around 1595 on the shores of Chesapeake Bay in Virginia. She was the daughter of the chief of a tribe of Algonquian Indians. The nearest town from her village was Jamestown. English traders and soldiers had settled in the area and made Jamestown their base.

Pocahontas, whose real name was Matoaka, used to go to Jamestown and visit the English. When she was twelve years old, Pocahontas saved an English captain, John Smith, from death at the hands of her father, Powhatan. Before Powhatan and his men could kill Smith, she laid her head on his to protect him. She became friends with Smith, which brought peace between the English and the Indians.

However, Smith was badly injured in an accident in 1609 and returned to England. When Pocahontas next visited Jamestown she was told (wrongly) that Smith was dead.

By 1613 relations between the English and the Native Americans had worsened and Pocahontas was taken hostage by English Captain, Samuel Argall. He wanted chief Powhatan to free his English prisoners and promised the safe release of Pocahontas in return.

While she was held at Jamestown, Pocahontas was converted to Christianity and baptized with a new name, Rebecca. A successful tobacco planter, John Rolfe, fell in love with her and asked Powhatan and the English governor Sir Thomas Dale for permission to marry her. They married on April 5th, 1614 and the marriage brought peace to Jamestown once more.

In 1616 Pocahontas sailed to England with her husband and several other Native Americans. She was dressed in beautiful clothes, received as a princess and even introduced to King James I.

In 1617, just as they were starting their voyage back to Virginia, it became clear that Pocahontas was very ill with tuberculosis. She was taken ashore at Gravesend, only a few kilometres downriver from London, where she died. She was 21 years old.

Pocahontas and her husband had a son in 1615, Thomas Rolfe. After her death, John Rolfe decided that their son should stay in England to be educated. John Rolfe returned to Virginia immediately, but his son didn't return until he was a young man, in 1640.

Pocahontas crossword

WORKSHEET B

Answer the questions. Write the answers in the crossword to reveal the meaning of the nickname Pocahontas.

1. Pocahontas was born on the shores of which bay? (10)
2. Which Native American tribe did she belong to? (10)
3. What was her real name? (7)
4. What was her husband's surname? (5)
5. What was the first name of the man who took her hostage? (6)
6. What was the surname of the English governor? (4)
7. What religion did Pocahontas convert to? (12)
8. Where were the English soldiers and traders based? (9)
9. What was Pocahontas's father's name? (8)
10. Pocahontas's husband was a tobacco _____. (6)
11. What was Pocahontas's Christian name? (7)
12. Which famous person did she meet in England? (4,5,1)
13. Which American state (named after Queen Elizabeth I) did Pocahontas live in? (8)
14. What did Pocahontas die of? (12)
15. What is the nearest large city to Gravesend? (6)

