

— THE STORY OF —
AMERICA



— 1600–1763 —

ESTABLISHMENT
AND GROWTH
OF COLONIES

1607

The Virginia Company starts a colony at Jamestown.

1619

The first slave ship arrives in Jamestown.

1620

The *Mayflower* lands at Plymouth.

1624

The Dutch start New Amsterdam.

1630

The Massachusetts Bay Colony forms.

The Aquinnah Cliffs, located on the present-day island of Martha's Vineyard near Cape Cod, Massachusetts, are a sacred place for the Wampanoag people. Moshup Beach is named for the being who the Wampanoag believe created the area.

SECTION 1

Early American Colonies (1600–1659)

It was 1600. The sun rose. A new century dawned on North America. One group greeted it first. These were the Wampanoag people. They lived in the easternmost part of the continent. Their home was named the Dawnland. They called themselves the People of the First Light.

In some ways, their home looked the same as it does today. Cape Cod had its familiar hook. North of it was the curve of Boston Bay. To the south was the triangular island of Martha's Vineyard. But the names were different. Instead of Plymouth or Providence, there were Patuxet, Pocasset, and Pokanoket.

Every summer, the coasts filled with people. Whole villages moved to the shore. Smoke rose from dome houses. Men caught fish and trapped oysters. Women harvested crops and gathered fruit. Children played in shallow bays.

This Wampanoag home is called a *wetu*.



The people of the First Light celebrated many firsts. Their holidays honored new beginnings. One was for the crow that delivered the first seed of corn. They also celebrated the first strawberries of spring.

These people greeted ships from faraway lands. Fishing boats came from France, Portugal, Spain, Ireland, and England. The boats brought goods from around the world. But at the dawn of the century, something new was about to come ashore.

The Iroquois built longhouses using wood and bark. Many families lived together in each longhouse.

CHAPTER 1

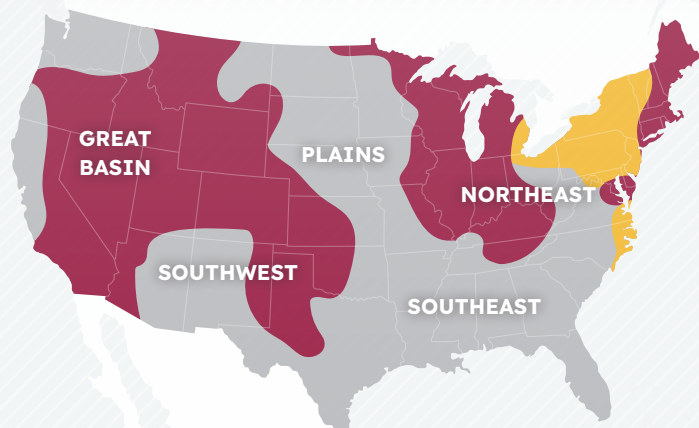
North America in the 1600s

North America was full of people in the early 1600s. It was also diverse. Hundreds of Native American tribes spread across every region. These included the coastal peoples of the Pacific Northwest. Pueblo cultures lived in the Southwest. Tribes also resided on the plains and in the mountains.

Sometimes many communities in a region shared a similar language and culture. Historians grouped these tribes into larger language clusters. Two of these groups played a major role in early American history. One was the Algonquians. The other was the Iroquois.

1600

NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGE GROUPS



Language Groups

Algonquian Iroquoian

Algonquian-speaking tribes covered the northeast coastal area. These groups included the Massachusett, Narragansett, and Wampanoag. The Delaware, Powhatan, and Chesapeake tribes lived farther south. Iroquois-speaking tribes dominated farther inland near the eastern Great Lakes. They included the Mohawk, Oneida, and Seneca.

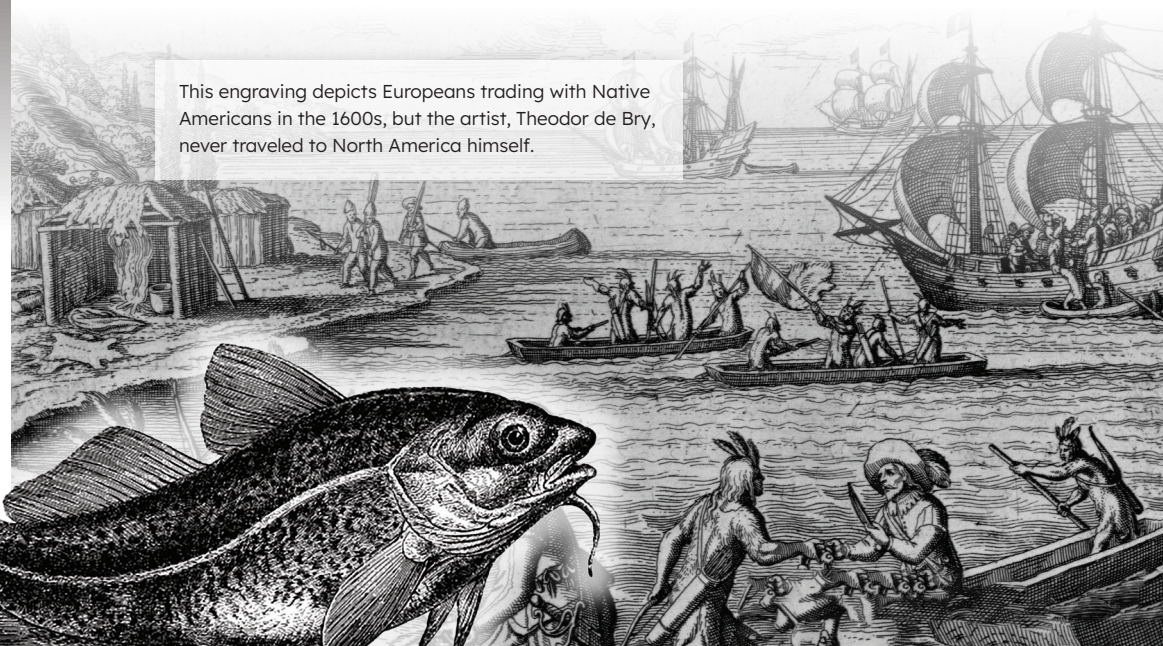
European Presence

By the early 1600s, Europeans were in North America too. But their settlements were few. The Spanish had built towns in Florida. They also founded a colony in the Southwest. It was called New Mexico. Priests set up missions there. These had churches and schools. Converting Pueblo people to Christianity was the goal.

The French also had colonies. Together, these were called New France. The first settlements were in Canada, near the Gulf of St. Lawrence. They included Acadia and Quebec. Settlers there worked in the fur trade.

European fishing boats were common. These came from the British Isles and Western Europe. North Atlantic waters were rich in cod. Sailors stopped along the coast. They traded with Native Americans. But they did not stay long.

This engraving depicts Europeans trading with Native Americans in the 1600s, but the artist, Theodor de Bry, never traveled to North America himself.

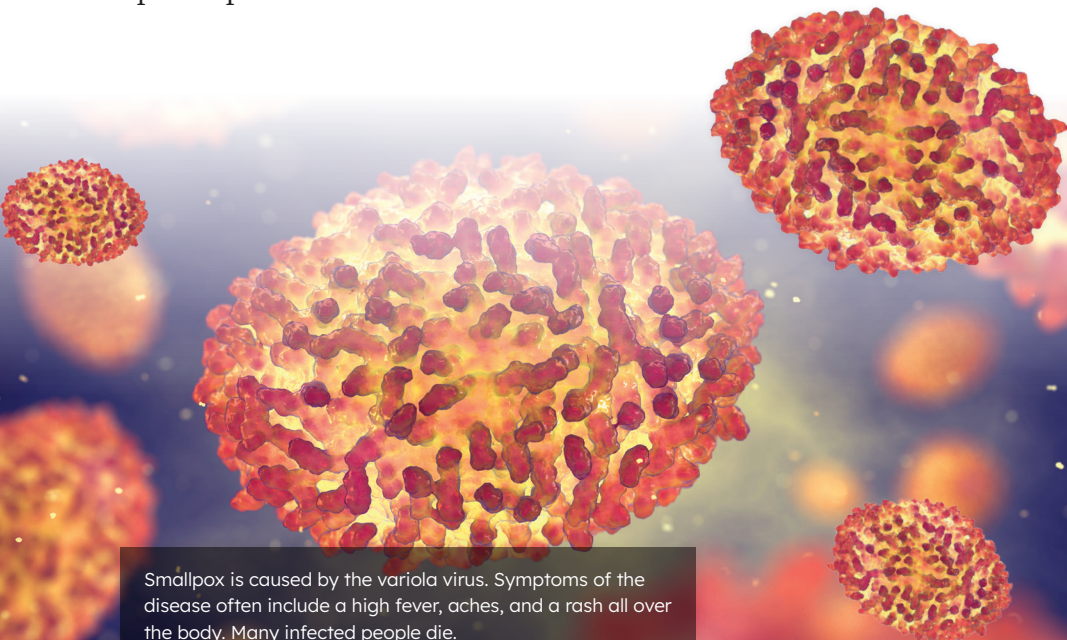


1600

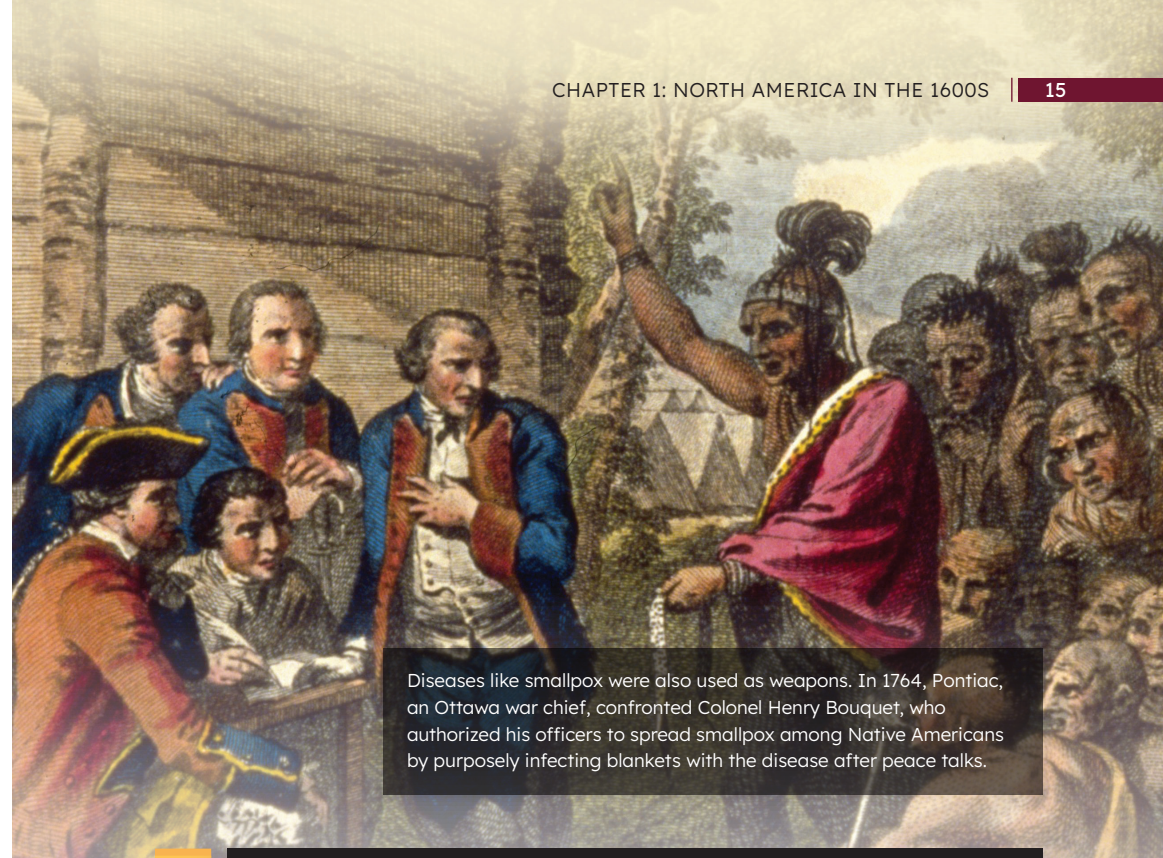
Epidemics

The eastern coast was largely populated in 1600. More than 100,000 Native Americans lived in New England alone. Villages stretched for miles along the shore. Europeans had explored this area. They were interested in settling there. But it was already too crowded. The Algonquians also defended themselves well.

In just a few decades, all of that changed. A series of **epidemics** swept through the area. These brought waves of death to Native communities. Busy coastal towns turned into graveyards. Germs from overseas were the cause. When Europeans visited, they brought diseases. These included smallpox, yellow fever, and the plague. Native Americans were not immune. Their bodies did not know how to fight these diseases. Sickness passed from tribe to tribe. In some, up to 90 percent died.



Smallpox is caused by the variola virus. Symptoms of the disease often include a high fever, aches, and a rash all over the body. Many infected people die.



Diseases like smallpox were also used as weapons. In 1764, Pontiac, an Ottawa war chief, confronted Colonel Henry Bouquet, who authorized his officers to spread smallpox among Native Americans by purposely infecting blankets with the disease after peace talks.



THROUGH ANOTHER LENS

The Great Dying One of the worst epidemics took place from 1616 to 1619. This became known as the Great Dying. Disease swept through New England. It killed 50 to 90 percent of the Massachusetts, Pennacook, and Wampanoag people. Entire towns and villages disappeared. The exact illness that took the lives of all of these people is unknown. It reportedly caused victims' skin to turn yellow and fall off. This could have been smallpox, hepatitis, or the plague. Lives were claimed so quickly that there were not enough living people left to bury all the dead.

Soon after, the first English colonists arrived. They found the shores mysteriously quiet. Most of the Native people had died. Only their skeletons were left.

1600

1619

○ 1607 1620 1624 1630 1660 1663 1664 1676 1681 1692 1718 1732 1739 1754 1758 1763 ○

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