

Historical Princess Study Guide

Pocahontas

The Peacemaker



Names: Matoaka, Amonute, Pocahontas, Rebecca

Born: apx. 1596 in Werowocomoco (present day Gloucester County, Virginia)

Died: March 1617 (age 20-21) in Gravesend, Kent, England

Spouses: Kocoum (possibly), John Rolfe 1614

Children: daughter Ka-Okee (possibly), Thomas Rolfe 1615

Father: Wahunsenacawh/ Chief Powhatan

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pocahontas>



Did this really happen? English history based on letters from John Smith says yes, Native American oral history says probably not.

Map of Chesapeake Region of Virginia 1612

Map created by Captain John Smith



Current Map of Virginia



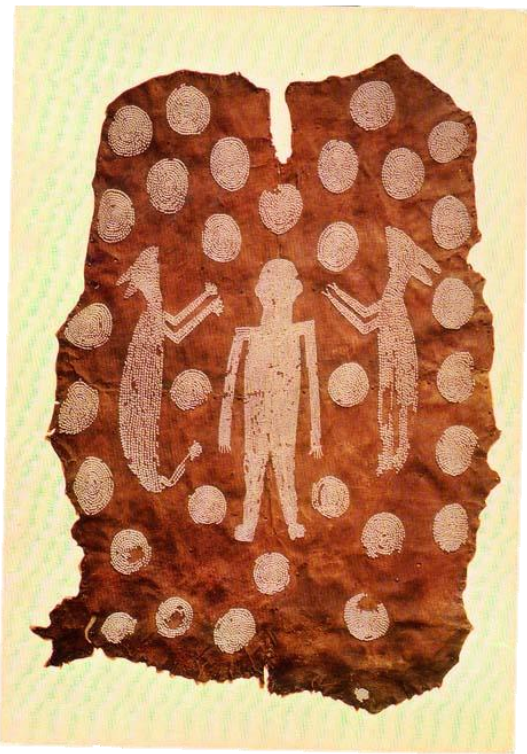
Era Literature/ Historical Fiction

- William Shakespeare
- Thomas Dekker
- Jamestown, A Novel, by Matthew Sharpe (historical fiction meets dystopian future)
- Pocahontas, by Joseph Bruchac (fiction account of John Smith and Pocahontas)

Non-Fiction

- Pocahontas and the Powhatans, by Reese Donaghey
- Pocahontas, by Randy T. Gosda
- Pocahontas, a Life in Two Worlds, by Victoria Garrett Jones

Powhatan Art



C42. POWHATAN'S MANTLE. Ceremonial cloak given by Chief Powhatan, father of Pocahontas, to Captain Christopher Newport in 1608.

Ashmolean Museum, Oxford



The four totem poles are a part of a six totem pole installation that vary in height and meaning. They have been "fire-engraved" with pictographs that relate to key events from the history and mythology of Virginia's Indians.

(left to right)

1. "Totem to Powhatan", 7ft.
2. "Pocahontas/ John Smith Story", 6ft
3. "Attan Akamik", 5ft
4. "Origin of Men and Women", 4ft

Discussion/ Essay Questions

1. Pocahontas had many names. What name was she born with? What did the other names mean/ represent?
2. Historic accounts differ on what really happened with Pocahontas and John Smith. Research and debate from both sides of the argument. Which account has the greater evidence?
3. Did Pocahontas marry before John Rolfe? What happened to her “first husband”? Was she in love with Rolfe or forced to marry him?
4. How did Pocahontas change after living with the settlers?
5. How did the English people treat Pocahontas on her visit?
6. Discuss the different opinions of how Pocahontas died. Do we know where her body is today?

Activities

- Make a timeline of Pocahontas' life.
- Make a Yehakin (Powhatan home)
- Print a blank US map. Research and mark where many Native American tribes lived.
- Research more about Native Americans, how they lived back in the 1600s and how their culture has changed since then.
- Just for fun watch Disney's Pocahontas and Pocahontas II. Discuss the real version (or as close to real as you can find) of historic events vs. Disney's version.





Historical Princesses Study Guides – Pocahontas

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Kendra Bott