

# Knowledge Organiser - Pocahontas

Pocahontas is significant because she was one of the first Native Americans to visit Britain. Pocahontas married an Englishman, John Rolfe. Pocahontas was very brave, as she left her home town to come to Britain. A famous story tells she saved an Englishman named John Smith from being killed by her father, however this is not a true story.



## Important people

Powhatan	Matoaka	known by her nickname, Pocahontas, a Powhatan Native American woman born in the late 1500s who travelled to England and met the King and Queen of England
	Chief Powhatan	Pocahontas' father and the chief of Tsenacommacah, in Virginia
	Kocoum	thought to be Pocahontas' first husband
English	John Smith	an explorer who helped set up a colony in Virginia and met Pocahontas when she was a young girl
	John Rolfe	Pocahontas' husband, who was an English colonist
	King James I	King of England when Pocahontas visited in the 1600s
	Queen Anne	Queen of England when Pocahontas visited in the 1600s

## Important facts:

Native Americans are referred to as American Indians because when Columbus discovered America, at first, he thought he was in India – the name stuck!

Native Americans lived throughout North and South America. In the United States there were Native Americans in Alaska, Hawaii, and the mainland of the United States. Different tribes and cultures lived in different areas. In the middle of the country lived the Plains Indians.

The Native Americans were grouped into tribes or nations usually based on the area they lived in and their culture such as their religion, customs, and language. There were hundreds of tribes throughout the United States when Columbus first arrived. Many of them are well known such as the Cherokee, Apache, and the Navajo.

Today, some of the descendants of the original American Indians live on reservations. These are areas of land set aside specifically for Native Americans. This helps to protect their heritage and culture. However, only around 30% live on reservations. The rest live outside the reservations just like anyone else.



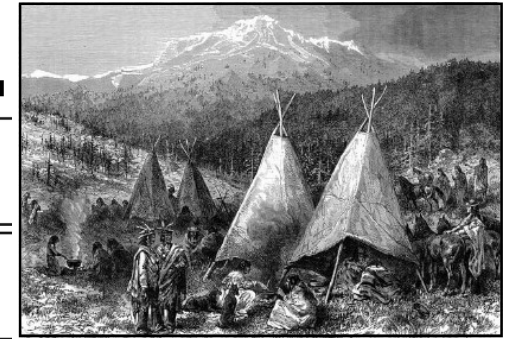
The statue of Pocahontas in the yard of St George's Church, Gravesend



Date of birth: 1595



Date of death: March, 1617



## Timeline of events

1596	Matoaka (known as Pocahontas) is born in Powhatan territory in Virginia.
1608	Over 100 English colonists travel to Pocahontas' homeland. They take land to set up a colony. Pocahontas meets John Smith and possibly saves his life.
1609	Pocahontas helps the English colonists survive winter by bringing them food. There is a war between the Powhatan and the English because the English colonists take more Powhatan land.
1610	Pocahontas possibly marries a Powhatan man, Kocoum, and has a child.
1613	Pocahontas is kidnapped by the English. They want to make her father give up English prisoners. While a prisoner, Pocahontas is baptised by the English and given a new name, Rebecca.
1614	Pocahontas marries John Rolfe, an English colonist. They have a son, called Thomas. The war between the Powhatan and English pauses.
1616	Pocahontas travels to England. She meets the King and Queen.
1617	Pocahontas becomes very ill while travelling back home from England. She is buried in Gravesend, England.

## Vocabulary

artefact	an object that is of historical or cultural interest, made by a person
colony	a country, or an area, that is controlled by a different, more powerful country
colonist	a person who tries to set up a community on land that is new to them, but that might already have other people living there
evidence	something (object, picture, writing, etc.) that makes us believe something is true
kidnap	to take someone away and keep them as a prisoner
Powhatan	the Powhatan people are one group of Native Americans that lived in Virginia before English colonists arrived in America – some still live in this area now
remarkable	if something is remarkable, it is unusual or surprising, so people notice it
significant	important enough that it has an effect, is noticed or has meaning
territory	land that is controlled by a country or leader
Virginia	a state in the United States of America that was one of the first areas to be settled in