

# Colonial Leaders: Anne Hutchinson

By Library of Congress and National Park Service, adapted by Newsela staff on 04.17.17

Word Count **464**

Level **550L**



An undated drawing of Anne Hutchinson.

**Synopsis:** Anne Hutchinson lived from 1591 to 1643. She was the first woman in colonial America to be a religious leader. Hutchinson had some unusual religious ideas. She got into trouble for these ideas and for daring to teach men.

## Early Life

Anne Hutchinson was born in England around 1591. Her father was a Puritan minister. Puritans were fed up with the Church of England. They didn't just want to listen to what church leaders thought. They wanted to understand God's will. They thought the way to do that was by reading and following the Bible closely. As a young girl, Hutchinson read through all the religious books in her father's library.

## Coming To America

When she was 21, Anne married William Hutchinson. Like her, he was a Puritan.

Life in England was hard for Puritans. Many were punished for their beliefs.

In 1634, the Hutchinsons moved to America. They settled in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. They settled in the city of Boston. The colony was run by Puritans.

## **Beliefs And Teachings**

Puritans believed that God gives good Christians the gift of grace. They believed being in a state of grace means you are saved from going to hell. They thought that salvation, or being saved, leads to heaven.

Many Massachusetts Bay leaders believed that good deeds showed that a person had been saved by God. For example, you might give money to the church. Or, you could give food to the poor.

Hutchinson thought differently. It didn't just matter what a person did, she said. What matters is what is in a person's heart. She said only God knows if you truly believe.

In 1636, Hutchinson began meeting with other women to talk about her ideas. Word of her teachings began to spread quickly. Soon, men began showing up at her meetings too.

The leaders of the colony did not like Hutchinson's ideas. They were also angry that a woman was teaching men. At the time, all religious leaders were men.

## **On Trial**

In November 1637, Hutchinson was arrested. She was charged with heresy, which is the spreading of religious ideas that religious leaders don't agree with.

For two days Hutchinson fought back in court. For a time, she seemed to be winning. Then, she went too far.

Hutchinson claimed that God had spoken to her directly. She said he had promised to punish the Puritans if they harmed her. Her words only angered the court.

Hutchinson was found guilty of heresy. She was ordered to leave the colony.

## **Exile And Death**

In 1638, Hutchinson moved to the new colony of Rhode Island. While there, she helped found the town of Portsmouth.

In 1643, Hutchinson was killed by Siwanoy Indians. Some believed Puritan leaders were behind the killings.

# Early British Colonies in America

By UShistory.org, adapted by Newsela staff on 03.28.17

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Level **560L**



Woman in Puritan attire seated at spinning wheel by fireplace. This photo is a recreation of what Puritan life looked like in the 1600s, and was taken in 1906. Photo is courtesy of the Library of Congress.

In the early 1600s, many Europeans sailed across the Atlantic to America. At the time, America was known as the New World.

In 1607, English settlers built the first European settlement in America. It was in Jamestown, Virginia. Soon, that settlement grew into a colony.

The English eventually had 13 colonies in America. They were divided into three groups. There were the New England colonies, the middle colonies and the Southern colonies. All 13 later became states.

## **New England colonies**

There were four New England colonies. These were Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

The settlers who founded the New England colonies did not come to America in search of riches. They came because they did not like the Church of England. They wanted to follow God in their

own way. America seemed like the perfect place for a new start.

### **Pilgrims and Puritans**

There were two groups of early settlers in New England. They were known as the Pilgrims and the Puritans. Both groups had been treated very badly in England because of their religion.

By the early 1600s, both groups felt England was no place for them. They decided to set out for the New World.

In 1620, a group of Pilgrims arrived in Massachusetts. They landed at Plymouth and founded a settlement. That settlement was the very beginning of New England.

### **Middle colonies**

There were four middle colonies. These were Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey and Delaware.

New England was mostly settled by people from England. The middle colonies were different. The settlers came from all over Europe. People from England, Scotland, Ireland, Sweden, the Netherlands, Germany and France lived side by side.

Soon, there were many farms in the middle colonies. They grew wheat and corn. These farms helped feed all the American colonies.

### **Southern colonies**

There were five Southern colonies. These were Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia.

The Southern colonies grew cash crops. These are crops grown so they can be sold. The two most important were tobacco and cotton.

### **Economy based on slave labor**

Growing tobacco and cotton was hard work. African-American slaves were forced to do it. They were treated badly.

Slaves were owned by rich whites. They could be bought and sold.

Many rich Southerners built huge, fancy houses for themselves. These mansions were like the homes of lords and ladies in England.



# Colonial America Depended on the Enslavement of Indigenous People

By Smithsonian.com, adapted by Newsela staff on 04.21.17

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Level **540L**



This 1890 watercolor by Charles Stanley Reinhart depicts a scene from the Pequot War. In 1637, a Pequot village in Connecticut was attacked and the Pequot survivors were sold as slaves. Image: Wikimedia Commons

American history is complicated. There are happy times and sad times. Sometimes, students are not taught the full story. For example, when Europeans and Native Americans met, it was not always peaceful.

Many Europeans came to the United States in the 1500s and 1600s. They were called colonists. They wanted to make a home here. They lived in New England on the East Coast. Native Americans had already lived there for thousands of years before the Europeans arrived.

Margaret Ellen Newell teaches history. She writes that the colonists made Native Americans into slaves. Slavery is when one person owns someone else. They force them to work for no pay.

## **"A story that did not get told"**

Many historians did not write about Native American slavery. It was a story that did not get told.

Newell found a list of Native American slaves kept by colonists. She was surprised. She had been taught that New England colonists did not keep Native Americans as slaves. But that was not true.

New England "depended on slavery," Tanya H. Lee writes. She is a reporter. She said sometimes colonists used slaves to keep their homes in order.

There were two wars during this time. Colonists fought them to keep Native Americans in slavery.

### **Colonists fight for land**

In the 1630s, the Pequot tribe lived in New England. European colonists wanted the Pequot's land. The colonists attacked the Pequots. They burned a Pequot village. This killed 400 to 700 Pequots. The other Pequots who lived were captured. Then, they were sold as slaves.

### **Native Americans fight back**

King Philip's War took place in the 1670s. Native Americans fought back against the colonists. They did not want to be slaves. Native Americans lost the war. After the war ended, almost half of all Native Americans in New England were forced to be slaves.

### **A sad part of America's history**

English colonists were not the only ones to have slaves. The Spanish used Native American slaves in "most of their colonies," writes Alan Gallay. He is an American historian.

Native American slaves helped the colonists make more money. They did hard work but were not paid.

In the late 1700s, many slaves were captured in Africa. They were brought to the U.S. Then, the number of Native Americans used as slaves went down. Also, many Native American tribes were forced to move to the western U.S.

The history of Native Americans as slaves is a sad part of America's history. It is also an important story to understand.

# The New England colonies and Native Americans

By National Geographic Society, adapted by Newsela staff on 09.10.19

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Level **740L**

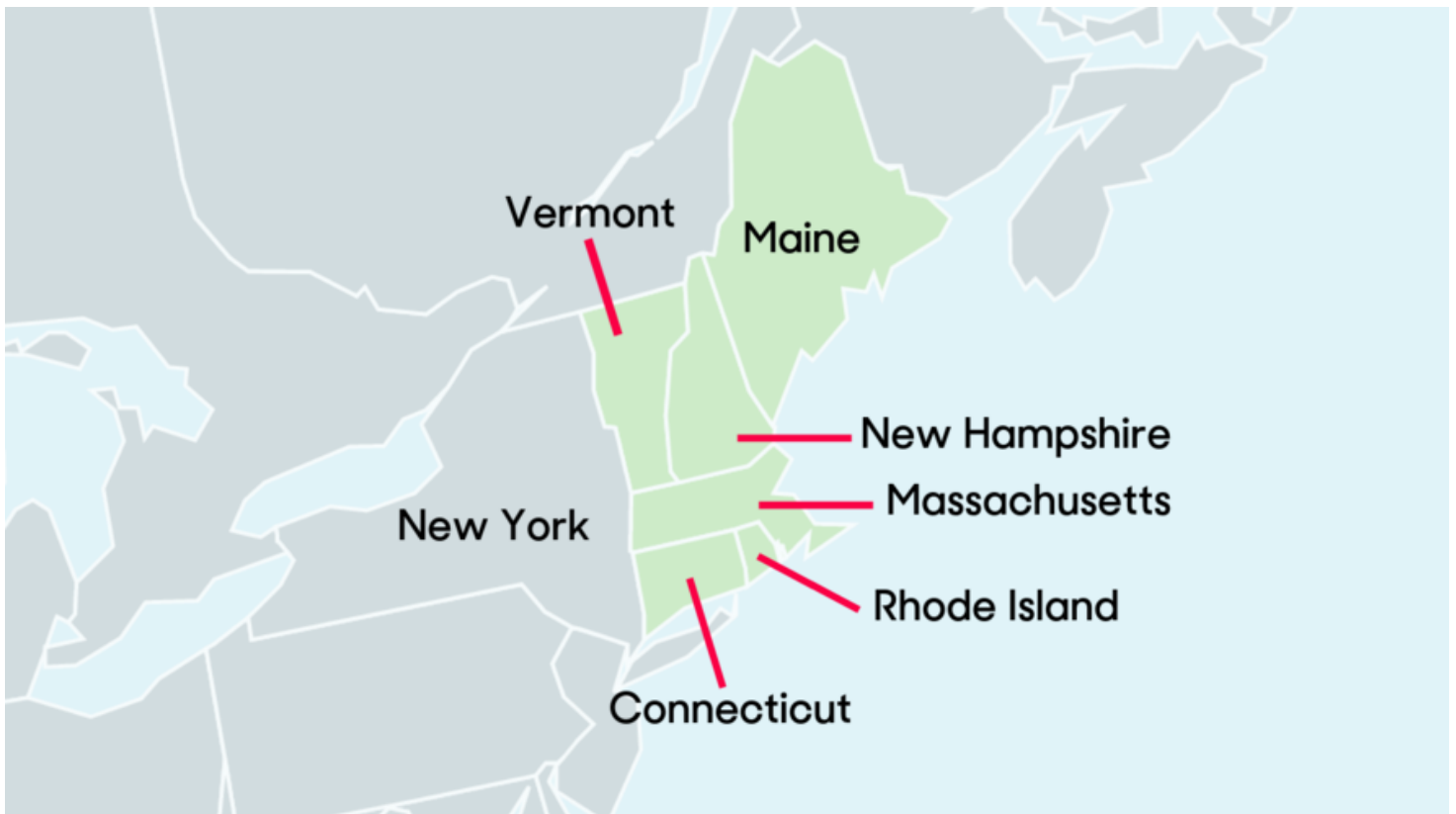


Image 1. A map that shows the states in New England -- Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine and Vermont. Map from: mapchart.net / Newsela staff.

## An Overview

The first English settlers and Native Americans tried to be good neighbors. They shared a common interest in trading and spiritual life. Yet this relationship soon fell apart, because of disease and other problems. Eventually, the two sides went to war.



## Complex History

The story of Thanksgiving is a long-lasting American legend. In 1621, pilgrims sat down with the local Wampanoag Indians. Together, they celebrated the first successful harvest. It sounds like a great story. Two cultures came together and shared the bounty of the land. However, the history between colonists and the local Native American tribes is not so simple. There was trade and cooperation, but also bloody conflict.

## Finding Common Ground

The first English settlers arrived in New England in the 1600s. About 60,000 Native Americans were already living there. At first, the two sides fought over territory. Still, colonists were able to build thriving colonies with the help of the Native Americans.

Trade was one of the first bridges between the colonists and local Native American. The colonists needed their help in order to survive and prosper in the New World. For their part, the Native Americans were interested in building alliances. Because of this economy based on trade, Plymouth Colony was able to support itself within five years.

Both sides benefited from trade and bartering. The Native Americans provided skins, hides, food, knowledge, and other crucial materials and supplies. The settlers traded beads and other goods.

Ideas were traded alongside physical goods. Wampum was a type of currency used like money. However, it sometimes carried religious meaning, as well. The first Bible printed in the New World was actually in the Algonquin language. The communication between the colonists and Native Americans was not just political or practical. It was spiritual, as well.

Puritan Christianity was the main religion of the New England colonies. Over time, some colonists began to move away from Puritanism. Their ideas about Native Americans also changed. A famous example of this is Roger Williams. He rebelled against Puritanism and began the colony of Rhode Island. Williams believed that colonists should buy the land from the Native Americans. They had no right to take it for free.

Over time, however, relations between the colonies and the local tribes began to break apart. The colonists carried diseases, like smallpox, over from England. The Native Americans had no natural defenses against the illnesses and many tribes were wiped out.

Some Colonial leaders believed the disease outbreaks were an act of God. They said God supported their right to the land. They used this to convert the natives to Christianity and move them to "praying towns."

## The First Indian War

Colonist-Native American relations worsened over the course of the 17th century. It led to the First Indian War, or King Philip's War. The war began in 1675. The government of the Plymouth Colony killed three members of the Wampanoag tribe. The Wampanoag leader, Philip, also known as





Metacom, retaliated. He led an army made up of Wampanoags and other tribes to attack the settlements. Some tribes, including the Mohegans and Mohawks, fought on the side of the English colonists.

The war lasted 14 months, ending in late 1676.

Both sides suffered many deaths and injuries. Historians consider it one of the deadliest conflicts in American history. Thousands of Native Americans died in war or from illness, they were taken as slaves, or fled to other regions. More than 600 colonists died, and dozens of settlements destroyed.

The history of the New England colonies reflects the history of America. It's a two-sided tale. Native and immigrant cultures came together to create the modern United States. But the two sides also clashed and many suffered.