

- Ask the class to discuss the two very different sides to William Penn, contrasting the simple Quaker with the land and slave owner whose debt eventually landed him in prison.
- In the program, Penn states that "governments, like clocks, go through the motions that men give them." Discuss with the class what Penn meant by this.

Follow-up Activities

- As noted in the program, both girls and boys were able to attend Quaker schools, which was very unusual at the time. Such equality grew out of Quakers beliefs. Have students research the role of young women in Quaker society, comparing it with the role of young women in other colonies.
- Have the class research the relationship between William Penn and his father. As a follow-up activity, have students write and perform a play dramatizing the conflict between father and son as Admiral Penn discovers that his son means to become a Quaker instead of a courtier.
- William Penn's plans for the city of Philadelphia to be a "green country town" influenced how America's cities would be built in the coming centuries. Have students lay out their own city, leaving plenty room for the elements Penn desired — parks, public squares, large lots and wide avenues.
- Have students research and compare the meeting houses of the Quakers with other houses of worship.
- Attracted by religious freedom, a democratic government and fertile land, Pennsylvania became the destination of choice for European immigration. Penn sent out promotional materials throughout Europe proclaiming the colony's beauty and opportunity. Have the students create promotional pamphlets, designed to entice immigrants to settle in Pennsylvania. As an extension, have students create pamphlets promoting their own community.
- Obtain a copy of Edward Hicks' painting *Peaceable Kingdom* and discuss the imagery with the class.

Suggested Internet Resources

Periodically, Internet Resources are updated on our Web site at www.LibraryVideo.com

www.pennsburymanor.org

Official homepage of Pennsbury Manor, the recreated country home of William Penn located in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Features information on William Penn and photos of the estate.

www.delawaretribeofindians.nsn.us

The Delaware Tribe of Indians homepage features information on the Lenni Lenape Indian tribe, including information on the "walking purchase" and how the Penn family acquired land from the Lenni Lenape Indians.

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xroads.virginia.edu/~CAP/PENN/pnhome.html

Detailed overview of William Penn's life, featuring information on his relations with Native Americans and the establishment of Philadelphia.

www.asahi-net.or.jp/~hw8m-mrkm/nonch/people/penn/penn_home.html

Features letters and writings by Penn, as well as related sites for information on Quakerism.

Suggested Print Resources

- Kashatus, William, ed. *Reflections on William Penn's Life and Legacy*. William Penn Charter School, Philadelphia, PA; 1994.
- Kroll, Steven. *William Penn: Founder of Pennsylvania*. Holiday House, Inc. New York, NY; 2000.
- Stefoff, Rebecca. *William Penn*. Chelsea House Publishers, Broomall, PA; 1997.
- Swain, Gwenyth. *Pennsylvania*. Lerner Publishing Group, Minneapolis, MN; 2001.
- Wilker, Josh. *The Lenape Indians*. Chelsea Juniors, New York, NY; 1994.

TEACHER'S GUIDE:

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COMPLETE LIST OF TITLES

- Jamestown
- Plymouth Plantation
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WILLIAM PENN & PENNSYLVANIA

This guide is a supplement designed for teachers to use when presenting *Colonial Life for Children: William Penn & Pennsylvania*.

Before Viewing: Give students an introduction to the program by relaying aspects of the historical overview to them. Select pre-viewing discussion questions and vocabulary to provide a focus for students when they view the program.

After Viewing: Review the program and vocabulary, and use the follow-up questions and activities to inspire further discussion. Encourage students to research the topic further with the Internet and reading resources provided.



Historical Overview

Born into a life of privilege, William Penn rebelled against the wishes of his father — an admiral in the British Royal Navy and a wealthy nobleman — in favor of the spiritual and social vision of the Quakers. In contrast to the world of wealth and prestige he grew up in, Penn was jailed with his fellow Quakers for their beliefs.

Upon the death of his father, Penn received his inheritance — a large debt King Charles II had owed his father, which Penn took in the form of land in the New World. Penn envisioned a place where the Quakers could establish a colony of their own. Happy to be rid of the troublesome Quakers, the King granted Penn property in America to serve as a “holy experiment” for those seeking safety from the religious intolerance of the Old World and called it Pennsylvania.

As sole proprietor of “Penn’s Woods,” Penn upheld his Quaker ideals by creating a colony open to everyone. Attracted by religious freedom and fertile land, settlers came in droves — eventually making Pennsylvania the destination of choice for European immigrants. Penn also dealt fairly with the Lenni Lenape Indians and established a peaceful coexistence with them that was rare in Colonial America.

Time Line

- 1607 — The English establish their first permanent settlement at Jamestown.
- 1630 — The Puritans establish the Massachusetts Bay Colony.
- 1644 — William Penn is born.
- 1647 — Quakerism begins as George Fox starts preaching his mystic revelations.
- 1667 — Penn becomes a Quaker.
- 1668 — Penn writes *No Cross, No Crown* while imprisoned in the Tower of London for his Quaker beliefs.
- 1668–1681 — Penn preaches throughout England, Germany and the Netherlands about his beliefs.
- 1681 — Charles II grants Penn the land that becomes Pennsylvania for a “holy experiment” in religious and political freedom.
- 1682 — Penn arrives in America aboard a ship called the *Welcome*, implementing his liberal frame of government and establishing friendly relations with the Lenni Lenape Indians.
- 1684 — Penn departs for England to defend his charter against the claims of Lord Baltimore and the neighboring colony of Maryland.
- 1699 — Penn returns to Pennsylvania.
- 1701 — Penn returns to England.
- 1718 — Penn dies.
- 1727 — Penn’s sons take over governance of the colony.

Vocabulary

- Quaker** — A person belonging to the Society of Friends, a Christian religious order guided by a life based on simplicity, peace and equality.
- meeting house** — Quaker place of worship.
- courtier** — One who is in regular attendance at a royal court.
- conscience** — A personal sense of right and wrong in terms of one’s conduct, intentions and character.
- convictions** — Deeply felt beliefs.
- pacifists** — Those who do not believe in the use of violence.
- inheritance** — Something of value received from a deceased relative.
- colony** — A body of people living in a new territory who remain subjects of their parent country.
- religious intolerance** — The state of being unaccepting of people with differing religious beliefs.
- Pennsylvania** — The Quaker colony, named by King Charles II in honor of the late Admiral Penn, meaning “Penn’s Woods” in Latin.
- Philadelphia** — The capital city of the Pennsylvania colony, Greek for “City of Brotherly Love.”
- proprietor** — A person who has the legal right or owns the title to a colony.
- confiscate** — To seize property by government authority.
- Lenni Lenape Indians** — The indigenous people of Pennsylvania, also known as the Delaware Tribe of Indians.
- walking purchase** — A typical land sale by the Lenni Lenape Indians, where the agreed-upon area was determined by how far a man could walk in three days.
- wampum** — Beads of polished shells strung together and used by the Lenni Lenape Indians as money, ornaments or ceremonial pledges.
- democracy** — A form of government where power rests in the hands of officials who are elected by the people.
- immigration** — The movement of people from one country to another.
- legislature** — An organized political body that has the authority to make laws.
- boundary** — The fixed borders of a specific area, usually referring to land.
- herbalists** — People who grow or collect herbs for medicinal purposes.

Pre-viewing Discussion

- In America, religious freedom is sometimes taken for granted. Ask the students to imagine and discuss what America would be like without this founding principle.
- Tell the class why Pennsylvania was like no other colony in America, and ask them to observe and be prepared to talk about all the ways Pennsylvania differed from such settlements as Jamestown and Plimoth Plantation.

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- As they view the program, ask the class to think about the ways in which the beliefs and lives of the Quakers were different from the lives and beliefs of other English people of the period. Explain the Quaker belief in leading a life of simplicity, peace and equality.

Focus Questions

1. Who was George Fox?
2. Who are the Quakers? What do they believe in?
3. What did William Penn and his father disagree on?
4. Why did Penn refuse to attend chapel at Oxford?
5. What is a courtier? Why couldn’t William Penn be both a Quaker and a courtier?
6. What is unique about the portrait of Penn featured in this program?
7. What is a charter? How did William Penn get the charter for Pennsylvania?
8. Where does the name Pennsylvania come from? What is the meaning of the name Philadelphia?
9. How did the fires and plagues that haunted London influence Penn in the planning of Philadelphia?
10. What was everyday life like at Pennsbury Manor?
11. What was Penn’s relationship with the Lenni Lenape Indians?
12. What were the terms of a “walking purchase?” How did the “walking purchase” change when Penn’s sons inherited control of the colony?

Follow-up Discussion

- Have students speculate as to why Pennsylvania succeeded in maintaining peaceful relations with the Lenni Lenape Indians when no other English colony could. What was unique about William Penn’s philosophy towards the Indians?
- While the Pilgrims, the Puritans and the Quakers all faced religious persecution in England, they took different approaches when it came to religious liberties in the New World. Compare and contrast the Massachusetts Bay Colony, Plimoth Plantation and Pennsylvania with regard to the notion of religious freedom.
- Penn called Pennsylvania a “holy experiment,” a colony where Quaker ideals would be put into practice. Why did Penn refer to it as an experiment?
- Why is Philadelphia called the “City of Brotherly Love?”
- Discuss how Penn’s colony became the most desirable immigrant destination in the Americas. What made the colony so attractive?
- When Penn died in 1727 at the age of 74 in England, he had spent only four years of his life in Pennsylvania. With this in mind, ask the class why Penn is still considered such an important figure in American history.

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