


Module 1: American Beginnings - 1607 to the 1750s
Topic 3 Content: The Quakers, Pennsylvania, and Delaware Notes

Introduction

The Quakers, Pennsylvania, and Delaware

Introduction



The Landing of William Penn, Jean Leon Gerome Ferris

In this interactivity, click on each of the panels to learn about William Penn and the Quakers, the colonization of Pennsylvania, relationships with the American Indians, and the colonization of Delaware.

- William Penn and the Quakers
- The Colonization of Pennsylvania
- Relationships with the American Indians
- Colonization of Delaware

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William Penn and the Quakers

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William Penn

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William Penn and the Quakers (continued)

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William Penn and the Quakers

William Penn and the Quakers



The Birth of Pennsylvania, Jean Leon Gerome Ferris

Around the same time that Penn joined the Quakers, his father was repaid a debt by King Charles II. Instead of repaying in money, William Penn asked that his father be repaid with land in America. King Charles II granted the request and gave William Penn a charter for Pennsylvania. In the late 1660s, Penn realized that the Quakers were not fit for England and would be better suited in the New World.

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Map dividing the land of Pennsylvania, William Penn, 1687

William Penn believed the colony of Pennsylvania to be a "holy experiment." In this colony, every male would be granted 50 acres of land and the right to vote. The government of Pennsylvania was a representative democracy with freedom of religion.

Relationships with the American Indians

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The meeting house was central to the Quaker way of life. The image depicts one of London's Quaker Houses.

Pennsylvania was established using the Quaker principles of equality, cooperation, and religious toleration. These principles would attract many settlers to the colony. Quakers believed that everyone possessed an "inner light." This allowed the Quakers to hold religious services without ministers. During service, any person could speak moved by the spirit.

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An early etching of Philadelphia

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Treaty of Penn with the Indians, Ben West

The colonists of Pennsylvania and the American Indians had a positive relationship. Before the settling of Pennsylvania, Penn wrote a letter to the American Indians that stated his views of friendship. The Quakers believed that anyone approached with friendship would respond with friendship.

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In order to ensure a friendly relationship, William Penn regulated trade with the American Indians. For more than 50 years, the Quakers and the American Indians had no major conflicts.



Penn's Treaty with the Indians, Edward Hicks

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Early Nautical Map of Delaware Bay

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