



Day 14 Colonization Unit
60 Minutes

Puritan Wars

Lesson Title

Puritan Wars with Native Americans in New England

Grade Levels: 5–8

Time: 60–75 minutes

Unit: Puritan New England / Conflict & Expansion

Lesson Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Identify the causes and events of the Pequot War and King Philip's War
 - Analyze how geography influenced the wars using interactive battle maps
 - Explain the consequences of the wars for both Native Americans and English settlers
 - Compare early Puritan–Native conflicts using reading and cloze activities
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Materials

- PowerPoint: *Puritan Wars with Native Americans in New England*
- Site Articles:
 - *The Pequot War* (with interactive battle map)
 - *King Philip's War* (with interactive battle map)
- Interactive battle maps (embedded or linked)

- Differentiated Reading Comprehension: *Puritan Conflicts*
 - Super Cloze Series: *The Pequot War & King Philip's War*
 - Student notebooks or graphic organizers
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Lesson Structure Overview

- **PowerPoint & Guided Discussion:** 20 minutes
 - **Interactive Map Analysis:** 15–20 minutes
 - **Culminating Activities (Reading + Super Cloze):** 25–30 minutes
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Part 1: PowerPoint With Teacher Script (20 Minutes)

<https://learnaboutamerica.com/13colonies/plans/kpw.pptx>

Slide 1 – Puritan Wars with Native Americans in New England

Teacher Script:

“Today we’re learning about two major wars between Puritan settlers and Native American tribes in New England. These wars were caused by land disputes, cultural differences, and growing tension as Puritan settlements expanded.”

Slide 2 – Background: Rising Tensions

Teacher Script:

“Before fighting began, tensions were already high. Puritans believed land could be owned and fenced, while Native Americans believed land was shared. Competition over trade and resources made these disagreements even worse.”

Slide 3 – The Pequot War (1636–1638)

Teacher Script:

“The Pequot War was the first major conflict between Puritans and Native Americans in New England. It took place mainly in present-day Connecticut and involved alliances between the English and rival Native tribes.”

Slide 4 – Causes of the Pequot War**Teacher Script:**

“Disputes over trade routes and land, along with the murder of English traders, pushed the colonies toward war. The English also wanted control of the region.”

Slide 5 – The Mystic Massacre**Teacher Script:**

“One of the most violent moments of the Pequot War was the Mystic Massacre. English forces and their allies attacked a Pequot village and set it on fire, killing hundreds of people, including women and children.”

Slide 6 – Results of the Pequot War**Teacher Script:**

“The Pequot nation was nearly destroyed. Survivors were enslaved or absorbed into other tribes, and the English gained control of Connecticut. This war set a harsh precedent for future conflicts.”

Slide 7 – King Philip’s War (1675–1678)**Teacher Script:**

“King Philip’s War occurred nearly 40 years later and was much larger. It was led by Metacom, also known as King Philip, and involved many Native tribes across New England.”

Slide 8 – Causes of King Philip’s War**Teacher Script:**

“Native Americans continued losing land, and colonists interfered with Native leadership. When several Wampanoag men were executed, tensions exploded into war.”

Slide 9 – Major Events of King Philip’s War

Teacher Script:

“This war included widespread attacks on towns and the Great Swamp Fight. It became the bloodiest war per capita in American history.”

Slide 10 – Results of King Philip’s War**Teacher Script:**

“By the end of the war, Native resistance in New England was crushed. Thousands of Native Americans were killed or enslaved, and English dominance was firmly established.”

Slide 11 – Other Related Conflicts**Teacher Script:**

“Although there were many raids and battles, historians consider the Pequot War and King Philip’s War the two major Puritan–Native wars in New England.”

Slide 12 – Legacy of the Puritan Wars**Teacher Script:**

“These wars permanently changed New England. Native populations were devastated, land ownership patterns changed, and relations between Native Americans and colonists were forever altered.”

Part 2: Interactive Battle Map Analysis (15–20 Minutes)

Teacher Directions

Students access the [Pequot War](#) and [King Philip’s War](#) articles on your site and explore the **interactive battle maps**.

Guided Map Analysis Questions

- Where did most battles occur?
- Which rivers or towns appear repeatedly?
- How did geography affect movement and strategy?

- Why do you think coastal and river areas were important?

Differentiation

- **Grades 5–6:**
Identify locations and describe patterns
 - **Grades 7–8:**
Analyze how geography influenced outcomes
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Part 3: Culminating Activities (20-30 Minutes)

Activity 1: Differentiated Reading Comprehension – Puritan Conflicts

- [Compare and Contrast Reading Comprehension: King Philip's and Pequot Wars](#) (Lexile 850)

Instructions: Read the passages about the Pequot War and King Philip's War. Decide whether each statement applies to the Pequot War, King Philip's War, both wars, or neither. Click one box in each row. When finished, press Submit Answers to check your work.

- King Philip's War: [Online](#) | [Printable](#) (Lexile 1200)
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Activity 2: Super Cloze Series – The Two Wars

<https://learnaboutamerica.com/american-history/13-colonies/13-colonies-literacy-and-comprehension-activities/pequot-and-king-philips-war-super-cloze-series>

This interactive Cloze Reading Activity is designed to reinforce key historical concepts about Puritan wars through an engaging, differentiated format. Students complete fill-in-the-blank passages using drag-and-drop vocabulary, with features like limited dictionary hints, read-aloud, and three progressive difficulty levels. Built-in scoring, printable reports, and customization options make it ideal for independent practice, centers, or blended learning environments.

Purpose:

Reinforce key vocabulary, chronology, and cause-and-effect relationships.

Teacher Notes:

- Excellent for reinforcing complex ideas

- Works well as a station or whole-class activity
 - Provides scaffolding for struggling readers while challenging advanced students
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