

1. How did the combination of disease, environmental imbalance, and new trading opportunities change Native communities? How did they adapt to survive?

Paragraph 1: Effects of disease and environmental imbalance on native american communities.

Paragraph 2: Effects of new trading opportunities on native american communities.

Paragraph 3: How they adapted to survive.

2 Why did Philip take a stand to fight a war even though he had been warned about its potential devastation? What caused such high casualties on both sides of King Philip's War?

Paragraph 1: Why Philip took a stand, what the government had been doing to Native Americans.

Paragraph 2: Early days of the war, many losses on British side.

Paragraph 3: The war turns, the end of the war.

How did the combination of disease, environmental imbalance, and new trading opportunities change Native communities? How did they adapt to survive?

The Native North Americans were, before the arrival of the European settlers, a strong and proud people. In the years before the Pilgrims arrived, however, a horrible blight settled upon Native American communities, decimating their numbers. The Wampanoag tribe in particular was so hard hit that, when the Pilgrims arrived, they found abandoned villages and believed they had all been wiped out. When the Wampanoag met with the Pilgrims and formed an alliance to protect their weakened tribe, they encountered new problems: the invaders had brought pigs and other European animals, which ate the Wampanoag tribe's food supplies and had no natural predators. Another act of environmental imbalance was actually perpetrated by the Native Americans themselves, when they hunted beavers almost to extinction because they could sell their skins to the Pilgrims!

It may sound like having Europeans around was bad for the Wampanoag, and that's mostly true. However, as I mentioned above, they brought several good things to the weakened Wampanoag tribe: military support and new trading opportunities. If someone attacked one ally unjustly, the other would provide support in whatever fight came next. They also traded new tools and animals to the Wampanoag, in return for beaver skins (which were a big craze in England) and land (which was, a lot of the time, cheating). However, they also brought alcohol to the Native Americans, which was a big problem for the tribes.

How did they adapt to survive these new threats and opportunities? The Wampanoag, as well as other tribes, began to become more English in their customs, clothing and tools. This, of course, became a goal of the Europeans: to turn the Native Americans into English citizens and assimilate them into English culture. They also began selling land to the settlers, not really understanding the significance of what they were doing, and got the wrong end of many a deal. Overall, though, they adapted by becoming more like the English settlers, which, in the end, almost destroyed their culture entirely!

Sources:

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Why did Philip take a stand to fight a war even though he had been warned about its potential devastation? What caused such high casualties on both sides of King Philip's War?

Have you heard of King Philip's War? If not, it is my aim in this short article to give you an overview of the war and the reasons for it. King Philip (Metacom) was the son of Massasoit, the Wampanoag chieftain who formed an alliance with the Pilgrims. Unlike his father and the Pilgrims, Philip did not get on well with the second generation of settlers. They didn't think very much of him, and in fact, the son of John Winslow (who was one of Massasoit's closest English friends), thought that the Native Americans had to assimilate or be wiped out.

Add to that the fact that the tribes were angry at the loss of their tribal land and the arrogance of the English government, and the situation was ripe for conflict. The Native Americans were seen as inferior and treated like idiots, cheated out of land by the English settlers. Philip didn't want a war against the English (knowing, perhaps, that the odds were against him), but in the end, was forced to declare war by his angry warriors. He had a plan for an Indian nation, one that never, as you will see, came to pass.

At first, the war went well for Philip, and the English sustained high casualties. The main reason is that they just weren't prepared. Many knew that war was coming, but they didn't expect it to erupt so soon. Sadly, it wasn't the arrogant commanders that lost their lives in these attacks, it was the farmers and small garrisons that were attacked by angry warriors wanting revenge. The Native Americans' fear tactics, and the gruesome acts of violence committed by both sides drove many people into larger, well-defended towns, or back to England. Allies flocked to Philip's cause.

But it couldn't last. Soon, more soldiers arrived from England, highly trained and ready for a tough fight. Slowly, they drove the Native American forces under Philip's control back, and Philip's forces took tremendous casualties. Tribes began to change sides, siding with the English, who were now clearly winning. Finally, his forces scattered, Philip was hunted down, dismembered after death, and his head piked outside of Plymouth in a particularly gruesome display of power.

The war changed many things forever. For one thing, since Philip had failed, his dreams of an Indian nation were lost (for now). Also, since so many towns had been burned and so many were dead (on both sides), interactions between Native Americans and English would never be the same. But apart from that, nothing really changed. The settlers continued on their path of cheating Native Americans out of their land, and the tribal lands shrunk. The following time of despair almost destroyed Native American culture forever, until a charismatic young warrior named Tecumseh decided to resurrect Philip's plan of an Indian nation...

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