

Traders and Culture: Colonial Life in America

The lives of people who settled in the Hudson Valley in the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries and the Native Americans who lived along side them are illuminated for students through the exploration of the Albany Institute's collection of paintings, account books, furniture, ceramics, maps, metal ware, documents, tools, and more.

New York State Standards:

Elementary and Intermediate

The Visual Arts – Standards 1, 2, 3, 4

Social Studies – Standards 1, 3, 4

ELA – Standards 1, 3, 4

TIMELINE

1609

Henry Hudson, master of the Dutch East India Company's ship, the *Halve Maen* (Half Moon), seeking a Northwest Passage to China, reached the neighborhood of Albany on September 19 and remained until September 23.

1610-1613

Dutch merchants from Amsterdam sent ships up the Hudson to trade for furs

1614

Ft. Nassau built on Castle Island, near the mouth of the Normanskill.

1618

New fort built on mainland near mouth of Normanskill, after Ft. Nassau was carried away by ice floes.

1621

Dutch West India Company formed to develop trade in America.

1624

Eighteen families were settled around Ft. Orange, which was built near the river within the present bounds of Albany. Ore settlers arrived with livestock in 1625.

1629

Kiliaen van Rensselaer and others granted leave by the West India Company to establish a *colonie* or patroonship here. Eventually the van Rensselaer property would total approximately 700,000 acres- most of modern Albany, Rensselaer, and Columbia counties.

1642

Domine Megapolensis, first Dutch minister, arrived: salary, \$400 annually. First ferry across the Hudson River to the Green Bush from Ft. Orange established.

1650

Two citizens are appointed by magistrates to see to the building of a schoolhouse. Adriaen Jansen first schoolmaster.

1652

Director of New Netherland Pieter Stuyvesant creates the free village of Beverwyck.

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1656

Dutch Reformed blockhouse church built in middle of Broadway and State Street, fortified with cannons on the roof.

1658

Record beaver skin trade; more than 57,000 skins shipped to Holland.

1659

First stockade built around the town and fort, as a result of fears aroused by Indian wars.

1664

New Netherland taken over by the English. Beverwyck renamed Albany for the new proprietor of the colony, James, Duke of York and Albany.

1673

Dutch regain the colony from the English- the town is renamed Willemstadt. The English regain the town in November 1674.

1690

French from Canada and their Native American allies burn the town of Schenectady, 20 miles northwest of Albany. 60 people dies, and 27 were carried into captivity among the Native Americans.

1697

The population of Albany County is 379 men, 270 women, and 803 children.

1710

Pieter Schuyler escorts four Iroquois leaders to England, where they were received by Queen Anne.

1714

The population of Albany County totaled 3,029 people, 458 of whom were slaves.

1723

Governor Burnet reports that Indians were bringing furs to trade from “above a thousand miles to Albany from Mislimakenak which lies between Lac Superior and Lac Huron.”

1757

The French and Indian War, between the French and British and their Indian allies began. Survivors of the massacre at Fort William Henry on Lake George pack Albany with refugees.

1771

Albany County's population had grown tremendously. There were now 42,706 persons in the county, 3,877 of them were black. In 1772, Albany County would be subdivided into Albany, Tryon, and Charlotte counties.

1774

Mother Ann Lee comes to Albany from England and forms a religious sect which would become commonly known as the Shakers. The Shaker order would spread as far north as Maine as south as Kentucky, and is still viable with a few members today.

GLOSSARY

Artifact - Any object made by humans showing workmanship or artistic endeavor. Artifacts from special cultures are often part of museum collections.

Beverwyck - The name of the settlement at what is now Albany, named Beverwyck or “beaver town” in 1652.

Culture - The concepts, habits, skills, arts, and institutions of people in a specific period in history.

Fort Orange - The earliest settlement in what is now Albany. Settled by the Dutch in 1624.

History - A chronological record of true stories about the past, usually including how and why it happened.

Iroquois - A group of Native American tribes in upstate New York, of a common language and heritage, who formed a confederacy of mutual protection and agreement. The tribes were the Oneida, Mohawk, Onondaga, Cayuga, Seneca, and Tuscarora (18th century addition).

Limner - A term used to denote colonial Dutch painters. The verb “to limn” is an old term meaning to paint in fine detail.

Northwest Passage - From the 16th through the 19th century people believed that China and India could be reached by going north, either over Russia or over North America. Henry Hudson was looking for the Northwest Passage when he sailed up what is now called the Hudson River to what is now Albany.

Patroon - A proprietor of certain tracts of land with manorial privileges granted under the Dutch governments of New York and New Jersey.

Settler - One of the first to settle and develop a new territory.

Trade - **Business of exchanging commodities for barter or sale. In early Albany the primary trade item was beaver skins.**

Post Visit Lesson

For Grades 3 - 8

Learning Outcomes:

Students will:

Research colonial objects.

Use literary and creative skills to write and illustrate ideas.

Teacher Planning:

Time required: 60 minutes (can be finished for homework)

Materials/resources: Paper, pencils, colored pencils, textured materials, found materials, glue, scissors.

Technology needed: Computer, internet, library for research.

Ask:

What is personification?

Activity 1: Think of a colonial object that you have studied in school or have seen in books. Have students choose one object and research the following:

Function, Design, Visual presence, Maker, Color, Shape, Size, etc.

Create a first person narrative about the object, and answer the following:

What am I? (describing function, appearance, design,

size, shape, color, weight, smell.)

Who uses or owns me?

When was I made? Who made me?

How was I created?

Why was I created?

Activity 2:

After the research and the narrative are complete, have each student create a model of the object they chose. Use collected materials, card board, paper, string, popsicle sticks, etc. Students may present their findings to the class.

Assessment: Students may be evaluated on understanding, implementation, participation and planning of the activity. Use of imagination and construction process can also be considered.

New York Curriculum Alignment:

Elementary

The Visual Arts - Standards 1, 2, 3, 4

Social Studies – Standards 1, 3, 4

ELA – Standards 1, 3, 4

WEB RESOURCES

Basic Information

[The North American Indian](#)

Edward S. Curtis's photographic images of 1907-1930.

[A Tribute to Native People](#)

A look into culture, history and art of Native people using legends, music and other information.

[New Netherlands Virtual Tour](#)

Explore the Dutch colony founded on the east coast of North America in the seventeenth century, stretching from Albany to Delaware, through maps, pictures and extensive information.

[Colonial Kids Zone](#)

A fun and interactive site for all ages detailing with professions, customs and daily life in colonial times.

[Henry Hudson](#)

A virtual timeline and maps will guide you through the life and voyages of Henry Hudson.

[American Architecture Digital Archive](#)

An overview of architecture styles of the 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. Pictures and locations are included and give an idea of how colonial through present architecture have evolved.

[Thru the Looking Glass](#)

Learn about many different people, places and events associated with colonial times. Also, a document search allows you to search and view real colonial legal paperwork.

Teacher Resources

[Virtual Jamestown](#)

Lesson plans and ideas based on the town of Jamestown. Also, muster records, census listings, maps, indentures, and court records are included on the main page.

[Activity Ideas for the Classroom](#)

Activity ideas for Kindergarten through sixth grade.

[A to Z Teacher Stuff](#)

Numerous lesson plan ideas for all grade levels.

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Books for Teachers

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Books for Students

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