

Growth of New York During Early Colonial Period

Grade 4

The following question is based on the accompanying documents (1 – 4): Some of these have been edited for the purpose of this task. This question is designed to test your ability to work with historical documents. As you analyze the documents, take into account both the source of the document and the author’s point of view.

Directions:

- ◆ Read the DBQ Question. Do you understand it?
- ◆ Ask yourself: “What do I already know about the growth of New York during the Colonial Period? How would I answer the question, even if I could not look at the documents?”
- ◆ Now look at the documents. Note how each has its own section. Study each one and highlight any information that will help you answer the question. Ask yourself: “How does this help me to answer the question?”
- ◆ Each document is followed by a single question. Write a short answer to each of these questions in the blank that follows it.
- ◆ When you are finished studying all of the documents, go on to Part B of the question.
- ◆ Finally, write an essay that answers the document-based question.

Historic Background: In 1492, Christopher Columbus sailed across the Atlantic Ocean from Europe and landed in America. When news of his voyage reached Europe other explorers followed. Countries in Europe wanted to control the natural resources of North America.

By the 1600’s the French, British, and Dutch had explored the Atlantic Coast of what is now the United States. The colonists had to overcome many challenges to start a new life and new colonies.

Task:

For Part A, read **each** document carefully and answer the question or questions after each document. Then read the directions for Part B and write your essay.

For Part B, use your answers from Part A, information from the documents, and your knowledge of social studies to write a well organized essay. In the essay you should tell:

What influenced the growth of New York during the Early Colonial Period?

Document 1:

European merchants and Native Americans meet to trade. Fur was highly prized in Europe and the desire to trade brought the people of the Old World into contact with the people of the New World.

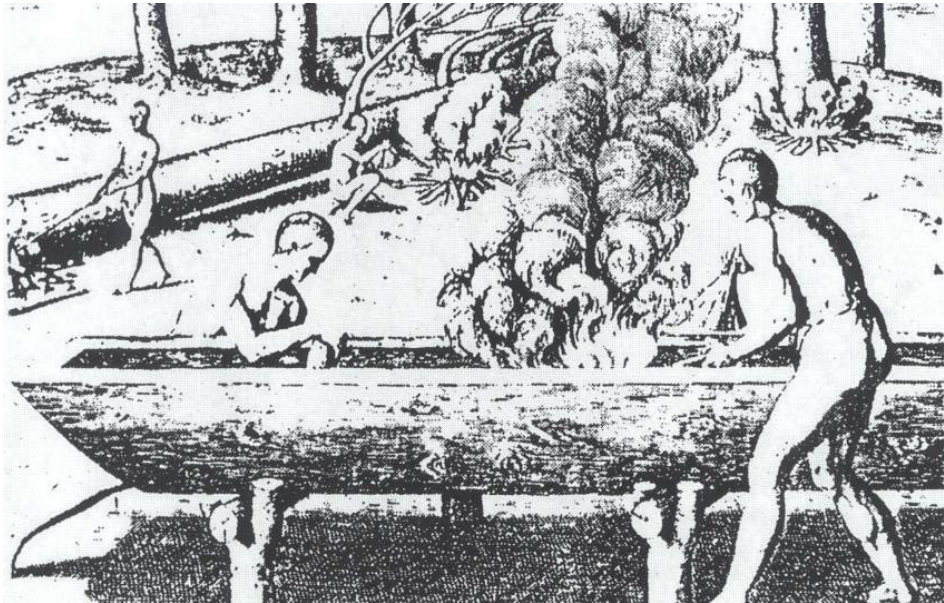


1. According to the picture, how did the fur trade encourage other settlers to come to the colony?

Document 2:

“The Iroquois lived in large bark-covered houses which were shared by several related family groups. The homes were grouped into villages, usually protected by palisades (staked fences), and often situated on hills near water sources. Surrounding areas were cleared and cultivated. Every fifteen or twenty years, a village moved as local natural resources were diminished (used up).”

Atlas of Indians of North America by Gilbert Legay



1. How did an Iroquois community live in colonial times?

2. What natural resources were available to early people of New York?

Document 3:

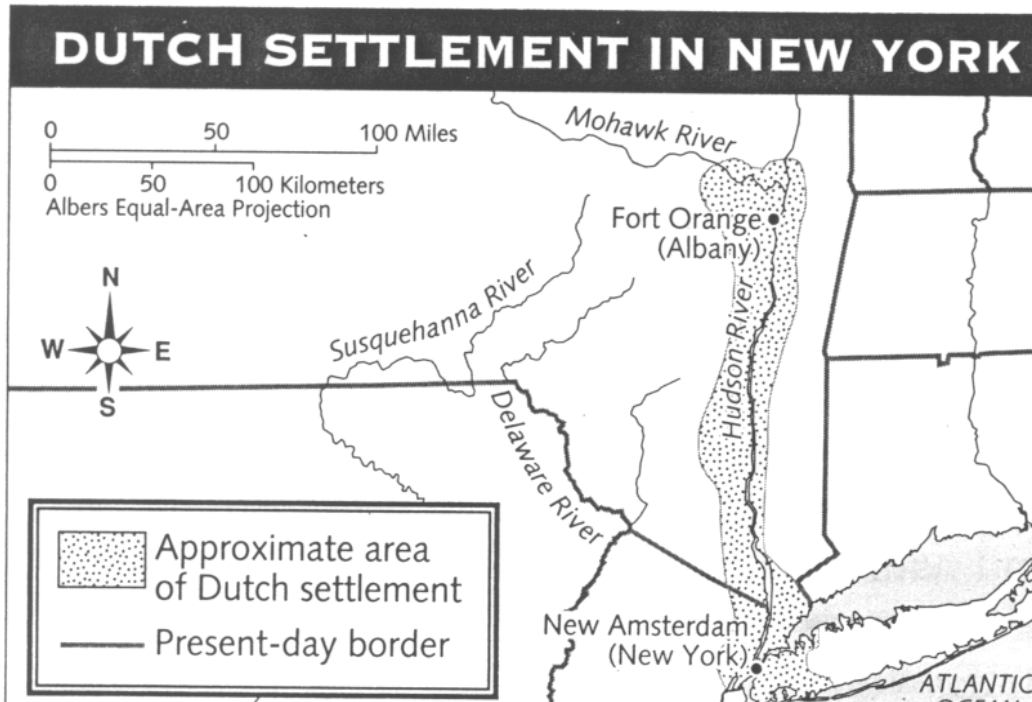
Colonists lived on land with deep, rich soil.



1. According to the picture, what was one way in which colonists survived?

Document 4:

Since waterways were important highways in colonial times, many of the first American settlements were established on the coast and rivers.



1. What waterways did colonists settle near?
