Allies and Rivals

Trade, defense, and conflict in colonial New England

SS24.6.3a "Summarize how interactions between colonists and Indigenous peoples resulted in both conflict and cooperation, including economic and military alliances."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two ways people cooperated, circle two causes or results of conflict, and write M beside each military alliance to trace how relationships changed.

From Agreement to War

1 In the spring of 1621, leaders of Plymouth Colony met with Ousamequin, a Wampanoag leader in what is now Massachusetts. The English colonists had survived a deadly winter and needed food and security. Ousamequin also faced threats from rival groups, including the Narragansett. He and the colonists agreed to help each other if either side was attacked. This promise was a military alliance, not a sign that they shared every goal. Each side saw a reason to cooperate, even though the relationship was new and uncertain.

2 Cooperation also shaped daily work. Tisquantum, a Patuxet man who spoke English, helped Plymouth settlers learn to grow corn in the region. Wampanoag people and colonists traded food and furs for English goods such as metal tools and cloth. Trade gave each side things it wanted, but their interests did not always match. As the English population grew, settlers expanded farms onto land used by Indigenous communities. Roaming colonial livestock could damage Indigenous crops. These changes made land and food sources points of conflict.

3 Decades later, disagreements over land and colonial power helped spark a major war. In 1675, Metacom, Ousamequin's son, led Wampanoag fighters and other Indigenous allies against English colonies. Other Indigenous groups, including Mohegans, allied with the English for reasons of their own. The fighting, called King Philip's War by the English, killed many people and forced many Indigenous survivors from their homes. English victory increased colonial control of land. The 1621 promise of mutual defense had not prevented conflict as settlements grew and political needs changed.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why did Ousamequin and the Plymouth colonists agree to help each other if attacked?

2. How did trade benefit both Wampanoag people and the colonists?

3. How could growing colonial farms lead to conflict after a period of cooperation?

4. What do the opposing alliances in 1675 show about interactions between Indigenous groups and the English?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A museum visitor says, "Colonists and Indigenous peoples were always enemies." Write a five-sentence museum label that challenges this claim. Include an economic exchange, the 1621 defense agreement, a cause of conflict, and the different alliances during the later war.

ANSWER KEY

Allies and Rivals

GRADE 6 · SS24.6.3a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two ways people cooperated, circle two causes or results of conflict, and write M beside each military alliance to trace how relationships changed. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did Ousamequin and the Plymouth colonists agree to help each other if attacked?	**The colonists needed security, while Ousamequin faced threats from rival groups. Both sides expected protection from the agreement.**
2	How did trade benefit both Wampanoag people and the colonists?	**Wampanoag people could obtain English goods such as metal tools and cloth, while colonists could obtain food and furs.**
3	How could growing colonial farms lead to conflict after a period of cooperation?	**Settlers expanded farms onto land used by Indigenous communities, and their livestock could damage Indigenous crops. Land and food sources became points of conflict.**
4	What do the opposing alliances in 1675 show about interactions between Indigenous groups and the English?	**Metacom and his allies fought the English, while groups including the Mohegans allied with them. Indigenous groups made different choices as political needs changed.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Plymouth colonists and Wampanoag people were not always enemies. They traded food and furs for English goods, and in 1621 their leaders agreed to help each other if attacked. As colonial farms spread onto land used by Indigenous communities, land and food became sources of conflict. During the war that began in 1675, Metacom and his allies fought the English, while groups including the Mohegans allied with the English. Their choices show that relationships changed over time and that Indigenous groups did not all take the same side.

Accept answers that distinguish Tisquantum, who was Patuxet, from the Wampanoag people named in the passage. Students should describe cooperation and conflict without treating all Indigenous groups as one side.