

Pennsylvania Colony Information Sheet

- Land claimed by Holland, England, and Sweden in the early 1600's.
- Founded by William Penn in 1681. King Charles II owed \$80,000 to William Penn Sr., so the land was given to his son, William Jr., to pay the debt. It was also a convenient way for King Charles to entice Quakers to leave England. Penn encouraged people to immigrate by offering cheap land. He eventually returned to England and died there in 1718.
- Originally called New Wales, but name was changed to a combination of the name of William Penn and "sylvania," which means "forest woods."
- William Penn and fellow Quakers were great believers in selective religious freedom - granted religious freedom to all "monotheists."
- Charter of Privileges approved in 1701, granting religious freedom:
"BECAUSE no People can be truly happy, though under the greatest Enjoyment of Civil Liberties, if abridged of the Freedom of their Consciences, as to their Religious Profession and Worship. . .
- Philadelphia was founded in 1682 - became a major city, and later became the U.S. capital.
- German religious and political refugees including the Mennonites and the Amish, prospered in the "Pennsylvania Deutch" farming regions. They invented the Conestoga wagon and the flatboat, which were major transportation innovations for the time.
- Resources: farmland (wheat was grown and shipped to England), timber, furs, coal, iron. Iron ore was used for tools, kettles, plows, and nails.
- Dealings with the Native Americans were reasonably fair at first, but then went to the advantage of the Europeans.
- Noteworthy citizens: Franklin, Paine, and Ross.

Carol Gwynn 2014

Websites, Strategies, and Teaching Ideas

- **Website** for primary source documents: hsp.org (Historical Society of Pennsylvania). Great images and documents, including Franklin's political cartoons.
- **Other websites:** explorepahistory.com
constitution.org (PA Charter of Privileges)
portal.state.pa.us (PA Historical & Museum Commission)
ushistory.org
celebrateboston.com/history/pennsylvania.htm (Timeline)
- **Strategies:** (See wholebrainteaching.com. Look under 1st Steps).
Class/Yes Attention-Getter
Teach/OK

- **Teaching Ideas:**

-Put up this list of words; Ben Franklin, Philadelphia, Quakers, PA State House, Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution, Capital, Betsy Ross. Ask students to figure out how the words are related (all are in/from Pennsylvania).

-Distribute the Information Sheet. Use for shared reading or as the introduction to a research project.

-Have students do something with the information, such as make a flip book, pamphlet on the computer, etc.

-Divide students into groups. Using images from hsp.org. have them "jigsaw," explaining their images to the other groups.

-Students can write an acrostic poem using the letters in "Pennsylvania" or another historical word.

-The printing business was huge in Philadelphia. Divide students into pairs and have each pair produce a Pennsylvania-themed newspaper. Each student/pair comes up with a pseudonym under which they will "publish" their paper.

-discoveryeducation.com - Make a crossword puzzle (free).

-Using stories to present information really draws people in.

The teacher or the students can do the storytelling.

Remember: Students want to: a) Interact with friends, b) Have fun, and c) Feel like they are successful. Carol Gwynn 2014