

GRADE 4 READING - HISTORY

The Remarkable Powhatan Tribe

Step back in time and discover the fascinating history of the Powhatan Tribe. This passage will take you on a journey to explore the customs, traditions, and way of life of this Native American tribe that thrived in the Chesapeake Bay region.

The Powhatan Tribe was a Native American tribe that inhabited the coastal areas of present-day Virginia. They lived in villages along the rivers and relied on the rich natural resources of the land and water for their sustenance.

The Powhatan Tribe had a complex social structure. At the top of the hierarchy was the paramount chief, Powhatan, who ruled over several tribes. Each village had its own chief, who oversaw daily affairs and made decisions for the community.

Farming was an essential part of the Powhatan way of life. They grew crops such as corn, beans, and squash, which were known as the "Three Sisters." These crops provided them with sustenance and were considered sacred.

The Powhatan Tribe had a deep connection with nature and believed in the spiritual significance of their surroundings. They held ceremonies to honor the seasons, performed rituals for hunting success, and revered the spirits of animals and natural elements.

Trade played a significant role in the Powhatan Tribe's interactions with neighboring tribes. They traded goods such as shell beads, pottery, and animal skins for tools, weapons, and food. Trade routes connected different tribes and facilitated cultural exchange.

1. Where did the Powhatan Tribe primarily inhabit?
 - A) Coastal areas of present-day Virginia
 - B) Mountains of present-day Virginia
 - C) Deserts of present-day Virginia
 - D) Forests of present-day Virginia

2. Who was the paramount chief of the Powhatan Tribe?
 - A) Powhatan
 - B) Chief Powhatan
 - C) Chief Virginia
 - D) Powhatan Virginia

3. What does the word "paramount" mean in the passage?
 - A) Very important or supreme
 - B) Ancient or forgotten
 - C) Harmful or dangerous
 - D) Common or ordinary

4. What were the crops grown by the Powhatan Tribe known as?
 - A) The Three Friends
 - B) The Three Brothers
 - C) The Three Companions
 - D) The Three Sisters

5. What did the Powhatan Tribe believe in regarding their surroundings?
 - A) They believed in the power of technology
 - B) They believed in the dominance of humans over nature
 - C) They believed in the spiritual significance of nature
 - D) They believed in the separation of humans and nature

6. What is the meaning of the word "revere" as used in the passage?
 - A) To ignore or dismiss
 - B) To worship or show deep respect for
 - C) To destroy or demolish
 - D) To dislike or despise

7. What role did trade play for the Powhatan Tribe?
 - A) It was not significant to them
 - B) It facilitated cultural exchange and resource acquisition
 - C) It caused conflicts and wars
 - D) It was only for luxury goods

8. What is the purpose of this passage?
 - A) To describe the history of European explorers
 - B) To explain the importance of modern technology
 - C) To explore the customs, traditions, and way of life of the Powhatan Tribe
 - D) To discuss the geological formations of Virginia

Answers:

1. A) Coastal areas of present-day Virginia
2. A) Powhatan
3. A) Very important or supreme
4. D) The Three Sisters
5. C) They believed in the spiritual significance of nature
6. B) To worship or show deep respect for
7. B) It facilitated cultural exchange and resource acquisition
8. C) To explore the customs, traditions, and way of life of the Powhatan Tribe

Explanations:

1. The Powhatan Tribe inhabited the coastal areas of present-day Virginia.
2. The paramount chief of the Powhatan Tribe was Powhatan.
3. "Paramount" means very important or supreme, indicating the high status of the chief.
4. The Powhatan Tribe grew crops known as the "Three Sisters," which included corn, beans, and squash.
5. The Powhatan Tribe believed in the spiritual significance of their surroundings, holding ceremonies and rituals to honor nature.
6. "Revere" means to worship or show deep respect for, describing the Powhatan Tribe's attitude towards the spirits of animals and natural elements.
7. Trade played a significant role in facilitating cultural exchange and resource acquisition for the Powhatan Tribe.
8. The purpose of this passage is to provide information and insights into the customs, traditions, and way of life of the Powhatan Tribe, highlighting their historical significance.