

# A Teacher's Guide to Pennsbury Manor

*William Penn was committed to the ideals of diversity, religious freedom, and representative government. Although he only spent a few years in Pennsylvania, the values he embraced while he lived at Pennsbury Manor continue to shape America today. This guide contains ideas for teachers to use in their classrooms. These activities are designed to help students learn more about life in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, increase their understanding of Penn's importance to Pennsylvania, and to develop an appreciation for Penn's impact on American history. Each section begins with a question, followed by general information and a list of suggested activities. A list of recommended books, many of which are for sale in our gift shop, has also been provided.*

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## **HOW DO WE LEARN ABOUT THE PAST?**

*Archeologists excavated tools and other household goods from the original site of Pennsbury Manor, but how else can we learn about life in the 17<sup>th</sup> century? William Penn left a paper trail for us to follow! Penn and others from his era took the time to write about their lives and the lives of others. With these historical records we can learn about the life of William Penn and other less famous early settlers.*

- 1) Simulate an archeological dig. Use a patch of ground outside or bring a small wading pool into the classroom, which can be filled with dirt. Bury some objects ahead of time for students to discover. You can use bits of broken pottery, old tools or utensils, pieces of old jewelry, or coins. Discuss what was uncovered and see if you can draw any conclusions about the object. Who did it belong to? What was it used for? How old is it?
- 2) Interview an older person and record their personal history. Draw their family tree.
- 3) Create a timeline that notes important events in Penn's life.

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## **WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A QUAKER?**

*How did William Penn's Quaker beliefs influence his vision for Pennsylvania? Penn and other Quakers were persecuted in England for practicing their religion. The Quakers rejected traditional ways of religious worship and were deeply committed to their ideals. Their new way of thinking challenged old lines of authority and put them into direct conflict with the English government.*

- 1) What do Quakers believe? How did their beliefs differ from other religions? Read one of the books on the reading list, such as *William Penn: Quaker Colonist*, to find out. Discuss what you learned with your class.
- 2) Put yourself in Penn's place. Write a letter from describing what it was like to be a Quaker living in England in the late 1600's.
- 3) Answer the question: What was Penn's "holy experiment"?
- 4) Find as many examples as you can of products using the image of William Penn or Quakers as part of their packaging. Display and discuss why these images are used to help sell products.

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## **WHO CAME TO PENNSYLVANIA?**

People of all kinds came to Pennsylvania in the late 1600's. Penn sought settlers throughout Europe, making sure to invite the skilled workers his new colony so desperately needed. Rich, poor, indentured, or enslaved, these immigrants joined the Europeans and Lenape Indians already living near Pennsbury Manor.

- 1) Collect examples of current advertisements. Discuss techniques advertisers use to get your attention. Create an advertisement for settlers to come to Pennsylvania in 1682.
- 2) Envision yourself as an indentured servant or slave who has been brought to Pennsylvania. Think about what your life would be like living at Pennsbury Manor. After your visit, write a letter or a diary entry describing what it is like to live and work at Pennsbury Manor.

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## **WHAT WAS IT LIKE TO COME TO THE NEW WORLD?**

William Penn and many others sailed from England to Pennsylvania in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century. They left behind friends and family and what was known and familiar to embrace new opportunities in a new colony. Ships were crowded and voyages were long and difficult. People were forced to make decisions about what possessions could be brought to the New World because space on the ship was limited.

- 1) Make a list of the personal belongings you would bring to Pennsylvania. Draw a picture of the things you would take on your trip.
- 2) Pretend that you can only bring one special possession with you on your voyage to America. Describe it and tell why it was chosen.
- 3) Create a large model of a packing trunk for a bulletin board. Have students draw pictures of things they would bring and attach them to the display.

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## **WHAT WAS IT LIKE TO LIVE IN THE 17<sup>th</sup> CENTURY?**

A person living in Penn's time shared many of the same concerns as people living today. Everyone has basic needs that must be met in order to survive. People in Penn's time, just like people today, needed a place to live, clothes to wear, and food to eat.

- 1) Draw a picture or a diagram of your home. Compare it with William Penn's house at Pennsbury Manor after your visit. Look for similarities and differences. Think about how people live in your home. Compare your life with the everyday lives of the people who lived in the Manor House. What is the same and what is different?
- 2) Make a chart of "Our Time" and "Penn's Time". Before your visit make a list of categories for comparison, such as transportation, food, clothing, entertainment, bedrooms, and kitchens. After your visit, fill in the chart and discuss the similarities and differences between then and now.
- 3) Who does the laundry at your house? Write down the directions for how to do the laundry. After your visit, compare your laundry directions with how the laundry was done at Pennsbury. Hang a clothesline in the classroom and attach pictures of 17<sup>th</sup> century clothing to the clothesline. *Chuse thy Cloaths by thine own eye: Quaker Clothing During William Penn's Residence at Pennsbury Manor 1683-1701* is an excellent reference.
- 4) Prepare a 17<sup>th</sup> century receipt (recipe) and serve it to the class. (Several recipe books are available in our gift shop.)

## **WHAT WAS PENN'S RELATIONSHIP LIKE WITH THE LENNI LENAPE?**

The Lenni Lenape lived in Pennsylvania for thousands of years before the arrival of William Penn and other settlers. Penn believed in non-violence and fair treatment of the Native Americans. He purchased land from the Lenape for himself and for other settlers.

- 1) Read the letter Penn wrote to the Lenape before he arrived in Pennsylvania. (copy attached)  
Before your visit to Pennsbury Manor, answer the question: If you were a Lenape, would you trust Penn? After your visit, think about the question again. Did Penn gain your trust? Explain your answer.
- 2) Look in the library for Native American stories and legends, such as *Rainbow Crow*. Read and share the story with the class or write a play about the story and act it out for other students.
- 3) Research the "Walking Purchase". Compare the Walking Purchase with William Penn's treatment of the Native Americans. Present your findings to the class.

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## **WHAT DOES THIS WORD MEAN?**

APPRENTICE - one who learns a trade by living and working with a skilled craftsman

ARCHEOLOGY - the study of human life from an earlier time period

ARTIFACT - a man-made object from an earlier time period

BARGE - small boat with sails and oars

BREECHES - man's pants covering the waist to the knee

INDENTURED SERVANT - person bound by contract to work for a specified time in exchange for travel and living expenses

LEDGER - book for recording business transactions or thoughts

LENNI LENAPE - translated as "common people", Native Americans who originally inhabited what is now northern Delaware, eastern Pennsylvania, southeastern New York, and all of New Jersey

MISTRESS - female head of household

PALLET - straw-filled mattress

PETTICOAT - woman's outer skirt

PLANTATION - large farm or estate

PROPRIETOR - person holding exclusive title to a property, usually granted by a king claiming the territory

QUAKER - a member of the Society of Friends

RECONSTRUCTION - something that has been destroyed or has fallen apart that is built again

REPRODUCTION - something new that's made to look like something from an earlier time period

SLAVE - person held in bondage by another

STEWARD - head servant who supervises other servants, keeps the accounts and collects rent

WAMPUM - small clam and conch shell beads made by Native Americans, used for trade or decoration

## WILLIAM PENN'S LETTER TO THE LENAPE

*London, 18 October 1681*

*My Friends*

*There is one great God and power that has made the world and all things therein, to Whom you and I and all people owe their being and well-being, and to whom you and I must one day give an account for all that we do in this world. This great God had written his law in our hearts, by which we are taught and commanded to love and help and do good to one another, and not to do harm and mischief one unto another. Now this great God has been pleased to make me concerned in your parts of the world, and the king of the country where I live has given unto me a great province therein, but I desire to enjoy it with your love and consent, that we may always live together as neighbors and friends, else what would the great God say to us, who has made us not to devour and destroy one another, but live soberly and kindly together in the world.*

*Now I would have you well observe that I am very sensible of the unkindness and Injustice that has been too much exercised towards you by the people of these parts of the world, who have sought themselves and to make great advantages by you, rather than be examples of justice and goodness unto you; which I hear has been matter of trouble to you and caused great grudgings and animosities, sometimes to the shedding of blood, which has made the great God angry. But I am not such a man, as it is well known in my own country. I have great love and regard toward you, and I desire to win and gain your love and friendship by a kind, just and peaceable life; and the people I send are of the same mind, and shall in all things behave themselves accordingly. And if in anything any shall offend you or your people, you shall have a full and speedy satisfaction for the same by an equal number of honest men on both sides, that by no means you may have just occasion of being offended against them.*

*I shall shortly come to you myself, at what time we may more largely and freely confer and discourse of these matters. In the meantime, I have sent my commissioners to treat with you about the land, and a firm league of peace. Let me desire you to be kind to them and the people, and receive these presents and tokens which I have sent to you as a testimony of my good will to you and my resolution to live justly, peaceably, and friendly with you.*

*I am your friend.*

*Wm Penn*