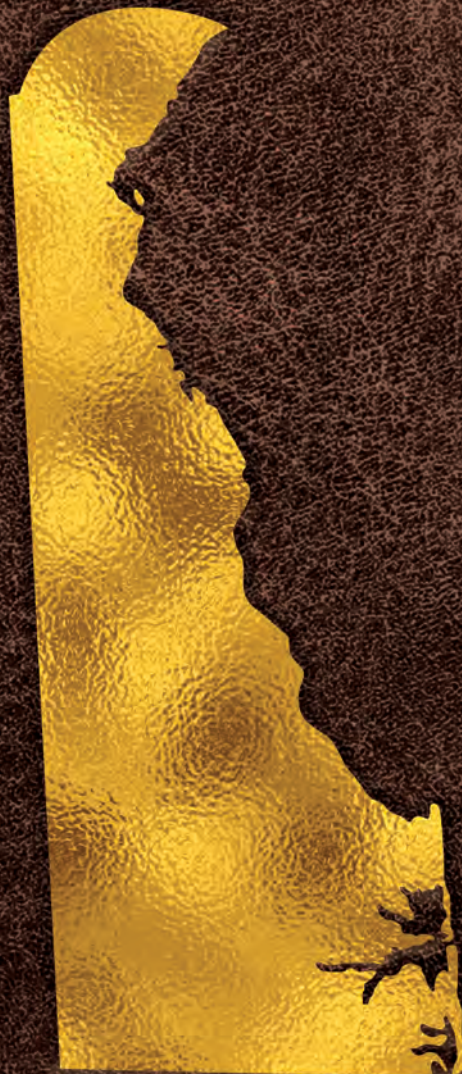


# First Contact

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*The Lenape and Settlers  
in New Sweden*



# First Contact

*The Lenape and Settlers in New Sweden*

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# Vocabulary



## ***Paleo-Indians***

early American hunting people of Asian origin; the first people to enter and inhabit the Americas during the final stages of the Ice Age

## ***Lenni Lenape***

a group of Native Americans that populated New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and the northern parts of Delaware

## ***Natural Resources***

the natural wealth of a country, consisting of land, forests, minerals, animals, and water

## ***Stone Age***

prehistoric period when weapons and tools were made from stone and other material from nature such as bone, wood, or horn

## ***Wigwam***

a round structure used by Lenape for shelter; made out of saplings, sinew, mud or clay, and tree bark

## ***Pelts***

the skin of an animal with the fur, hair, or wool still on it

## ***Advisor***

a person that helps a king or queen make decisions

## ***Need***

something that is necessary in order to survive or complete a task

## ***Want***

something that is desired but not necessary

## ***Sister City***

a broad-based, long-term relationship between two cities in two countries

## ***Engraving***

the process or art of cutting or carving a design on a hard surface, especially so as to make a print

# *The Lenni Lenape*

Long before the Europeans arrived in America, the land was already inhabited by people called **Paleo-Indians**. These ancient people are the ancestors of Native Americans today, but not much is known about them. It isn't even known for sure how these first people came to North America, though many believe they originated from the continent of Asia.

Look at the map below and draw arrows to show the different routes the Paleo-Indians could have taken to reach North America. Use a different color to draw arrows for the possible routes to Delaware.

What form of transportation do you think they used?



# Bands

This map shows a portion of the land inhabited by the **Lenni Lenape**, one of two Native American tribes that call Delaware their home. While the Lenape settled in northern Delaware along the Delaware River and Delaware Bay, the Nanticoke tribe established territory in the southern parts of the state. The Lenape divided their territory into smaller regional clans, which were made up of a number of bands, or extended family groups of Lenape.



When the Lenape first arrived thousands of years ago, Delaware looked very different than it does today. It was filled with forests and animals, and had access to many sources of water among an abundance of other **natural resources**.

Natural resources were important to Native Americans because they lived entirely off the land. Whatever they needed, they could find in nature. For example, Native Americans had not yet learned how to forge metal to make tools, and so they used stone instead, earning this period of North American History the title of the **Stone Age**.

***What are some natural resources that the Lenape could use for clothing, tools, and shelter?***

Animals were a very important natural resource for the Lenape. Not only were they an important source of food, but their **pelts** could be used for clothing and shoes along with many other things. Deer skin was used as doorway coverings for **wigwams**, bear furs were used as blankets, turtle shells became bowls and musical instruments, and beaver pelts were used as outer coverings for clothes.

***Which animal pelt was the most valuable to the Lenape?***

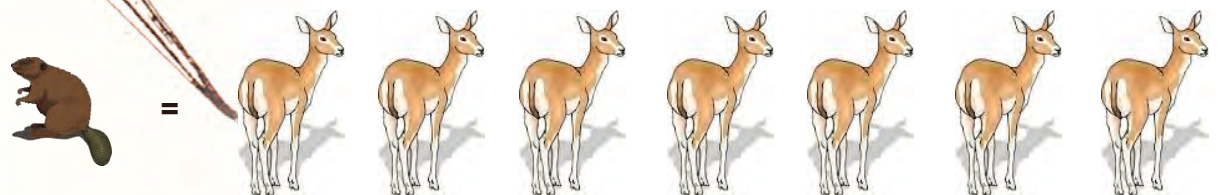
Beaver!

***What environment do beavers live in and how can that affect their pelt?***

***Why do you think that made beaver pelts so valuable?***

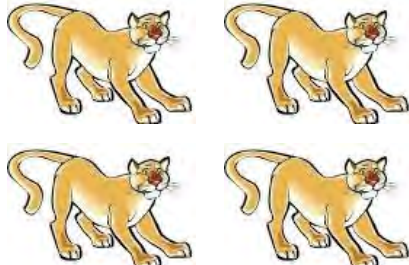

Beaver pelts were so valuable that even Lenape would have to trade multiple animal pelts for just one beaver! Take a look below and determine how many beaver pelts you would get with each trade.

### How many rabbits equal a beaver?



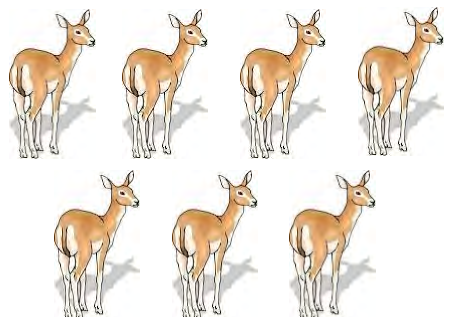


# How many beavers will you get with each trade?

1.  +  = 

2.  +  =

3.  +  +  =

4.  +  +  =



Centuries after the Lenape had settled the area, a new group of people landed on Delaware's shores — the Swedes. King Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden was a warrior king, going into battle and fighting with his men all across Europe. But wars are expensive.

***What are some ways a king might raise money to fund a war?***

King Gustavus Adolphus saw other European countries getting rich off the resources their colonies were sending back from the New World. He wanted a colony in North America also! Unfortunately, King Gustavus Adolphus died before a Swedish colony could be settled.

***Who do you think ruled Sweden after King Gustavus Adolphus died?***

King Gustavus Adolphus didn't have any sons to take the throne, but he did have a young daughter. Princess Christina was only six years old when she became the ruler of Sweden. Can you imagine becoming a king or queen at 6 years old?!



*King Gustavus Adolphus*

## t h e S w e d e s



*Axel Oxenstierna*

***Do you think a 6 year old could successfully run a country? What problems might he or she run into?***

Luckily, Queen Christina had help from an **advisor** named Axel Oxenstierna. Axel Oxenstierna remembered King Gustavus' dream of a colony in North America and decided to start making plans. Finally, in 1638 two Swedish ships, the Kalmar Nyckle and Fogel Grip, sailed across the Atlantic Ocean under the orders of Queen Christina. They soon arrived in Delaware, and their passengers established the settlement of New Sweden in what is now known as the city of Wilmington.

***How do you think life was different in the New World for the Swedish settlers?***



This map shows many of the available natural resources in Delaware at the the time the Swedes started the colony of New Sweden. Use the map to answer the questions on the next page.

**NOVAE SVECIAE,**  
by Peter Lindstrom (also  
Lindestrom, Lindhestrom).

This map burned in 1697 but not before an engraving was made. In 1702 Campanius retitled the map across the top 'Nova Svecia hodie dicta Pennsylvania' (translation 'New Sweden today called Pennsylvania') for another book.

***What natural resources do you notice on the Lindstrom map?***

***Are there any you don't recognize as being found in Delaware today?***

***Which of these resources do you think the Swedish settlers could use to sell for profit?***

***What could these resources be used for in Sweden?***

***Why do you think Peter Lindstrom drew this map for the people still in Sweden?***





**"The Swedes and the Indians in New Sweden."**

Illustration in Thomas Comenius Holm, *Kort Beskrifning om Provincien Nya Sverige uit America* (Stockholm, 1702)

***Who do you see in the illustration on the previous page?***

***What does it look like they are doing?***

***Do they seem friendly with each other?***

***What do you think was the purpose of this image being printed?***



The Swedish settlers learned very quickly that they had another resource available to them in Delaware, the Lenape! The Lenape were masters of living off the land, hunting, trapping, and harvesting natural resources. They had everything they needed but the Swedes brought new items that the Lenape had never seen before. These items weren't things the Lenape needed but things that they wanted. This created a trade relationship between the Swedish colonists and Native Americans.

Imagine you are a Lenape or a Swedish settler living in Delaware in the 1600s and look at the list of items below. Sort the below items into **WANT** or **NEED**.

- Beaver pelts
- Roll of string
- Bear skin
- Wool blanket
- Scissors
- Fire steel
- Colorful glass beads
- Metal fish hooks
- Sacks of wild rice

**W A N T**

**N E E D**



Now let's see how trading works. Below you will find five Lenape villagers and five Swedish settlers all looking to trade items that they have for items they want or need. Read through the list then complete the activity on the next page.

## LENAP E

### Dallumens

Items in Possession:

- 2 Beaver Pelts
- 3 Bear Skins

*Items Wanted or Needed:*

- 1 Sack of Glass Beads
- 1 Roll of String
- 1 Roll of Cloth

### Memedhakemo

Items in Possession:

- 6 Beaver Pelts
- 1 Sack of Dried Berries

*Items Wanted or Needed:*

- 1 Iron Kettle
- 4 Metal Knives

### Kschamehellan

Items in Possession:

- 8 Beaver Pelts
- 3 Bear Skins
- 2 Wild Cat Skins

*Items Wanted or Needed:*

- 1 Gun

### Machgeuachgook

Items in Possession:

- 30 Sacks of Goose Feathers

*Items Wanted or Needed:*

- 1 Metal Axe

### Ehasgitamank

Items in Possession:

- 1 Sack of Dried Fish
- 1 Sack of Dried Berries
- 1 Sack of Dried Corn
- 3 Bear Skins
- 1 Beaver Pelt

*Items Wanted or Needed:*

- 1 Box of Assorted Metal Jewelry

## SWED E S

### Ragnar

Items in Possession:

- 1 Box of Assorted Metal Jewelry

*Items Wanted or Needed:*

- 1 Sack of Dried Fish
- 1 Sack of Dried Berries
- 1 Sack of Dried Corn
- 3 Bear Skins
- 1 Beaver Pelt

### Loke

Items in Possession:

- 1 Gun

*Items Wanted or Needed:*

- 8 Beaver Pelts
- 3 Bear Skins
- 2 Wild Cat Skins

### Casper

Items in Possession:

- 1 Sack of Glass Beads
- 6 Fire Steel

*Items Wanted or Needed:*

- 1 Sack of Dried Fish
- 7 Deer Skin

### Peder

Items in Possession:

- 1 Metal Axe

*Items Wanted or Needed:*

- 30 Sacks of Goose Feathers

### Knut

Items in Possession:

- 1 Sack of Glass Beads
- 1 Roll of String
- 1 Roll of Cloth

*Items Wanted or Needed:*

- 2 Beaver Pelts
- 3 Bear Skins



Draw a line from the Lenape villager on the left to the Swedish settler on the right who has the items the Lenape villager wants or needs for a successful trade.

- |  |          |
|--|----------|
| 1. Kschamehellan successfully trades with •  | • Ragnar |
| 2. Memedhakemo successfully trades with •    | • Peder  |
| 3. Machgeuachgook successfully trades with • | • Casper |
| 4. Ehasgitamank successfully trades with •   | • Knut   |
| 5. Dallumens successfully trades with •      | • Loke   |
|  | • No one |

*Were there any Lenape or Swedes that did not match with anyone and if so, who are they? Why were they unable to find someone to trade with?*

*What do you think happens if trade becomes unsuccessful?*



Unfortunately, the colony of New Sweden did not last very long. The settlers were experts at making do with what they had. Even though the settlers were experts at making do with what they had, they still relied on the arrival of ships from Sweden to supply them with items not available in nature like iron pots, dyed cloth, guns, and gunpowder.

As Queen Christina grew up, she turned her attention away from the Swedish colony and to war, just like her father, and soon stopped sending ships to the New World. At one point, New Sweden didn't see a ship for seven years!



The colony failed about seventeen years after it was established, being taken over first by the Dutch and later by the English. But there are still many signs around Delaware that remind us of our Swedish history, like Fort Christina and the Christina River, both named for the young queen of Sweden. Wilmington is also a "Sister City" to Stockholm, Sweden's capitol. Even the colors of our flags are similar!



# Answers

## *How Many Beavers?*

(pg 7)

1. 2

2. 5

3. 3

4. 2

## *Successful Trade* (pg 15)

1. Kschamehellan successfully trades with:  
**Loke**

2. Memedhakemo successfully trades with:  
**No one**

3. Machgeuachgook successfully trades with:  
**Peder**

4. Ehasgitamank successfully trades with:  
**Ragnar**

5. Dallumens successfully trades with:  
**Knut**

