

# Powhatan War-King Philip's War

# Powhatan Wars

- Powhatan were the dominate native tribe in the Virginia region. It is estimated that they numbered between 16000-24000 in number. They had formed a confederation of tribes throughout the area.



# Powhatan Wars

- A series of conflicts would begin in 1610 resulting in three wars between English settlers in Virginia and the Powhatan Confederation.
- John Smith (a leader) of the colonists envisioned that the Powhatan would one day become laborers for the English
- Chief Powhatan (Wahunsonacoc) had a different goal of forcing the English to live in one of his village and to make tools for his tribe.
- Smith would be taken captive and held by the Indians from 1607-1608 until released.
- Smith would then antagonize the Indians by building several forts in their territory

# The First Anglo-Powhatan War

- In 1610 George Percy would lead a force of 70 men against the Paspahegh (a member of the Powhatan Confederation)
- 65-70 Indians were killed and this would result in a series of battles lasting until 1613 with the conclusion of the First Anglo-Powhatan War



# Powhatan Wars



# Second Powhatan War

- While a peace deal was struck with the marriage of Pocahontas and James Rolfe..it would not last.
- With the death of Chief Powhatan and his daughter Pocahontas...the peace treaty would die as well when a much more aggressive leader would assume command...Chief Opchanacanough.
- The Indian Massacre of 1622 would lead to a second war. 347 English settlers would be killed on March 22 during a sneak attack.



# Second Powhatan War

- Retaliation raids would dot all of Virginia and the English would find allies in the Accomac and Patawomeck tribes
- Hostilities would consume the area until 1627
- The English were hampered throughout the war by a severe shortage of gunpowder
- The only way to slow down the Powhatan was for the English to set their food stocks and cornfield on fire.
- The war resulted in few victories for the English having to fall back and build a palisade across the Virginia Peninsula that was long



# Third Anglo-Powhatan War

- Chief Opchanacanough (now 90 years old) rallied the Powhatan Confederation for a final chance at removing the English from Virginia on March 18, 1644. Nearly 500 colonists would be killed during the attack
- The colonists were much better prepared for the war and launched an all out attack after
- Building a series of forts in Powhatan territory broke the back of the Powhatan Confederation
- Chief Opchanacanough would be taken prisoner and then shot in the back by a guard in Jamestown ending the Powhatan wars and destroying the unity of the Confederation.

# Powhatan Wars

- This first major conflict between English colonists and Native Americans would result in the Treaty of 1646 to establish boundaries between the Virginia Colony and the remaining tribes.

