Penn’s Treaty with the Indians

When he arrived in the New World in 1682, William Penn found that the land he'd been granted by King Charles II was inhabited by Lenni-Lenape (Delaware) Indians. The Lenni-Lenape had never been defeated in skirmishes by either the Dutch or the French, who had previously explored the area.

Penn was a Quaker, a branch of Protestantism that practiced peace; he had no intention of claiming his land by force. The Lenni-Lenape were active traders, and knew a good deal when they saw one.

In 1683, in what is now Philadelphia, Penn met with local tribal leaders under the shade of an elm tree. Penn and the chiefs exchanged gifts, and the negotiations were made official when they all signed a treaty.

Painting 1: “Penn’s Treaty with the Indians” by Benjamin West

Look at the painting given to you, and answer the questions below. There are no right or wrong answers; use your experience and emotional intelligence in responding to each.

1. What do the clothes tell you about the people in the painting?

2. Can you identify both the colonial and Lenni-Lenape leaders by their clothing?

3. What do you think is significant about the colors of the clothes?

4. What do William Penn’s outstretched arms represent?

5. What are the colonists offering the Lenni-Lenape people?

6. Why would this item be so important to the Native American community?
7. The title of this painting is Penn's Treaty with the Indians. Did Benjamin West make the treaty a central point of the painting?

8. Why do you think West addressed the treaty in this way?

9. What other image does the Lenni-Lenape woman in the lower right-hand corner resemble?

10. What do you think is the most important part of the painting?

11. What colors are the most prominent in the painting? Why do you think Benjamin West uses color in this way?

12. Do the people in the painting appear to get along with each other?

13. What do their facial expressions tell you about the ceremony?

14. Can you identify any symbols in the painting that provide clues to the colonial and Lenni-Lenape motives?

15. Look at the images in the background. Why do you think that Benjamin West included houses in his painting about a treaty between the colonists and the Lenni-Lenape?

16. Which group appears to have control over the land?

17. Based on the depiction, who looks like the most important person in the painting?

18. In what year do you think Benjamin West painted this work? (Take a guess.)

19. What made you select this year?

20. In one sentence, describe the theme of this painting.
Penn’s Treaty with the Indians

When he arrived in the New World in 1682, William Penn found that the land he’d been granted by King Charles II was inhabited by Lenni-Lenape (Delaware) Indians. The Lenni-Lenape had never been defeated in skirmishes by either the Dutch or the French, who had previously explored the area.

Penn was a Quaker, a branch of Protestantism that practiced peace; he had no intention of claiming his land by force. The Lenni-Lenape were active traders, and knew a good deal when they saw one.

In 1683, in what is now Philadelphia, Penn met with local tribal leaders under the shade of an elm tree. Penn and the chiefs exchanged gifts, and the negotiations were made official when they all signed a treaty.

Painting 2: “Penn’s Treaty with the Indians” by Edward Hicks

Look at the painting given to you, and answer the questions below. There are no right or wrong answers; use your experience and emotional intelligence in responding to each.

1. What do the clothes tell you about the people in the painting?

2. Can you identify both the colonial and Lenni-Lenape leaders by their clothing?

3. What may be significant about the colors of their clothes?

4. What do William Penn’s outstretched arms represent?

5. What are the two younger people handing to the Lenni-Lenape people?

6. Why would this item be so important to the Native American community?
7. Look at the image of the brown box. What's inside?

8. Why would these items be so important to the Native Americans?

9. What do you think is the most important part of the painting?

10. What colors are the most prominent in the painting?

11. Why do you think Edward Hicks uses color in this way in his painting?

12. Do the people in the painting appear to get along with each other?

13. What do their facial expressions tell you about the ceremony?

14. Can you identify any symbols in the painting that provide clues to the colonial and Lenni-Lenape motives?

15. Look at the images in the background. Why do you think that Edward Hicks included houses in his painting about a treaty between the colonists and the Lenni-Lenape?

16. Which group appears to have control over the land?

17. Based on the depiction, who is the most important person in this painting?

18. In what year do you think Edward Hicks painted this work? (Take a guess)

19. What made you select this year?

20. In one sentence, describe the theme of this painting.
Penn’s Treaty with the Indians

When he arrived in the New World in 1682, William Penn found that the land he’d been granted by King Charles II was inhabited by Lenni-Lenape (Delaware) Indians. The Lenni-Lenape had never been defeated in skirmishes by either the Dutch or the French, who had previously explored the area.

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In 1683, in what is now Philadelphia, Penn met with local tribal leaders under the shade of an elm tree. Penn and the chiefs exchanged gifts, and the negotiations were made official when they all signed a treaty.

Painting 3: “Penn’s Treaty with the Indians” by Jack Savitsky

Look at the painting given to you, and answer the questions below. There are no right or wrong answers; use your experience and emotional intelligence in responding to each.

1. What do the clothes tell you about the people in the painting?

2. Can you identify both the colonial and Lenni-Lenape leaders by their clothing?

3. What may be significant about the colors of their clothes?

4. What do William Penn’s outstretched arms represent?

5. What are the colonists offering the Lenni-Lenape people?

6. Why would this item be so important to the Native American community?
7. What other items were offered to the Lenni-Lenape people in this painting? Why would these be important to the Native American community?

8. What do you think is the most important part of the painting?

9. What colors are the most prominent in the painting?

10. Why do you think Jack Savitsky uses color in this way in his painting?

11. Do the people in the painting appear to get along with each other?
12. What do their facial expressions tell you about the ceremony?

13. Can you identify any symbols in the painting that provide clues to the colonial and Lenni-Lenape motives?

14. Look at the background of Jack Savitsky's painting. Does one group appear to have more control over the land?

15. Why do you think he did not include any buildings or other signs of civilization in his painting?

16. Based on the depiction, who is most important person in the painting?

17. Why do you say that?

18. In what year did Jack Savitsky paint this work? (Take a guess.)

19. What made you select this year?

20. In one sentence, describe the theme of this painting.
Penn’s Treaty with the Indians

Group activity: “Penn’s Treaty with the Indians”

Work among your group, which should have one analyst of each of the three paintings. Each of you has become an expert on one of the paintings.

As a team, work through the imagery of these photos. Each member should complete the notetaker to assist in your essay/project. Explain to your group members how you came to your conclusions, and build a group narrative, explaining how our understanding of relations with Native Americans has evolved over the last 300 years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLOTHING</th>
<th>Who wears what? How does clothing show power in the paintings?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td>Hicks</td>
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<tr>
<th>BODY LANGUAGE</th>
<th>What is William Penn saying without using words?</th>
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<td>West</td>
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**Gifts**
What's being **exchanged**? What makes it **valuable**? Why would Native Americans of Penn's men **want** it?

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**Treaty**
How does the painter **treat the treaty**? What's important? Unimportant?

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### Symbolism
Think in broad themes. Does anything remind you of **religion**? **Cultural** symbolism?

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### Motive
What do the **natives** want? The **settlers**? Explain.

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### In Charge
Who is the **most important person** in this painting? **Justify** your answer.

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