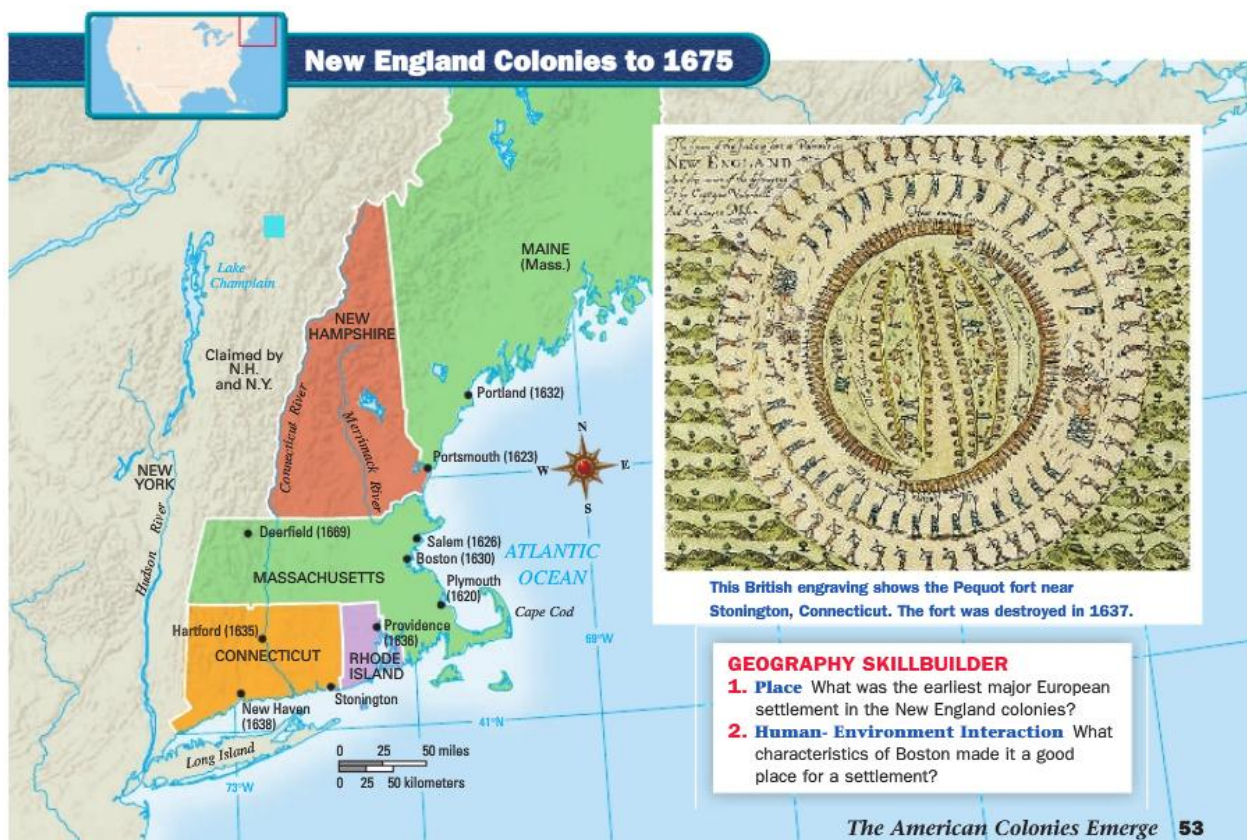


Native Americans Resist Colonial Expansion

While Williams and his followers were settling Rhode Island, thousands of other white settlers fanned out to western Massachusetts and to new colonies in New Hampshire and Connecticut. However, as Native Americans saw their lands claimed and cleared for farming, they recognized that the rapid spread of the settlers meant an end to their way of life.

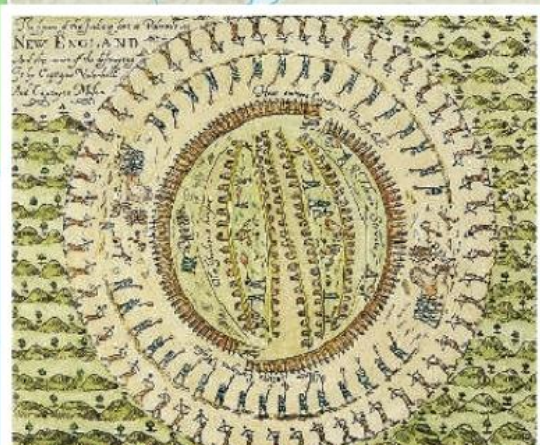
DISPUTES OVER LAND Disputes between the Puritans and Native Americans arose over land use. For every acre a colonial farmer needed to support life, a Native American needed twenty for hunting, fishing, and agriculture. To Native Americans, no one owned the land—it was there for everyone to use. Native Americans saw land treaties with Europeans as agreements in which they received gifts, such as blankets, guns, iron tools, or ornaments, in return for which they agreed to share the land for a limited time. Europeans, however, saw the treaties as a one-time deal in which Native Americans permanently sold their land to new owners. **E**

THE PEQUOT WAR The first major conflict arose in Connecticut in 1637, when the Pequot nation decided to take a stand against the colonists. The colonists formed an alliance with the Narragansett, old enemies of the Pequot. The result of the **Pequot War** was the near destruction of the Pequot nation. The end came in May 1637, when about 90 English colonists and hundreds of their Native American allies surrounded a Pequot fort on the Mystic River. After setting the fort on fire, the colonists shot Pequot men, women, and children as they tried to escape or surrender. The massacre was so awful that the Narragansett pleaded,



New England Colonies to 1675

The map shows the New England colonies: New Hampshire (red), Massachusetts (green), Connecticut (orange), and Rhode Island (purple). Major settlements are marked with dots and labeled: Portland (1632), Portsmouth (1623), Deerfield (1669), Salem (1626), Boston (1630), Plymouth (1620), Hartford (1635), Providence (1638), New Haven (1638), and Stonington. Rivers shown include the Connecticut River, Merrimack River, Hudson River, and Long Island Sound. The Atlantic Ocean is to the east. A scale bar indicates 0 to 50 miles and 0 to 50 kilometers. An inset map shows the location of the New England colonies within the eastern United States.



This British engraving shows the Pequot fort near Stonington, Connecticut. The fort was destroyed in 1637.

GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER

- 1. Place** What was the earliest major European settlement in the New England colonies?
- 2. Human-Environment Interaction** What characteristics of Boston made it a good place for a settlement?

“This is evil, this is evil, too furious, too many killed.” The colonists ignored them, until all but a few out of about 500–600 people in the fort had died. Later, the Narraganset leader Miantonomo declared in a speech to the Montauk tribe,

★ A PERSONAL VOICE MIANTONOMO

“These English have gotten our land, they with scythes cut down grass, and with axes fell the trees; their cows and horses eat the grass, and their hogs spoil our clam banks, and we shall all be starved. . . .

For so are we all Indians as the English are, and say brother to one another; so must we be one as they are, otherwise we shall be all gone shortly.”

—quoted in *Changes in the Land*

KING PHILIP’S WAR Deprived of their land and livelihood, many Native Americans had to toil for the English to earn a living. They also had to obey Puritan laws such as no hunting or fishing on Sunday, the Sabbath day. Wampanoag chief **Metacom**, whom the English called King Philip, bristled under these restrictions. In a last-ditch effort to wipe out the invaders, he organized his tribe and several others into an alliance.

The eruption of **King Philip’s War** in the spring of 1675 startled the Puritans with its intensity. Using hit-and-run tactics, Native Americans attacked and burned outlying settlements throughout New England. For over a year, the two sides waged a war of mutual brutality and destruction. Finally, food shortages, disease, and heavy casualties wore down the Native Americans’ resistance, and they gradually surrendered or fled.

Wampanoag casualties included Metacom, the victim of a bullet fired by a Native American ally of the English. To commemorate their victory, the Puritans exhibited Metacom’s head at Plymouth for 20 years. With his defeat, Native American power in southeastern New England was gone forever.

Still, the English paid a high price for their victory. All told, about one-tenth of the colonial men of military age in New England were killed in King Philip’s War, a higher proportion of the total population than would be killed in either the American Revolution or the Civil War of the 1860s.



English settlers attacking Native Americans during King Philip’s War, near South Kingston, R.I., 1675