The Beginning

- Native Americans and Europeans came across difficulties from the moment they encountered each other.
- These difficulties revolved around various concepts such as different cultures, religions, and ways of life.
- At the start of the 17th century when the first English settlers arrived there was already a decline in the number of Native Americans compared to centuries before.
- As soon as the number of English mean and women increased, the Native American population started to decline by thousands.
- It became visible that the coexistence of Native Americans and English for the time being was impossible because of numerous factors.

The Plan

- In Virginia, there was a plan of genocide and enslavement for the Native Americans said to have been proposed by the Governor of the colony, William Berkeley.
- It was decided that the Native Americans had to be eliminated. This would be done by killing and capturing them.
- All the adult Native men would be killed while the women and children would be captured and sold as slaves.
- This plan would require little funding since the price of the slaves would pay for the soldiers and equipment required for eliminating the men.
- Those women and children captured and sold for slavery would be shipped off to Spain, the West Indies for kept for the colonists.
- After many years to come it was evident that all the colonists wanted to do was kill the Natives whether it hunting them down or burning their homes and villages.
- For example, on Block Island in Plymouth troops went on a rampage looting and burning the Native’s villages and crops.
- They often referred to burning down the crops and villages as a “barbeque”
- Natives were shoot and even burning alive in their huts and cut into pieces.
- Without homes and food to eat and with the English hunting them, chances of survival of the Natives were slim.
- This was exactly the type of rapid extermination the English had planned for. The English very frequently thanked God giving them the land to inherit and claimed it was God’s will for all of this to happen.
- Hunting redskins (Natives) became a popular sport in New England at that time.
- Soldiers and colonists would entertain themselves by tormenting the Natives, and doing things like cutting of their heads.
The Consequences

- The systematic annihilation and enslavement of the Native Americans was not the only way they were exterminated.
- For many decades, countless numbers of Natives died from diseases brought over by the Europeans.
- Many died wretchedly from the smallpox epidemic, others from deadly plagues, and viral and bacteriological assaults.
- The English considered this plagues as a sign of approval for their “colonial endeavor”.
- Again they thanked God, because with all the Native’s dying from these plagues they were entitled to the possession of the lands.
- Children who were used as slaves died and never even reached the age of twenty-six when they could have been freed. Others attempted escaping but were caught or killed.
- English were very satisfied with their extermination campaign against the Natives and felt it was successful.
- By the eighteenth century, there was only a small fraction of Native Americans and they lived in very isolated areas.
- Some Native Americans fled into Canada to escape the terrors of the English in the United States.
- The English were quite victorious at eliminating the Native Americans who once taught them how to plant and live on the very land that was stolen from them!

The Stats

- 98% of the Abenaki people (New Hampshire and Vermont) had been exterminated.
- 95% of the Pocumtuck people were destroyed.
- 95% of the Quiripi-Unquahog people were successfully eliminated.
- 92% of the Mahican people were destroyed.
- 81% of the Massachusett people had been massacred.
- 73% of the Mohawk people were exterminated.
- And many more of the Native American people have the same story!
Tutorial 1 - Were the English Colonists Guilty of Genocide?
Yes Side – Glossary Definitions

1) **Genocide** - The systematic and planned extermination of an entire national, racial, political, or ethnic group.

2) **Annihilate** - To reduce to nonexistence.

3) **Coexistence** - To live in peace with another or others despite differences, especially as a matter of policy.

4) **Epidemic** - An outbreak of a contagious disease that spreads rapidly and widely.

5) **Smallpox** - An acute, highly infectious, often fatal disease caused by a poxvirus and characterized by high fever and aches with subsequent widespread eruption of pimples that blister, produce pus, and form pockmarks.

6) **Pequots** – Group of Native Americans

7) **The Pequot War** – Genocidal encounter that began in July of 1636 throughout many of the American colonies, mainly New England and Rhode Island.

8) **Captain John Mason** – Highly involved in the systematic war against the Native Americans.

9) **Puritan** - A member of a group of English Protestants who in the 16th and 17th centuries advocated strict religious discipline along with simplification of the ceremonies and creeds of the Church of England.

10) **Cotton Mather** – Was known as a divine Puritan; who worked alongside Mason and other Englishmen to exterminate the Natives.

**Definitions courtesy of www.dictionary.com**
Tutorial 1 - Were the English Colonists Guilty of Genocide?

Yes Side – Discussion Questions

1) Based on everything you have just heard, what is your initial impression? Genocide or not? Explain your thinking.

2) What do you feel are the strong pieces of evidence to conclude that genocide really did occur?

3) Was there anything that could have been done at the time to allow both the English and Native Americans to coexist?

4) Do you feel the English had any other besides choosing to exterminate the Native Americans to have possession of the land?

5) Do you think there was any possible way the Native Americans could have stopped their extermination or survived it?

6) Why was it so significant that the English addressed God each time something was in their favour?

7) Describe how you would feel as an English person during that time?

8) Describe how you would feel as a Native American during that time?

9) After everything you have heard, do you think saying “no it was not genocide” is still possible? Why or why not?

10) What kinds of evidence could argue that it was not a genocide based on the evidence you know suggesting that it was in fact genocide?