**STATION 1: Native Americans**

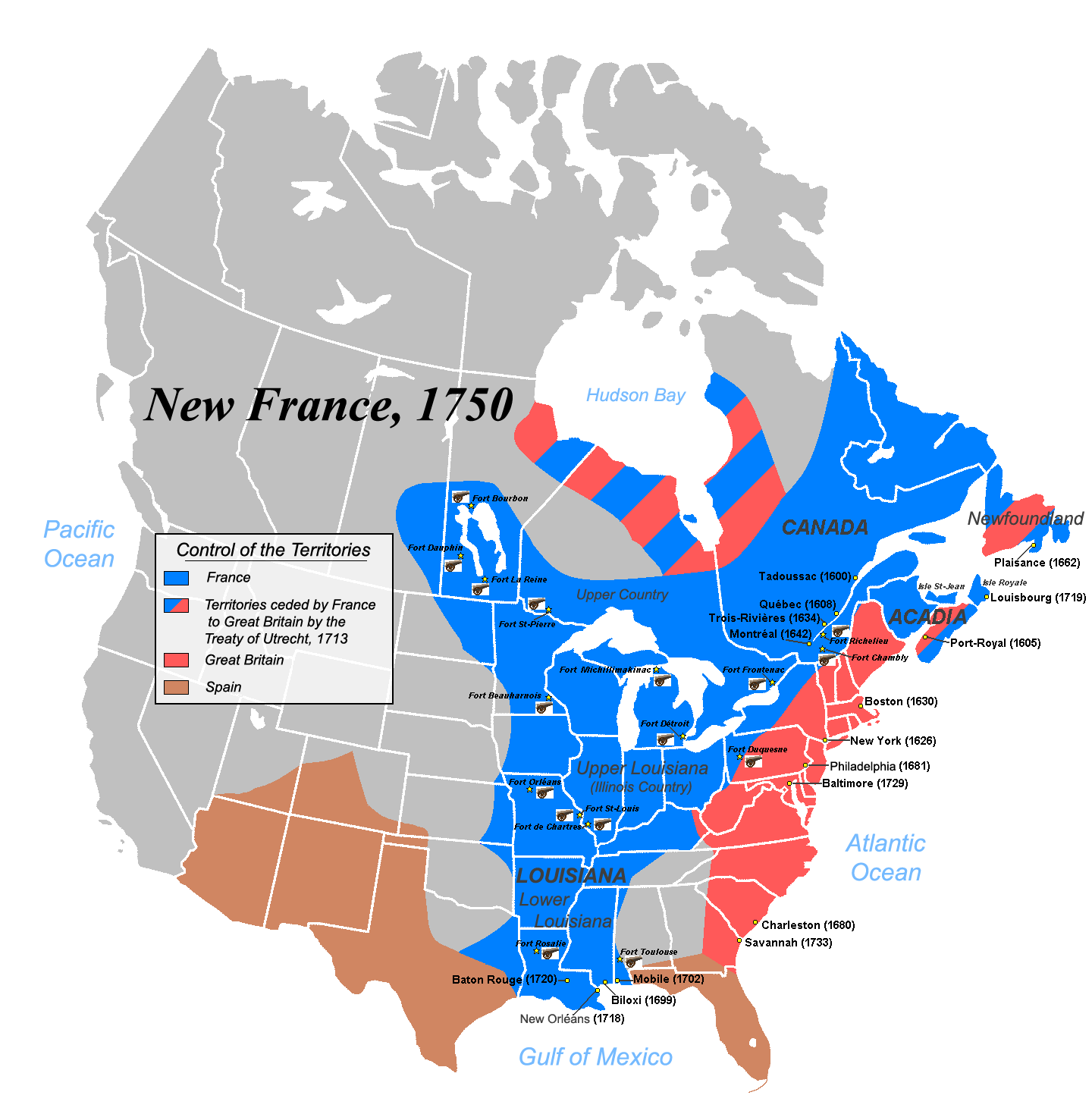
Who was here before the Europeans settled America? According to most research, Native Americans lived on this continent for centuries before any other group discovered North America.

At first, they welcomed explorers since they brought gifts and animals that the Native Americans had never seen before. They traded for metal pots and pans, horses and other livestock and more advanced weapons than bows and arrows. In turn, they showed the first settlers how to grow some crops and had a great trading relationship with the French.

The French and Native Americans mostly lived in peace. French fur traders in the Northern part of North America traded with tribes and for the most part left them alone. English settlers, however, often clashed with tribes. From the point of view of the Native Americans, English settlers took their tribal lands to start their own settlements. The 2 groups did not think about land the same way. Most Native American tribes moved from place to place and did not own any land. The English staked their claims for themselves, however. This led to many fights, raids and even a war over ownership of land in the years to come.



**STATION 2: French**

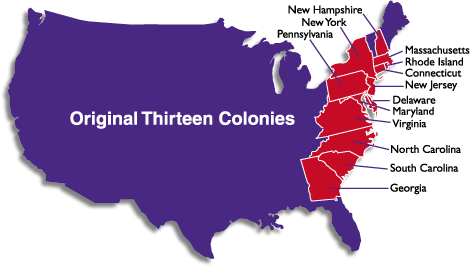
France wanted gold and glory in the New World. Their major motivations to settle in North America was to make money and gain land. They mostly set up military forts in the Northern part of the continent, in modern day Canada and the Northern-most U.S. states. Some of their forts were abandoned in the harsh winters, but many flourished. They learned to hunt animals for their warm fur and began selling and trading these furs with Native American tribes and back at home in France. This was so **lucrative** (a practice that makes lots of money) for the French that they continued to build forts and not many towns. An effect of this was that there were many French men living in harsh conditions at the forts, but very few French women and families.

The French sold and traded with the Native Americans and this way they were able to have a great relationship with most tribes in that region. Some French men even lived with tribes to learn how to survive in the New World. Some adopted their customs and married Native American women. They did not try to change the tribes or make them convert to a different religion, a trait that was respected by the Native Americans.



Today, Canada encompasses most of the colonial French territory. We can still see effect of their settlement in modern times! For example, many of Canada’s towns are named after the forts that the French set up there. Also, Canada has 2 national languages for the country: English and French.

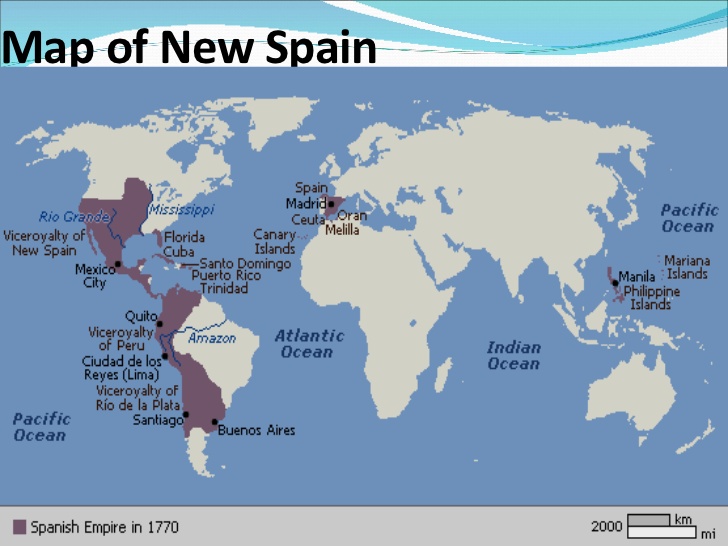
**STATION 3: English**

In the 17th century, England was one of the most powerful countries in the world. The country was looking for more ways to gain wealth and land. The colonies provided this! The first permanent settlement in America was established in 1607 by English entrepreneurs. Jamestown and the surrounding area became a highly **fertile** (capable of producing crops) land area for growing **cash crops.** These crops, such as tobacco and indigo, were traded back with England for other goods that the New World did not yet have. Many land owners, if they could survive the New World, became wealthy from these crops.

England was also in competition with other countries like Spain and France. They wanted to gain land in America so the settlers could send raw materials and crops back to England. This practice, sending goods and money back to the mother country, is called **mercantilism**. It was very profitable for England for over 100 years. England ended up formally owning the most land in North America, the entire east coast of modern-day United States. It was called the 13 Colonies.

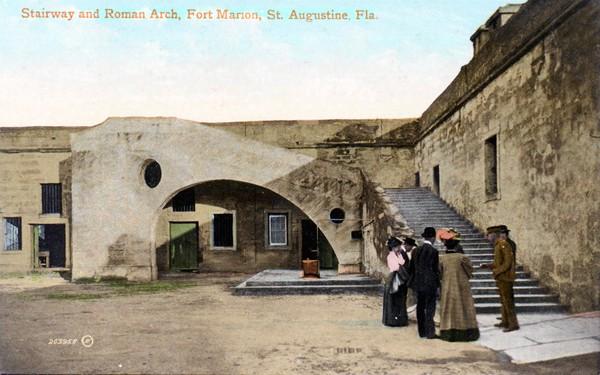
Other English groups were looking for religious freedom. The Puritans and Pilgrims were both **persecuted** (mistreated and harassed because of their beliefs) and wanted to practice their religions in peace.

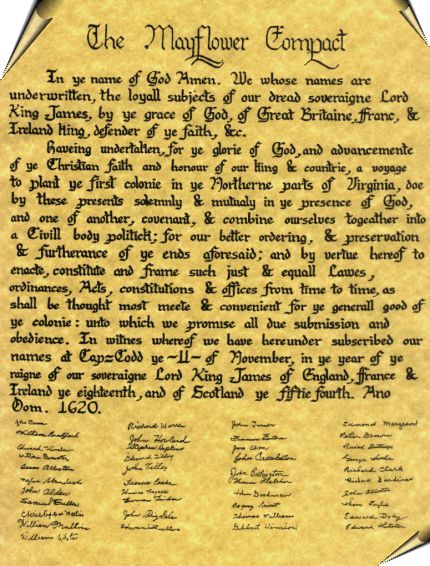
The King of England favored establishing colonies in America for all of these reasons and one more major one. There was a growing number of people in prison. Some of these were hardened criminals but a ton more were in jail for not being able to pay their debts. The King saw the colonies as a place to send these prisoners. In fact, the colony (today, state) of Georgia was settled by mostly debtors who were in English prisons!

**STATION 4: Spanish**

Spain was another of the European ‘super powers’ in the 1500s and 1600s. The country was constantly looking to gain land and wealth to expand its empire. After the **conquistadores** (conquerer, or explorer who claimed lands in the Americas for Spain) brought word of the wealth that the Americas could bring, the New World seemed to be a good fit for this goal.

The Catholic Church, which was linked with the government of Spain, had an alternate goal of converting Native American tribes to Catholicism. From their **perspective** (point of view), the Native Americans were barbaric and brutal and needed saving in the eyes of God. They sent **missionaries** (a person sent on a religious quest to spread their faith in foreign lands) to the Americas. The Alamo began this way. Priests established it as a mission to convert Native Americans to Catholicism.

Spain was eventually kicked out of North America by England, and later the United States. They do leave a lasting impression on central and South America, however. Mexico and most countries in South America speak Spanish today, which is an impact of the early Spanish colonies. They also conquered the ancient Native tribes, the Incas and Mayans. Modern day Mexico City stands on what used to be the Mayan civilization.

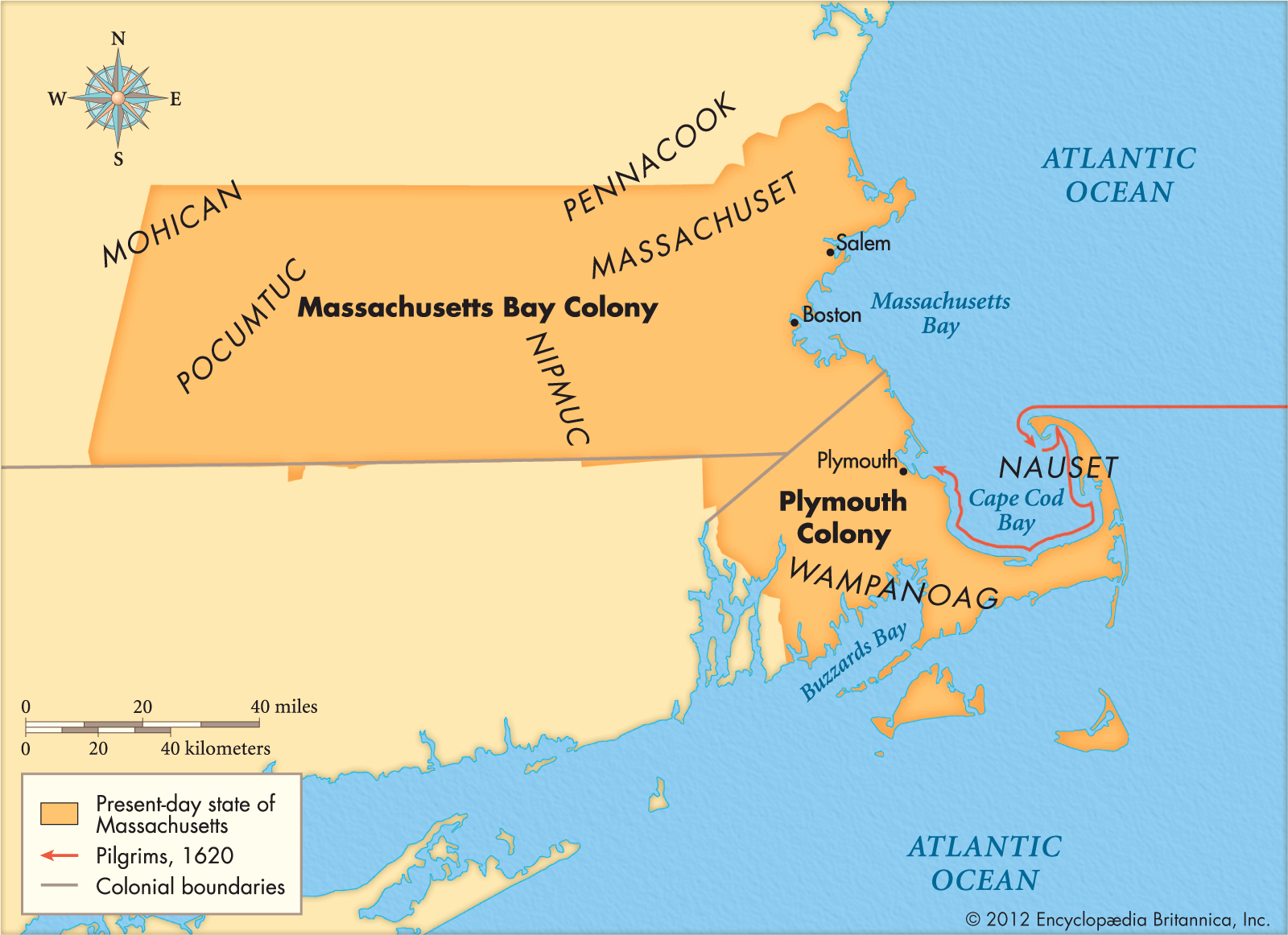
 **STATION 5: Pilgrims**

Pilgrims were one of the first religious groups to establish a permanent settlement in the New World. Their journey started over arguments with the church in England. They did not agree with the new church that was formed in the mid-1500s. This group was known as Separatists, because they wanted to separate from the Church of England.

However, they were **persecuted** (mistreated and harassed because of their beliefs) in England. Some fled to other countries in Europe so they could have the freedom to practice their religion. They had trouble finding work in these countries which led them to seek other opportunities. In the 1600s, a group of Separatists decided to leave Europe and make a new start in the New World. They became known as Pilgrims, which is someone who undertakes a religious journey. They were able to get a **charter** (a written document from a government outlining rules for a new place) and land in the New World from England.



They boarded a ship called the Mayflower and set a course for Virginia, where they had permission to settle and practice their religion freely. During the journey, they veered majorly off course and sighted Massachusetts, hundreds of miles North of Virginia. Because winter was approaching, the decided to land there anyway. Their **charter** was no good anymore, since it outlined governing rules for a settlement in Virginia. So onboard the Mayflower in 1620 they wrote down their own rules for government in a constitution called the Mayflower Compact. This document set up an organized government and a way to pass laws that were “for the general good of the colony”, which the people onboard signed. In 1620, the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth and, with the Mayflower Compact, set up the first written and independent government in America.

**STATION 6: Puritans**

England had been a Protestant country since 1534, when the king, Henry VIII, broke away from the Roman Catholic Church and formed the Anglican Church. Not everyone in England was happy with the new church. Many people **dissented** (disagreeing with the mainstream opinions), disagreeing with Anglican beliefs or practices. Some English people remained Catholic. Others were Protestants who wanted to **reform** (change in a positive way) the Anglican Church. Still others wanted to break away from it altogether. The Protestants who wished to reform the Anglican Church were called Puritans.

The Puritans did not want to separate entirely from the Church of England; they wanted to make reforms or changes. King Charles I would threaten the Puritans with harsh punishments if they did not obey the Church of England; therefore, they sought freedom in America. The Puritans received a **charter** (a written document from a government outlining rules for a new place ) from the Massachusetts Bay Company to settle land in New England. John Winthrop led approximately 1,000 Puritans to America and established the Massachusetts Bay Colony. The colonists wanted to base the colony on the laws of God. They believed that God would protect them if they obeyed his laws. Winthrop wanted to make this colony a model for all other colonies to follow. Like the other colonies, the Massachusetts Bay Colony established a government. All men who were church members were able to vote for governor and for representatives to the General Court. The General Court would then make laws for the good of the colony.

**STATION 7: Catholics**

 Puritans and Pilgrims were not the only religious groups facing **persecution** (harassment because of one’s beliefs) in England. Although the 1600s saw much less outright violence than in the 1500s, Catholics were still a persecuted minority in the seventeenth century. For example, Catholics were not even permitted to be legally married by a Catholic priest. So in 1632, when Cecelius Calvert commonly known as Lord Baltimore, was granted possession of all land lying between the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay in the New World, he saw this as an opportunity to grant religious freedom to the Catholics who remained in England. Baltimore thought that his New World possession could serve as a **refuge** (place of safety, especially for those who are persecuted). At the same time, he hoped to turn a financial profit and make some money from the colony.

Catholics first settled Maryland, named after England's Catholic queen Henrietta Maria, in 1634. Unlike the religious experiments to the North, money-making opportunities were the draw for many Maryland colonists. Because of this, most immigrants did not cross the Atlantic in family units but as individuals. The first inhabitants were a mixture of country gentlemen (mostly Catholic) and workers and artisans (mostly Protestant). Usually there are more poor than aristocrats in any given society, and the Catholics soon found themselves in the minority again. In 1649 the colony passed a law that granted religious freedom to all, so colonists were legally allowed to practice whichever religion they believed in.



**STATION 8: Quakers**

 William Penn was a dreamer. He also had the king over a barrel. King Charles II of England owed his father a huge debt. To repay the Penns, William was awarded an enormous tract of land in the New World. Immediately he saw possibilities. People of his faith, the Quakers, had suffered serious **persecution** (mistreatment and harassment because of their beliefs) in England. With some good advertising, he might be able to establish a religious **refuge** (a place of safety and peace, especially for those escaping persecution). He might even be able to make some money there…

The religious group the Quakers, or the Society of Friends, had suffered greatly in England. As religious **dissenters** (someone who opposes the majority opinion) of the Church of England, they were targets much like the Separatists and the Puritans. But Friends were also devout **pacifists** (a person who believes fighting and violence is wrong). They would not fight in any of England's wars, nor would they pay their taxes if they believed the proceeds would assist a military venture. They also believed in total equality. Therefore, Quakers would not bow down to nobles. This did not go over well in England. When the Quakers set sail for the New World, nobody objected.

Under the leadership of William Penn, the Quakers established the colony of Pennsylvania (named after Penn). They started farms to feed themselves and make money. This region eventually was nicknamed ‘Breadbasket’ because the majority of the colonies’ wheat and grain to make bread came from here. They lived in harmony and were peaceful with all groups. This was the first group to oppose slavery when they were introduced to work on the farms in Virginia.