

EXEMPLAR ESSAY (6/6)

554 Words

Before Europeans arrived, Native Americans were the only people in the Americas. In the Great Plains, these Native Americans lived in small groups and migrated as they pursued bison that they hunted for food. In the Northeast and Southeast, Native Americans practiced settled agriculture and lived in permanent settlements (like Iroquois longhouses that housed several families). In the American Southwest, Natives perfected irrigation techniques to grow corn in the desert climate that did not receive a lot of rainfall. The most important cause of conflict between Europeans and Native Americans between 1500 and 1763 was disputes over land because Europeans sought to control land that was claimed by Native Americans. A secondary cause of conflict was religious disputes, since Europeans sometimes sought to convert Native Americans to Christianity.

Land disputes were the most important cause of conflict between Native Americans and Europeans during the colonial period. Starting with the English settlement at Jamestown, English settlers claimed land that belonged to Native Americans (the Powhatan were the most powerful tribe in Virginia around that time). In New England, disputes over land became so heated that they were the main cause of King Philip's War. When the English won King Philip's War, it broke the power of the Native Americans in that region and English supremacy over the land was established. As English settlers moved west over the Appalachian Mountains, the French and Indian War resulted. The French and Indian War ended with the French giving up all of their territorial land claims in North America, which set the stage for English (and later Anglo-American) expansion across the North American continent.

Religion was another cause of conflict between Native Americans and Europeans. The Spanish made it a big priority to convert Native Americans to Christianity. Spanish Catholic priests built missions, which were small settlements designed to bring Native Americans to trade, learn the Spanish language, and attend church. When the Spanish expanded into New Mexico, they took offense when local American Indians performed their traditional cultural dances to try to make the rain fall. This resulted in the Pueblo Revolt, a rebellion led by Popay against the Spanish. The Pueblo Indians drove the Spanish out of New Mexico for twelve years. When the Spanish came back, they were more permissive about traditional practices (as long as the Indians also professed the Catholic faith).

Although there was a great deal of conflict between Native Americans and Europeans, it should not be forgotten that there was also cooperation between them, as well. Plains Indians adopted horses and firearms from the Europeans, which helped them in their bison hunts. The French, whose few settlers did not require a lot of land, formed strategic alliances with neighboring Natives. An example of this would be the French and Indian War, where most Indians fought on the side of the French. Also, Bartolome de las Casas protested the bad treatment that the American Indians received from the Spanish during the Encomienda.

Land disputes were the most important cause of conflict between Native Americans and Europeans between 1500 and 1763 because Europeans claimed land that belonged to the Indians; however, religion was also a cause of conflict when the Spanish tried too hard to spread the Catholic religion. It can also be noted that sometimes, Europeans and Native Americans cooperated with each other.

ABOVE-AVERAGE ESSAY (4/6)

290 Words

After Ferdinand and Isabella finished reconquering Spain, they sent Christopher Columbus on a voyage to expand trade into China and India. Instead, Columbus accidentally discovered America. Columbus' voyages resulted in the Columbian Exchange, which created a trade relationship between Europe and North America. Europeans ate tomatoes and potatoes and smoked tobacco for the first time. The Indians got horses and diseases. This trade relationship between Europe and the Americas (which included Europeans sending millions of colonists) causes conflict. The most important cause of conflict was competition for land and other scarce resources, which started wars between colonists and Native Americans.

When the Spanish arrived in the New World, they brought conquistadors, who conquered Native American tribes, like the Aztecs. The Spanish set up the encomienda, which was a system of forced labor and tribute to the Spanish. The Spanish also wanted to convert the Natives to Christianity. They sent Catholic priests to spread the Gospel. One of these priests, Bartolome de las Casas, protested against how the Natives were being treated, and this resulted in some reforms. The Spanish also tried to convert Native Americans in New Mexico, but this resulted in the Pueblo Revolt, in which the Natives kicked the Spanish out of New Mexico for some time.

When the English arrived at Jamestown, they also had conflicts with the Indians. In 1622, the Powhatan Indians massacred English colonists who had been settling on their land. In New England, King Philip's War was fought when Native Americans in New England resisted the English colonists who were settling on their land.

The most important cause of conflict between Native Americans and European colonists between 1500 and 1763 was competition for land and resources. Religion also played a role in conflicts.

CONTEXTUALIZATION	1	<i>Discussion of Columbus / Columbian Exchange provides useful background.</i>
THESIS	1	<i>The thesis makes a historically-defensible claim supported by a line of reasoning.</i>
EVIDENCE I	1	<i>The essay includes multiple pieces of specific evidence relevant to the prompt.</i>
EVIDENCE II	0	<i>The essay is narrative-driven rather than thesis-driven.</i>
REASONING	1	<i>Cause-and-effect relationships are briefly examined in the body paragraphs.</i>
COMPLEXITY	0	<i>The essay does not demonstrate a complex understanding.</i>
TOTAL	4	<i>The essay could be improved with a thesis-driven approach.</i>

BELOW-AVERAGE ESSAY (2/6)

130 Words

Contact between European colonists and Native Americans created a lot of problems and they fought over various things that created disagreements. Native Americans rebelled against the Spanish in the Pueblo Revolt in New Mexico. They chased the Spanish out so that they could practice their traditional religion. King Philip's War was fought between New England Native Americans and English colonists in New England. The colonists were taking too much Indian land.

Conflicts between Native Americans and European settlers did not just happen in the colonial period. After the Civil War, the United States Army fought wars against Native American tribes in the West. Geronimo and the Apache Tribe fought against settlers and the army to defend their land. The Apaches and other tribes eventually lost and were put on reservations.

CONTEXTUALIZATION	1	<i>Colonial conflicts are placed in a larger context of conflicts in the next century.</i>
THESIS	0	<i>The attempt at a thesis is extremely vague and fails to advance a clear argument.</i>
EVIDENCE I	1	<i>The essay includes multiple pieces of specific evidence relevant to the prompt.</i>
EVIDENCE II	0	<i>The essay is narrative-driven rather than thesis-driven.</i>
REASONING	0	<i>Cause-and-effect relationships are alluded to, but not with any intentionality.</i>
COMPLEXITY	0	<i>The essay does not demonstrate a complex understanding.</i>
TOTAL	2	<i>The essay would benefit from a clear thesis and an argumentative structure.</i>