

# Important People & Events in the New England Colonies

## New Ideas, New Settlements

In 1630, John Winthrop was elected governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. He and the other Puritan leaders kept strict control over life in the colony.

**4** They did not welcome people whose beliefs were different from their own. They thought that **dissent**, or disagreement, might hurt their society.

### Roger Williams

Some colonists disagreed with the Puritan leaders. One of those colonists was a minister in Salem named **Roger Williams**. Williams often stated his

beliefs in his sermons. He and his followers believed that their church should be separate from the colonial government. They also believed that Puritan leaders should not punish people for having different beliefs.

Williams also disagreed with Puritan leaders over their treatment of Native Americans. He said that the settlers ought to live in peace with Native Americans.

Winthrop and the other Puritan leaders decided to punish Williams for his dissent. They held a trial and found him guilty of spreading “new and dangerous opinions.” In 1635, the leaders voted to **expel** Williams from Massachusetts, or force him to leave.

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► **ROGER WILLIAMS** was expelled from Massachusetts, but the Narragansett tribe gave him shelter.





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► **ANNE HUTCHINSON** held weekly meetings at her home. They were seen as a challenge to the authority of the men who led the Puritan church.

Williams and his family moved southwest of Boston to what is now Narragansett (nar•uh•GAN•suht) Bay. For a short time, they lived near the coast with the Narragansett tribe. Many of Williams's followers joined him there. In 1636, Williams bought land from the Narragansett and founded a settlement that he called Providence.

Williams organized the settlement based on the **consent**, or agreement, of the people and cooperation with the Native Americans. The settlers could follow almost any religion they chose.

### 9 **Anne Hutchinson**

The leaders of the Massachusetts Bay Colony faced another challenge to their authority, or power, from a colonist named **Anne Hutchinson**. Hutchinson

questioned the teachings of the Puritan ministers. At this time in history, women rarely spoke out against men.

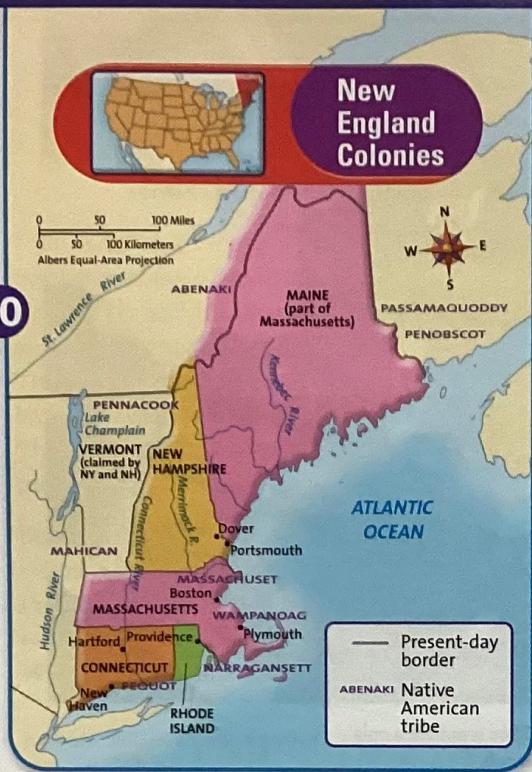
Hutchinson's actions angered many Puritan leaders. In 1637, they tried her on charges of **sedition** (sih•DIH•shuhn), or speaking in ways that caused others to work against the government. Hutchinson was found guilty and expelled from the colony.

With her family and several followers, Hutchinson left to start a settlement on an island near Providence. That settlement later joined Williams's settlement under the charter that formed the colony of Rhode Island in 1647.

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#### READING CHECK **SUMMARIZE**

**Why did Roger Williams wish to start a new settlement?** He wanted to start a colony with greater religious freedom.



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## New England Colonies

### Other Colonies

Most early Connecticut settlers came to find good farmland, but many also came because of their religious beliefs. One of these settlers was a Puritan minister named Thomas Hooker. He left Massachusetts because he disagreed with the way its leaders ruled. Hooker and his followers founded Hartford. In 1636, Hartford and other nearby settlements joined to form the colony of **Connecticut**.

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In 1639, the leaders of the Connecticut Colony wrote the Fundamental Orders, a plan of government. These orders let voters elect their own leaders. However, the only people who could vote were white men who owned land.

Other colonists looking for economic opportunities moved north of Massachusetts. In 1623, a Scottish settler named David Thomson set out to start a fishing settlement. In 1679, this settlement, later known as Portsmouth, joined with others to form the colony of **New Hampshire**.

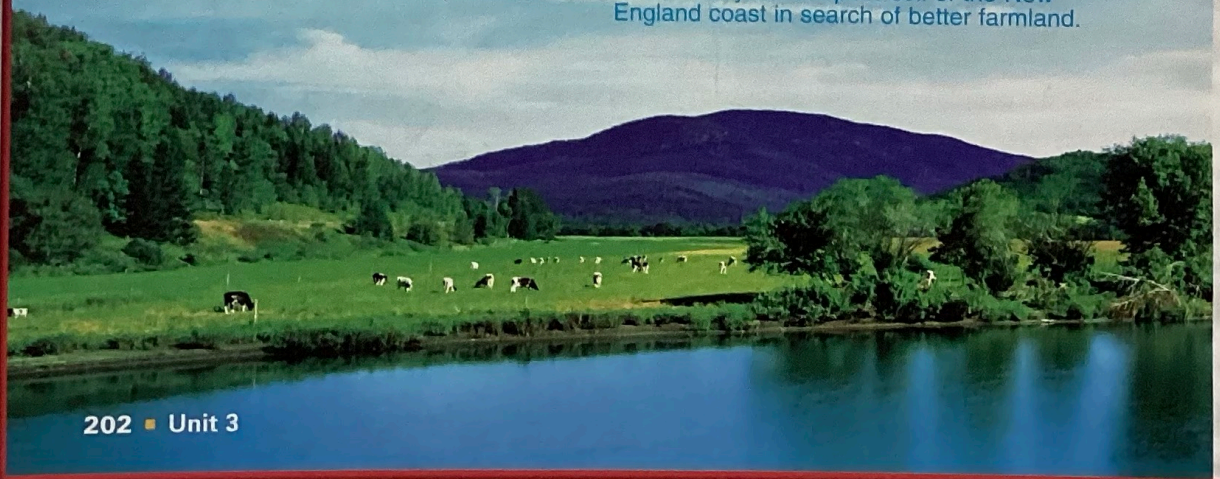
**MAP SKILL** REGIONS Which of the New England Colonies had the smallest amount of land?

## New England Grows

Other settlers moved south from Massachusetts to find better farmland. Some left the poor, rocky soil of coastal New England for the fertile Connecticut (kuh•NEH•tih•kuht) River Valley.

### READING CHECK SUMMARIZE

**Why did farmers settle in the Connecticut River Valley?** They left the poor soil of the New England coast in search of better farmland.



## Growth Brings Conflict

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As the colonists spread across New England, they settled where Native Americans already lived and hunted. In the Connecticut River Valley, fighting broke out between the colonists and the Pequot (PEE•kwaht) tribe. The Pequot wanted to stop the colonists from taking over their lands.

In 1637, the colonists and the Pequot began attacking each other's settlements. The conflict became known as the Pequot War. The colonists defeated the Pequot and the tribe was forced to split up.

### Arguments Over Land

The settlers and the Native Americans had different ideas about land ownership. The Mohegan (moh•HEE•guhnh), Wampanoag (wahm•puh•NOH•ag), Narragansett, and other tribes believed that no one person could own land. The English, however, believed that if they claimed an area, the land was theirs. The settlers expected Native American tribes to leave the land.

Metacomet, known to the English as King Philip, was the leader of the

Wampanoag. When more English settlers moved onto their tribal lands, Metacomet decided that the Native Americans had to unite against the colonists. He said,

“I am resolved not to see the day when I have no country.”

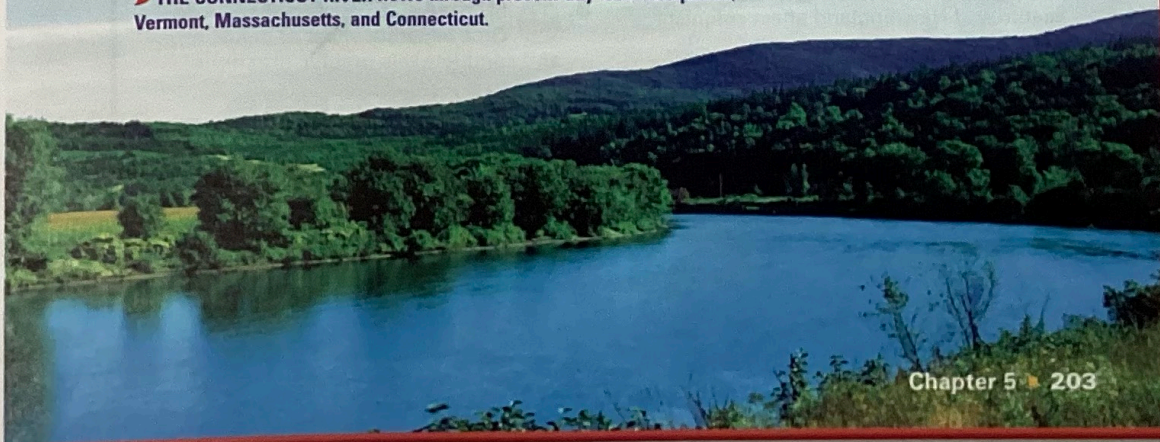
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### King Philip's War

In 1675, arguments over land again led to war between the colonists and the Native Americans. The colonists named the war King Philip's War. It began when Native Americans attacked the town of Swansea in Rhode Island. In return, the settlers destroyed a nearby Native American village.

Over the next year, King Philip's War spread as far north as present-day Maine and as far west as Connecticut. In the end, both sides suffered terrible losses. Among the colonists, 1 of every 16 men died in battle. At least 3,000 Native Americans, including Metacomet, were killed. Some tribes were nearly wiped out, and most were forced to give up their lands.

► THE CONNECTICUT RIVER flows through present-day New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, and Connecticut.



Colonists soon moved onto those lands. Some settled in Western Connecticut, while others moved to present-day Vermont, northern New Hampshire, and Maine. The frontier, or the land beyond the areas already settled by the colonists was being pushed west, too. By 1700, more than 90,000 colonists lived in New England.

# Anne Hutchinson

**1** “You condemn me for speaking what in my conscience I know to be truth.”

Anne Hutchinson spoke those words at her trial in 1637. She stated her right to have her own religious beliefs and challenged the power of the Massachusetts Bay Colony’s leaders.

Hutchinson was born in England in 1591. Her father often spoke out against the Church of England. At the age of 21, she married William Hutchinson. Together, they would raise 15 children. In 1634, the Hutchinson family moved to Boston.

In Boston, Hutchinson shared her beliefs at prayer meetings. She said that people did not need to follow church laws to please God. The colony’s leaders put her on trial for breaking the law and expelled her from Massachusetts.

In 1638, Hutchinson and her family and followers settled in what became the Rhode Island Colony. She later moved to what is now New York, where she was killed in a Native American raid in 1643. Hutchinson’s struggle for religious freedom set an example for others in her time.


## Biography

Trustworthiness  
Respect  
Responsibility

## Fairness

Caring  
Patriotism

## Why Character Counts

 In what ways did Anne Hutchinson struggle to be treated fairly?

## Time

1591

Born

1634 Hutchinson moves to Boston and starts holding religious meetings

1643

Died

1637 Hutchinson is put on trial and expelled from Massachusetts



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