



# Trick or Treaty - The Walking Purchase of 1737

Unit 5, Lesson 14

## Essential Question:

- What effect did the Walking Purchase have on relations between the Native Americans and European colonists?



**STUDENTS!** Once you are in two different groups, you are going to receive a paper. Keep it upside down.

### **INSTRUCTIONS & EXPECTATIONS:**

1. You are about to engage in a competition!
2. When you are allowed to turn the papers over, you should look for the box at the bottom of the grid that has the word **“START”** in it.
3. Then find the box at the top of the grid that has the word **“FINISH”** in it.
4. Your task will be to write the letters **“W”** and **“P”** in all of the empty white boxes from **“Start”** to **“Finish.”** The Ws and Ps must be entered in alternating boxes. For example, first box = W; second box = P; third box = W; fourth box = P and on and on.
5. To win, all students on one side of the room have to have filled in all of the empty white boxes with Ws and Ps. They have to be shaded in order, one at a time beginning with **“Start”** and ending with **“Finish.”**
6. When you have completely shaded all of the boxes, put your head down so I know when one side is finished.
7. The winning side will receive an award.
8. Any violations of the expectations will result in said individual becoming ineligible for the award.
9. Anyone not filling in the boxes correctly will also be ineligible to receive an award and the errors must be corrected before your side is declared the winner.

ANY QUESTION





Painting: *The Treaty of Penn with the Indians* by Benjamin West (drawn in 1771-1772) Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia.



Now, on a piece of paper, draw the scene from your first birthday celebration.



**Let's  
Discuss!**

1. Does your drawing show what actually happened on your first birthday celebration?
2. Do you really know what that big day in your lives must have looked like?
3. Is your drawing fact or imagination / interpretation or a bit of both?

## Guess What?

William Penn is the man who the King of England gave the colony of Pennsylvania to.



- We are going to read a message that William Penn (who was still in England) had one of his friends bring to the Native Americans who lived in Pennsylvania.
- Read Resource 4, Penn's message & complete the Check for Understanding at the bottom of the page.

1. The Great God who made you and me and who gave us hearts to do what is right – Love and peace to you. This message I send to assure you of my love and to ask you for your love for my friends.
2. And when the Great God brings me to you I intend to arrange all things in ways that will help us to live in Love and peace with one another. This I hope the Great God will have both me and you do. I want nothing but to do what pleases him.
3. The man who brings this message to you is my Special friend. He is Sober, wise, and Loving. You can believe him.
4. I have taken steps to make sure that none of my people do you wrong. And I have made good laws to make sure of this. And I will never allow my people to sell your people Alcohol to make your people Drunk.
5. If anything is happening that does your people wrong, report this to me when I will come and it will be fixed. And I will bring you something from our Country that is useful and pleasing to you.
6. So I rest on your love of our god who made us. I am

Your Loving Friend  
William Penn

England  
February 25, 1682

I read this to the Indians by an interpreter in June of 1682  
Thomas Holme



Resource 3: The Treaty of Penn with the Indians by Benjamin West (1771-1772)



1. Who is in the painting?
2. What are they doing?
3. What details in the painting serve as evidence for your conclusion?
4. Is the painting a primary or secondary source?
5. Do you think the artist was actually there when this meeting took place?
6. Should we conclude that the scene in this painting actually happened as it is shown to have happened?
7. Is there a possibility that it shows some things that really happened?
8. What might make you believe that what the artist drew is an accurate representation of what happened in 1682? Why do you think the artist painted this? What is the painting trying to do to those who look at it?

# Complete Resource 3.



After reading Resource 5, you are going to be asked to:

1. Summarize what you have read with details from the reading.
1. Explain how the information in the visual contributes to an understanding of the text in which it appears.

#### Resource 5: Story of the Walking Purchase (adapted below from [here](#))

The history of the Lenape Indians includes a story about what is known as the "Walking Purchase." The Walking Purchase took place in 1737.

#### Wait! The Penn Sons Did What?

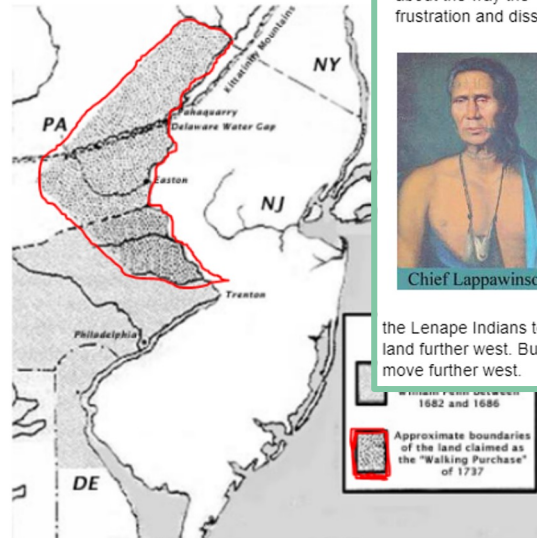
The Governor of Pennsylvania named William Penn was a Quaker who had been fair to the Lenape. But after he left Pennsylvania in 1684 and returned to Britain, William Penn's sons and others began to sell land to pay debts. The problem was - it was not their land to sell. That land belonged to the

#### Why is the Treaty of 1737 Called the "Walking Purchase?"

The Penns (remember, they are British) came up with a way to trick the Lenape into signing over the land. They got an old legal document that had never been completed. They told the Lenape that the document was evidence that their ancestors had agreed to turn the land over to the people of Pennsylvania 50 years earlier. They also said that the document stated that the Penns were given **as much land as a person could walk in a day and a half**. This is how it got the name "Walking Purchase."

The Lenape Indians believed that the Penns were telling the truth.

They agreed to let the Penns get someone to walk as far as they could for a day and a half. That would determine how much land would become the property of the Penns under the "Walking Purchase."



#### Resource 5: Story of the Walking Purchase (adapted below from [here](#))

#### Was the Walking Purchase a Trick or a Treaty?

The Lenapes believed that the person that the Penns got to walk would walk at a leisurely (slow) pace along a winding trail that the Lenape created along the Delaware River. If the Penns did this, the Lenape would not have to give up too much land. But the Penns had different ideas. They hired three of the fastest runners they could find and had a new straight path built so the runners could go really far in a day and a half. One of the runners made it 55 miles!

By showing the Lenape Indians a fake document and using fast runners, the Penns tricked the Lenape out of 1200 square miles of their land in Pennsylvania. This was an area about the size of the *entire state of Rhode Island!* The Lenape people complained about the way the "walk" had been done. Lenape chief Lappawinsoe expressed the frustration and dissatisfaction of the Lenape people when he said:



*...the white runners should have walked along by the Delaware River. They should have walked for a few Miles and then sat down and smoked a pipe and shot a squirrel to eat now and then, and not have kept running all day.*

#### What Effects Did the Walking Treaty Have?

The Lenape people felt that their sense of honor required them to do what their ancestors had agreed to. This began a trend that would last a long time. The British continued tricking or forcing the Lenape Indians to move off of their land and tell them that they could always have land further west. But many did not keep their promises and the Lenape kept having to move further west.

# Your Task:



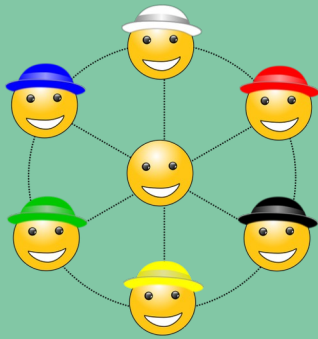
- *Partner #1* → Summarizes what was read with details from the reading.
- *Partner #2* → Adds to and enhances the summary - being sure to correct any errors.

## Whole Group Sharing



- *Partner #2* → Explains how the information in the visual contributes to an understanding of the text in which it appears.
- *Partner #1* → Adds to and enhances the summary - being sure to correct any errors.

## Whole Group Sharing



# Put your thinking caps on, and let's discuss...!

- 1. Can you now make the connection between the warm-up and the story of the Walking Purchase?
- 2. Did any of you think that the warm-up activity was unfair?
- 3. Did some of you have to follow a winding trail of blocks that the Lenape thought would be followed as part of the Walking Purchase?
- 4. Did some of you follow a straight trail of blocks like the one that the Penn family carved out?

# Yes! An additional Check for Understanding:

## Individually complete Resource 6: Additional Checks for Understanding

### Resource 6: Additional Checks for Understanding Name \_\_\_\_\_

#### 1. Which of the following happened last?

- William Penn returned to England
- the Walking Purchase took place
- the Lenape lost land the size of Rhode Island
- William Penn's sons sold land that belonged to the Lenape

#### 2. Which of the following BEST describes an effect of the Walking Purchase?

- relations between the Lenape and Pennsylvania colonists got better
- relations between the Lenape and Pennsylvania colonists got worse
- relations between the Lenape and Pennsylvania colonists stayed the same

#### 3. Underline the sentence in the paragraph below that BEST explains how the Penns tricked the Lenape Indians.

The Lenapes believed that the person that the Penns got to walk would walk at a leisurely (slow) pace along a winding trail that the Lenape created along the Delaware River. If the Penns did this, the Lenape would not have to give up too much land. But the Penns had different ideas. They hired three of the fastest runners they could find and had a new straight path built so the runners could go really far in a day and a half. One of the runners made it 55 miles!

#### Read the two statements below then answer the question that follows.

Statement 1: The English colonists treated the Lenape Indians unfairly when they did the Walking Treaty.

Statement 2: The English colonists were very smart in the way that they did the Walking Treaty.

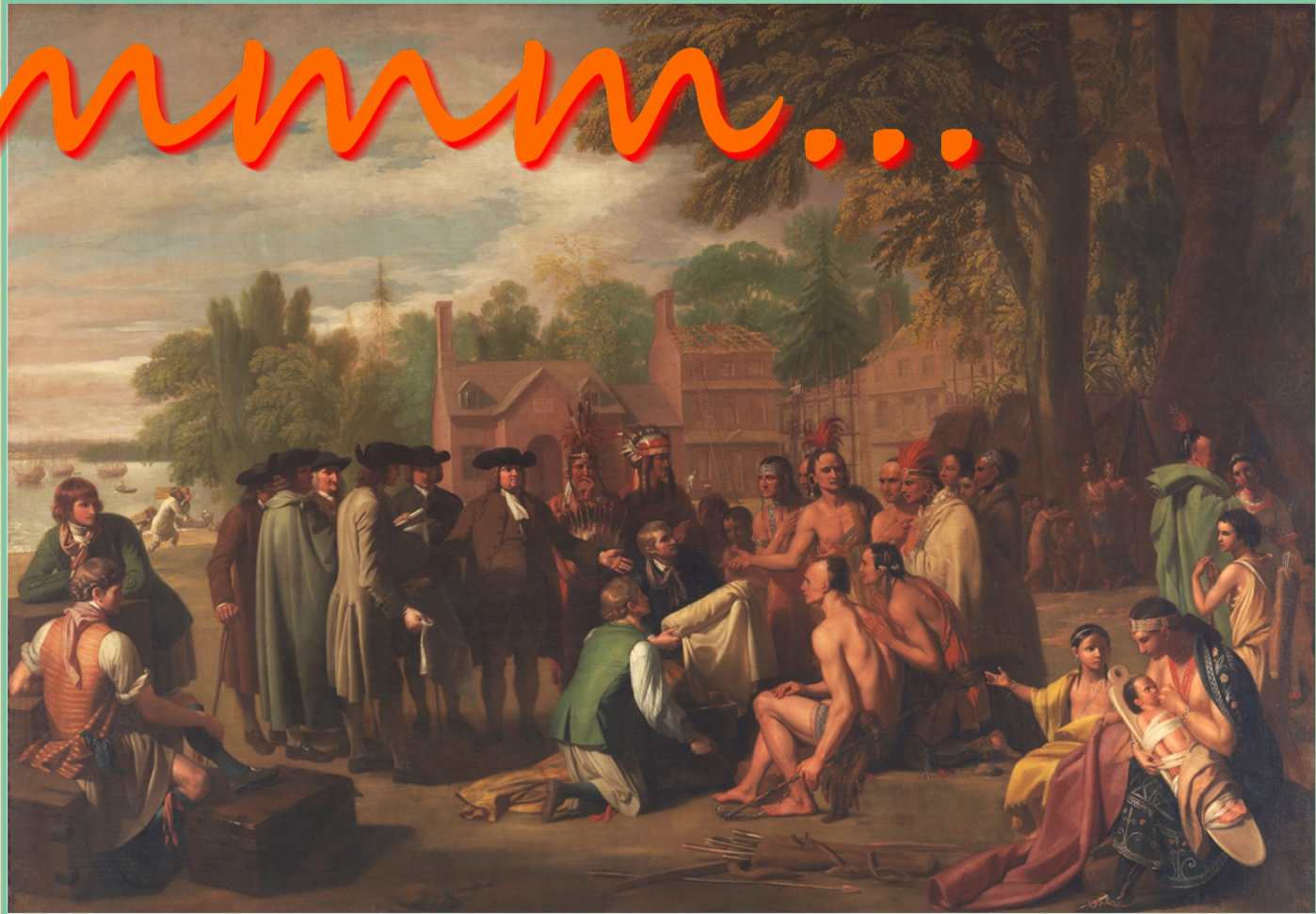
#### 4. Which statement is MOST LIKELY written from the colonists' point of view?

- Statement 1
- Statement 2

hmmmm...

What are some additional thoughts about this painting?

It's time to Debrief!



# the making of an American myth

