Early New York

This resource packet is aimed to help teachers use primary source images from the NYPL’s Digital Gallery as well as texts from the NYPL’s Databases to teach about Early New York. It is divided into three sections: Henry Hudson arrives in New York, Colonial Leadership, and People of New Amsterdam. Follow the links to find the full text for each article and print the picture pages to distribute to students.

To access this and other images, visit the Digital Gallery at http://digitalgallery.nypl.org.

This project was made possible by a generous grant from The Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation.
Henry Hudson arrives in New York

Articles from NYPL Databases

Short Biography of Henry Hudson.  

Biography of Henry Hudson including his search for the Northeast Passage and voyage to the Hudson Bay.  

The article features British sea captain Henry Hudson and focuses on the 400th anniversary of his exploration of the Hudson River in eastern New York in 2009. An overview of Hudson’s route is offered.  

Presents the play 'Henry Hudson: Captain Courageous,' based on history of the United States. Dialogs of the play; Description of the epilogue to the play.  

Writing Prompts

“Of Hudson’s early life, nothing is known.” Since historians do not know anything about Hudson’s childhood, imagine the young Henry Hudson growing up in England. Does he go to school? What are his friends like? What games does he like to play? What events inspired him? What did he dream about? When did he decide to become an explorer? Why did he decide to bring his son with him?

Write an essay that considers Hudson’s successes and failures. In the end, decide whether Hudson was a courageous and important explorer or a power hungry leader.

Write Scene 5 in the Henry Hudson play. What happened to Hudson, John and Staffe out at sea? Imagine a conversation in which they reflect on their journey and discoveries. Perhaps they will talk about how people will remember them.

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What event is being shown in this scene from Henry Hudson’s life and how can you tell? Why is it on a coin? What person or event would you put on a coin?

Compare and contrast Half Moon with the small boats around it. Describe the river and the landscape. Why do you think the river “bears his name?” If you could lend your name to any place, what would it be?

Where are the Native Americans going? Where is Half Moon going? Imagine the conversation between the Native Americans and write a dialogue. Imagine the observations of Henry Hudson and his crew and write a dialogue.

What names or images do you recognize in this magazine cover? How is this image of Half Moon different from other images you have seen? Why do you think it would be on the cover of a magazine in 1909? What do you think Hamilton Wright Mabie’s article was about? Write the first paragraph.
Finding the Hudson

**Image Title:** Scenes in his life

**Source:** Print Collection portrait file. / H / Henry Hudson. / Medals.

**Digital ID:** 1263023

To access this and other images, visit the Digital Gallery at [http://digitalgallery.nypl.org](http://digitalgallery.nypl.org).

This project was made possible by a generous grant from The Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation.
Image Title: The Half Moon

Source: Print Collection portrait file. / H / Henry Hudson. / The Half Moon

Digital ID: 1263036

To access this and other images, visit the Digital Gallery at http://digitalgallery.nypl.org.

This project was made possible by a generous grant from The Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation.
**Image Title:** Hudson enters N.Y. Bay at foot of Manhattan, 1609.

**Source:** Mid-Manhattan Picture Collection / American history -- 1601s-1610s

**Digital ID:** 808044

To access this and other images, visit the Digital Gallery at [http://digitalgallery.nypl.org](http://digitalgallery.nypl.org).

This project was made possible by a generous grant from The Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation.
Image Title: The Half Moon

Source: Print Collection portrait file. / H / Henry Hudson. / The Half Moon

Digital ID: 1263039
Colonial Leadership

Articles from NYPL Databases

A short biography of the Dutch colonial governor.

A short biography of the last Dutch governor of New Netherlands.
World Book Online InfoFinder. World Book, 2011

Examines the history and settlement of New Netherlands financed by members of the Dutch West India Company.

The article focuses on Great Britain's seizure of Manhattan Island, New York from the Dutch in 1664. Particular attention is given to the work of Peter Stuyvesant, director-general of the Dutch colony of New Netherlands.

Writing Prompts

Write an essay that compares and contrasts Willem Kieft and Peter Stuyvesant. What were their success and failures as leaders of New Amsterdam? Consider their policies toward Native Americans, laws for the people of New Amsterdam and overall success of the colony during their rule.

“Despite the odds, Stuyvesant wanted to fight.” Stuyvesant did not want to surrender to John Winthrop but he could not recruit enough soldiers or ammunition to fight the English. Write a persuasive essay from the perspective of Stuyvesant encouraging the people of New Amsterdam to fight against the English. Include facts about why New Amsterdam is unique and worth fighting for.

New Amsterdam’s policy of toleration was unique for its time and has left a lasting influence. Research other Dutch influences on New York City and the United States including economic, political, social and cultural influences.
Images from NYPL Digital Gallery

**Describe** the buildings in the image.
**Imagine** you are one of the people in the small rowboat. Describe what you see.
**Do** you think Governor Kieft was pleased with his fort based on this image?

**Describe** the background and foreground of the image.
**How** do you think the people feel about Stuyvesant’s arrival based on their expressions?
**What** do you think Stuyvesant is thinking?

**What** information about early New York does this map give?
**How** can you tell that this map is made by a company from New Amsterdam?
**Are** there any similarities between this map and New York today?

**Describe** the small image above the main scene.
**Why** do you think it is included? What does it tell you about the surrender?
**What** kind of ceremony do you think they had?
Write an schedule for a ceremony that marks a transfer of power.

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This project was made possible by a generous grant from The Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation.
Image Title: The fort in Kieft's day.

Source: Mid-Manhattan Picture Collection / New York City -- forts

Digital ID: 804875
Image Title: Arrival of Stuyvesant at New Amsterdam.

Source: Mid-Manhattan Picture Collection / New York City -- 1699 & earlier

Digital ID: 800027

To access this and other images, visit the Digital Gallery at http://digitalgallery.nypl.org.

This project was made possible by a generous grant from The Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation.
**Image Title:** Map of the original grants of village lots from the Dutch West India Company to the inhabitants of New-Amsterdam (now New-York) lying below the present line of Wall Street: Grants commencing A.D. 1642 / located from historical & legal records by Henry D. Tyler.

**Source:** Maps of New York City and State / New York City / Manhattan

**Digital ID:** psnypl_map_275
**Image Title:** The Dutch surrender New Amsterdam, Sept. 8, 1664.

**Source:** Mid-Manhattan Picture Collection / American history -- 1640s-1660s

**Digital ID:** 808200
People of New Amsterdam

Articles from NYPL Databases

Reasons behind the Dutch's settlement in Manhattan; Account of the colonists' relations with the Algonquian tribes; Stuyvesant's efforts to repair the Wall Street.

The article informs that the first Africans brought to the Dutch colony of New Motherland arrived only a few years after the Dutch West India Co. founded the settlement at New Amsterdam.

The article presents a brief account of the Mohawk Indians from the Dutch colony New Netherland (later renamed New York), as described by the Reverend Johannes Megapolensis, Jr., dated August 26, 1644.

A vivid picture of life in New York and New Jersey during the transition period was provided by Swedish traveler Per Kalm in *Travels into North America, Containing Its Natural History and a Circumstantial Account of Its Plantations and Agriculture*.

Writing Prompts

“Today [Stuyvesant] would marvel at how important Wall Street has become not only to New York City, but to the entire world as well.” Imagine you were giving Stuyvesant a tour of modern-day Wall Street. Write about what the street was like during his time and how it has changed now.

Compare and contrast the description of Native Americans given by Per Kalm and Johannes Megapolensis. Do you think one is more accurate than the other? Is one more favorable to the Native Americans?

Write a dialogue between a Dutch colonial, an African brought to New Amsterdam and a Native American. They might discuss their customs and traditions, their claims to the land and their hopes for the future.
Describe the Indian village. What shape are the buildings? How are they organized? What is the landscape?

Describe the people and animals you see.

What do you think happened to this village after the Dutch arrived?

What kinds of transportation do you see in this image?

Are there any similarities between 1647 and Wall Street today?

Imagine what your street looked like in 1647 and write a description.

Compare and contrast the Native American’s clothes with the Dutchmen’s clothes.

What do you think the Native Americans are carrying?

Why would they bring a tribute?

What would you bring if someone new arrived at your home?

Describe what each of the five characters in the scene is doing.

What similarities are there between this image and your family at home?

Write a short play that gives each character at least one line.
Image Title: An Indian village of the Manhattans, prior to the occupation of the Dutch / Geo. Hayward


Digital ID: 421969

To access this and other images, visit the Digital Gallery at http://digitalgallery.nypl.org.

This project was made possible by a generous grant from The Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation.
Image Title: The blockhouse and city gate (foot of the present Wall Street), 1674.

Source: Mid-Manhattan Picture Collection / New York City -- 1699 & earlier

Digital ID: 800048

To access this and other images, visit the Digital Gallery at http://digitalgallery.nypl.org.

This project was made possible by a generous grant from The Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation.
Image Title: Indians bringing tribute.

Source: Mid-Manhattan Picture Collection / New York City -- 1699 & earlier

Digital ID: 800016
Image Title: Household in the old Dutch Colony times.

Source: Mid-Manhattan Picture Collection / New York City -- life -- 1699 & earlier

Digital ID: 805606

To access this and other images, visit the Digital Gallery at http://digitalgallery.nypl.org.

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