

## **NEW YORK COLONY**

### **Reading Comprehension**

The area that first became New Amsterdam, and eventually New York City, was first referred to as “Man-A-Hat-Ta” by the local Indians. The name meant "heavenly land." It was first visited by the French explorer Giovanni da Verrazzano in 1524. Verrazzano explored much of America's northeast coast, including the waters around New York City and Long Island. Today, one of the world's longest bridges, the Verrazzano Narrows Bridge, in New York City, is named for him.

The first people to settle the area were the Dutch. Henry Hudson explored the region and named the world's largest tidal river, the Hudson River, after himself. Hudson's explorations, from Albany to New York City, provided the impetus for the Dutch to colonize the region. The Dutch quickly built a settlement and a network of roads. Some of the roads, such as Broadway and Pearl Street, are still in use today.

Peter Minuet arrived the following year and bought Man-A-Hat-Ta from the local Indians for about 24 dollars' worth of beads and trinkets. Man-A-Hat-Ta itself was not inhabited by Indians. Nevertheless, Man-A-Hat-Ta became known as New Amsterdam and Minuet became its first governor. New Amsterdam's geographic location made it a popular destination for many. It welcomed settlers from all cultures and religions. The first Jewish synagogue in the New World was built at New Amsterdam in 1640. Dutch colonists soon spread out to areas surrounding New Amsterdam such as Long Island and parts of current upstate New York. Rapid growth and burgeoning populations resulted in widespread chaos throughout New Amsterdam. In 1647, Peter Stuyvesant was elected governor. Stuyvesant ruled the city in a stern manner for seventeen years, which quelled the chaos and brought much success.

Soon, English Puritans emigrated from New England to New Amsterdam. The industrious Puritans quickly gained political and economic power and imposed strict rules upon the population, including fines for singing and public whippings for more serious "offenses." After a series of natural disasters and phenomena struck such as a meteor, an earthquake, and unusually warm weather through the winter of 1663, the Dutch handed New Amsterdam over to the British when Charles II declared that all lands between the Delaware and Connecticut Rivers belonged to his brother James, the Duke of York. The Dutch, totally unprepared for war, immediately surrendered (by signing the Anglo-Dutch Treaty) when the English fleet entered the harbor to take the city. New Amsterdam, henceforth, became New York.

1. What was New Amsterdam first known as?
2. The Verrazzano Narrows Bridge was named after a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ explorer.
3. Which of the following is NOT TRUE about the Dutch?
  - a. Henry Hudson led Dutch explorations of the regions.
  - b. They were the first Europeans to settle the area.
  - c. The Dutch refused to allow settlers from other countries and religions to settle in New Amsterdam.
  - d. They named streets still in existence today such as Pearl Street and Broadway.
4. Who was New York's first governor?
5. Describe life in New Amsterdam in 1647.
6. How was Peter Stuyvesant's method of governing the city different from Peter Minuet's?
  - a. He was less strict.
  - b. He was nicer.
  - c. It wasn't different.
  - d. He was more strict.
7. Stuyvesant's \_\_\_\_\_ manner of governing New Amsterdam resulted in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the colony.
8. What does the word "industrious" mean in the following phrase?

The industrious Puritans quickly gained political and economic power...

  - a. Poor
  - b. Hardworking
  - c. Powerful
  - d. Wealthy
9. Put the following events in order from 1 to 4 where 1 happened first and 4 happened last.  
\_\_\_\_\_ The Dutch surrendered.  
\_\_\_\_\_ The Puritans took control of New Amsterdam.  
\_\_\_\_\_ An earthquake  
\_\_\_\_\_ New Amsterdam was renamed New York.
10. Which of the following would likely be a serious "offense" punishable by fines or public whipping under Puritan rule?
  - a. Trading with the English
  - b. Cutting down trees
  - c. Growing different crops
  - d. Forming a chorus