



Northeast

One of the defining characteristics of early world exploration was the risk and potential promise of the unknown. As Henry Hudson labored to secure funding for his voyages to the Spice Islands, half of his work was convincing his patrons that he knew with confidence that he would reach the riches they promised. *Conquest of America: Northeast* follows Hudson through these dangerous and daring voyages which never got him to the islands of plenty he imagined but did play an unexpected and major role in the mapping of the North American continent. With the support of both the British and the Dutch, Hudson navigated through the waterways of the Atlantic all the way to present day New York.

Conquest of America: Northeast is an hour long program in a larger series on the early exploration of North America and the transformations these events inspired. Drawing upon primary sources such as journals, diaries, and ship records, this gripping documentary uses the voices and words of historical figures themselves to animate the story of Hudson's progress and defeats as he sailed through tumultuous waters. Throughout the program, colorful maps provide a visual representation of Hudson's routes as he attempted to chart the Atlantic based on scanty information and pure hypothesis. Educators and their students will feel the urgency and drama of maritime exploration as Hudson and his crew are imperiled by internal disputes, weather patterns, and the native populations they encountered on their stops. The *Conquest of America* series is excellent for classroom use, introducing students to the fascinating early history of the Atlantic world and North American east coast.

CURRICULUM LINKS:

Conquest of America: Northeast would be useful for courses on U.S. history, global studies, World Civilization, World Cultures, and New York state history. It is appropriate for middle school and high school. This documentary fulfills several National Standards guidelines as outlined by the National Council for History Education including: Values, Beliefs, Political Ideas and Institutions, Conflict and Cooperation,

Human Interaction with the Environment and Comparative History of Major Developments.

KEY IDENTIFICATIONS AND TERMS:

celestial

derived

favorable

Henry Hudson

Dutch East India Company

inadvertently

inhospitable

maritime

mutiny

New Amsterdam

Quest

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What were the three main routes Henry Hudson believed would lead him through the “Northwest Passage” to Asia?
2. What do you think was Hudson’s main motivation in searching for the Spice Islands?
3. Which countries funded Hudson’s explorations? What did they hope to achieve in return for funding Hudson’s voyages?
4. Why did Hudson fail in his initial attempts to find the passage to the Spice Islands?
5. In what ways did the Native American populations cooperate with Hudson and his crew? In what ways did they oppose them?
6. Why do you think the Native Americans were ultimately opposed to Hudson and his fellow explorers?
7. How did the tensions between the Dutch and the English emerge from Hudson’s voyage? Why do you think these nations opposed each other?
8. Why do you think Hudson continued to hire Robert Juet even though they had such personality conflicts?
9. Why did Hudson’s crew organize a mutiny?
10. How did Hudson’s exploration lead to the founding of New Amsterdam in 1653? Where is the area of New Amsterdam in North America today?

EXTENDED ACTIVITIES:

1. This documentary describes the many voyages of Henry Hudson as he attempted to find the “Northwest Passage” to the Spice Islands. With the knowledge you gained from the documentary and additional research at the library or using the Internet, create a timeline of Hudson’s voyages. Start with the founding of the Muscovy company through Hudson’s last, fateful voyage. Include on your timeline the nations who were funding Hudson’s journey and any other relevant facts. You can decorate your timeline with maps and any images you might locate of Hudson’s ships.

2. Though this program focuses on Henry Hudson, his crew was crucial to the explorations and often played a major role in the events which transpired on these journey's. Imagine that you are Robert Juet or another member of Hudson's crew at the moment that a possible mutiny was being discussed amongst the crew. Write a journal entry from the perspective of your chosen crew member describing your decision to support or oppose the mutiny.
3. The vessels Henry Hudson and other explorers sailed in were enormous vessels designed to withstand long and difficult journeys. At the library or using the Internet, research the "Discovery" or the "Half Moon" and find images of the ships if possible. Create your own representation of these ships on a poster-board or as a 3-Dimensional Model. Include with your model or drawing relevant facts you discover about these types of ships and their organization and design.
4. *Conquest of America: Northeast* discusses Hudson's interactions with Native American groups in the area we know today as the Hudson Valley. Research the Native American groups Hudson encountered on his voyages. In an essay of 2-3 pages, describe the characteristics and histories of these groups and how their lives changed after European exploration and settlement.

Additional Resources

BOOKS:

Doak, Robin S. *Coronado: Francisco Vazquez de Coronado Explores the Southwest*, (Compass Point Books, 2002).

Goodman, Joan. *Beyond the Sea of Ice: The Voyages of Henry Hudson (Great Explorers Book, 1)*, (Miyaka, 1999).

Maestro, Betsy. *Exploration and Conquest: The Americas After Columbus: 1500-1620*, (HarperTrophy, 1997).

Schama, Simon. *The Embarrassment of Riches : An Interpretation of Dutch Culture in the Golden Age*, (Vintage, 1997).

Shorto, Russell. *The Island at the Center of the World : The Epic Story of Dutch Manhattan and the Forgotten Colony That Shaped America*, (Vintage, 2005).

WEB SITES:

An excellent web site with information on Hudson, his era, and his voyages:

http://www.ianchadwick.com/hudson/hudson_06.htm

Great background information and activities related to early New York history:

<http://www.newsday.com/community/guide/lihistory/>

A helpful map of Hudson's voyages:

<http://international.loc.gov/intldl/awkbhtml/kb-1/kb-1-1-5.html>