

Reading Worksheet
William Cronon, Changes in the Land

Indians

1. How did the Indians occupy the land?

Indians viewed their place in place with the seasons. They would set up a temporary settlement around the resources they were likely to find and when the seasons started to change, they would go somewhere else.

2. How did their "occupations" influence the natural development of the landscape?

Indians knew to work with the seasons not against them. They didn't have a large impact on the environment at all. They were nomadic and never stayed in one place for more than a few weeks.

3. Did the Indians have a concept of land ownership? If so, what was it? What did it mean to own the land for an Indian?

No, when "settled" in one or two places. They viewed their place as place and everything was temporary. However, when their needs to be served it was treated and accumulated when needed.

4. How did the Indians use the land they occupied?

Indians were nomadic and dependent based on what resources were readily available at that time. People who lived inland would gather around waterfalls and trees on hills and when it was time to hunt they would go out through the land. Everything they did revolved around the ability to move with their seasons.

Europeans

1. How did the Europeans/Colonists occupy the land?

The Colonists came to the new land and immediately started taking. They were planned to stay there permanently therefore they were really work, practice when taking resources. However, Colonists struggled more than one would think. They were always told of how easy it was for the Indians to live off the land and their expectations fell short. Their first few years there they struggled greatly with surviving themselves.

2. How did their "occupations" influence the natural development of the landscape?

The Colonists their impact was obvious, the English couldn't get enough of it. The large quantities of tobacco left the soil completely drained of all resources. The African land was suitable to labor people. They also "burned" in a way that differed from that of the Indians. It burned the undergrowth, but also vegetation. (The final way was through, it was hard for Europeans to keep up the food supply for their animals so they decided to let them graze further out, which led to a wider spread of developed land.

3. Did the Europeans/Colonists have a concept of land ownership? If so, what was it? What did it mean to own the land for a European/Colonist?

When Colonists arrived, they started taking land and using it as an incentive to get more people over to the New World. People would agree to a certain amount of indentured servitude in exchange for land. Land was an amazing commodity that just wasn't available in England. Working land meant that a person could work and take part