



# The Powhatan Tribe

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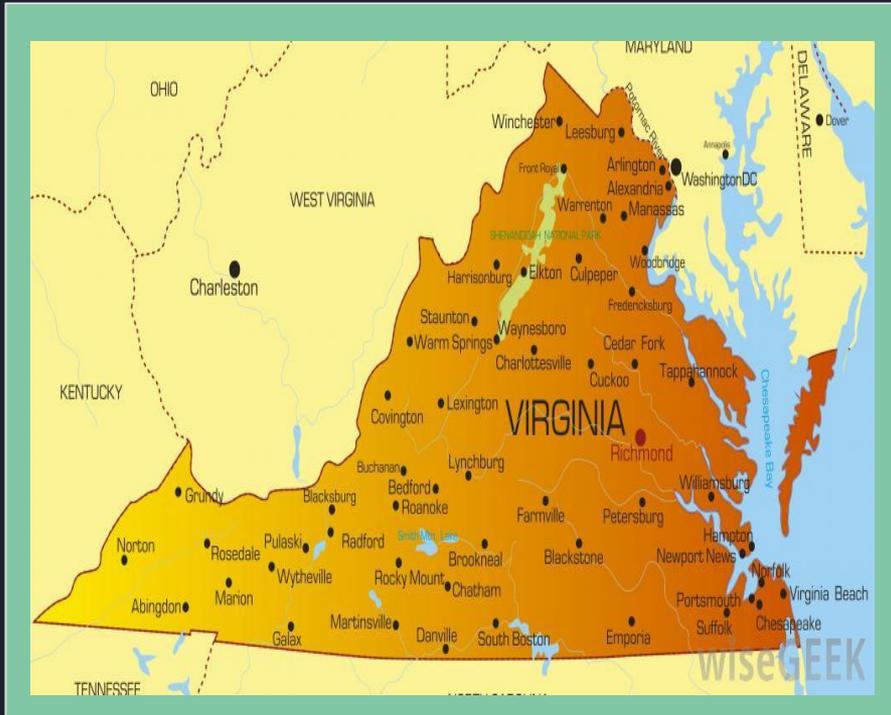
Who were the  
Powhatan people?



The Powhatans were a group of natives who lived in and around an area of land that we now call Virginia. They were a part of the Eastern Woodland area. They were hunter-gatherers. In the book, *Blood on the River*, the Powhatan natives were the ones directly involved with the colonists and they were the ones who made first contact as the Englishmen came into the new world. In the book, they began as a friendly tribe to the colonists, but some events occurred that did upset the Powhatans. This led to the feud between the two people and the history of America and why it became what it is.

# Who were the tribes of the Powhatan Empire?

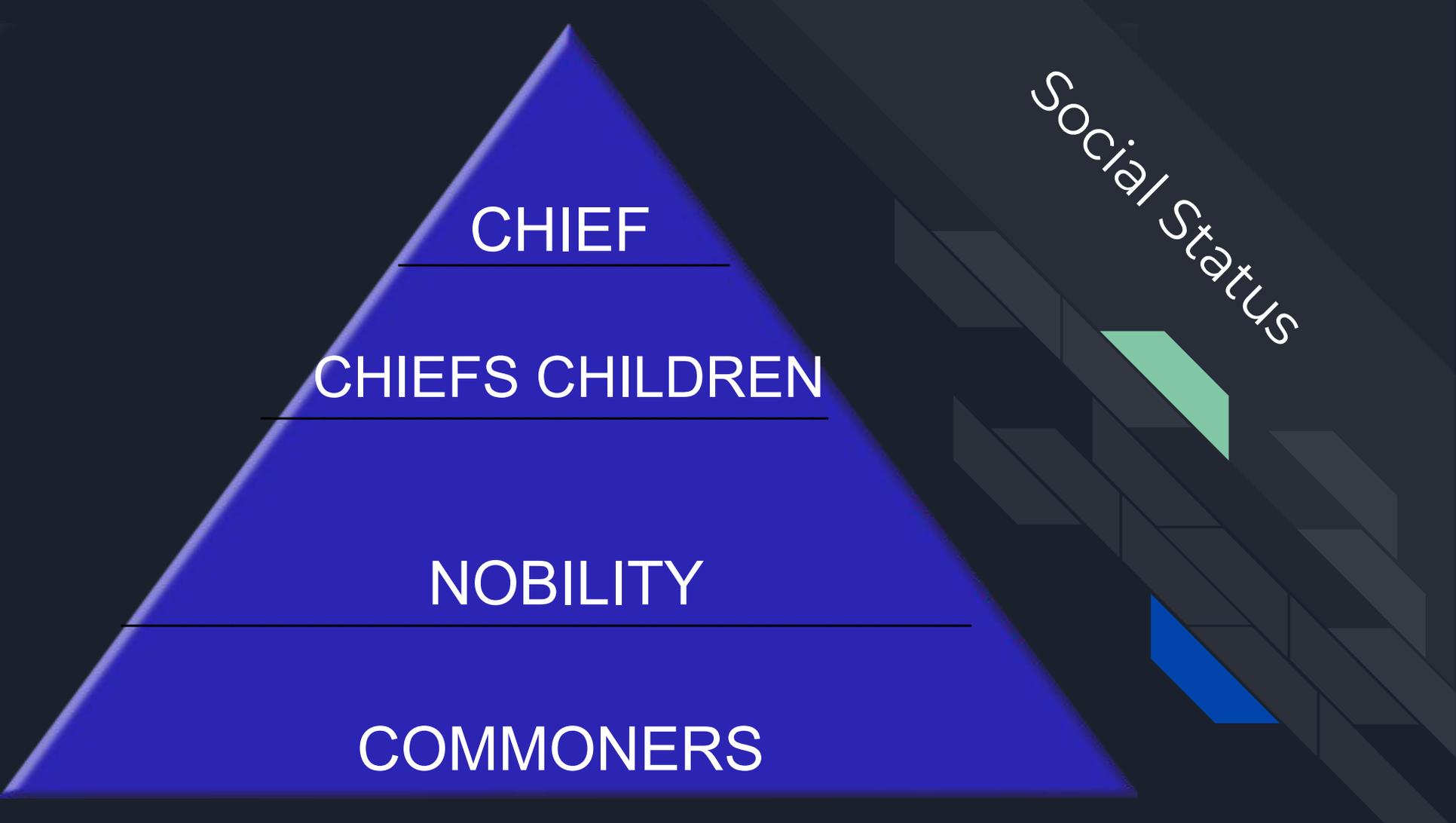
The tribes in the empire consisted of the Weetamoo, Wampanoag, Massasoit, Squanto, Mohican, Iroquois, Cherokee, and assumably many others. There were thought to be around 30 tribes in the empire. These were all very similar tribes and they had similar tendencies and were very alike each other. Their main area of living was in and around Virginia.



# The Food

The Powhatan tribe lived on the Eastern coast, in the area which we now call Virginia. Their lifestyle was more on the side of hunter-gatherer tribe. The women tended to gathering/planting the crops such as corn, bean, and squash. They learned to grow these plants in such a way that would keep the ground healthy and always ready for the next year's crop. The men would go out and hunt for game such as wild turkey, deer, fish, and other small types of game nearby. Most of these animals would be eaten and then made into different types of clothing and materials for the tribe.





CHIEF

CHIEFS CHILDREN

NOBILITY

COMMONERS

Social Status



# HOUSING



The type of houses that the Powhatan tribe lived in were called wigwams. They started off building these houses by planting saplings in a circular shape in the ground. They then would bend them to create a very strong type of inside structure to build off from. After that part was finished, they would coat the outside of it with grass, brush, or even thick bark (the material depends on the area). These houses were very durable and strong for all types of weather.



Pocahontas was the daughter of Chief Powhatan, the leader of the Powhatan empire. She was helpful to the colonists as they came into the new world. Eventually she married one of the English colonists named John Rolfe. After she was married she went to England with him, where she would pass away just at the young age of 21 years old.

Pocahontas

# Democracy

The way that these people ran their village was very just and fair to all the village members. The general type of way the village worked is that the women would vote for the men in the tribe on who would be their new chief. Only the women of the tribe were the ones who chose the new chief. They were basically choosing who would be the best fit to guide their tribe and be the most successful.



The Powhatan people were in the region of the Eastern Woodland natives. The Powhatan men dressed in breechcloths made of deer skin, while the women would wear knee-length fringe skirts as tradition. Most of these people in the Eastern Woodland area used things such as deerskin to make most of their clothes. They used the deerskin to make articles of clothing such as moccasins, blankets, pants, and shirts. Sometimes their entire outfit would just consist of deerskin. They also liked using the fur of other animals to create nice robes and blankets. Some of the leftover feathers of birds would be used to decorate a piece of clothing or put in their hair



CLOTHING



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*Blood on the River*

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