

## Topic Page: [Pocahontas, d. 1617](#)

Definition: **Pocahontas** from *Collins English Dictionary*

*n*

**1** original name *Matoaka*; married name *Rebecca Rolfe*. ?1595–1617, Native American, who allegedly saved the colonist Captain John Smith from being killed

### Summary Article: **Pocahontas**

From *Rourke's Native American History & Culture Encyclopedia*



Pocahontas (1595-1617) (also known as Matoaka, her real name) was known as the Indian princess who bridged peace between Native Americans and early European settlers.

Her father, Powhatan, was the powerful chief of the Algonquian tribes in the Virginia region. When Pocahontas was 11 years old, she befriended the Jamestown colonists and brought them food. One of the colonists, Captain John Smith, claimed that Pocahontas saved his life by throwing herself over him just before he was to be killed on her father's orders.

In 1613, Captain Samuel Argall kidnapped Pocahontas to force her father to release the English colonists he held as prisoners. While being held hostage among the colonists, Pocahontas converted to Christianity and married John Rolfe, a colonist. This marriage led to several years of peace between Jamestown colonists and Powhatan's tribes.

In 1616, Pocahontas, her husband, and son traveled to England to raise money for the struggling Virginia colony. Just before returning home, she died of smallpox. Even in death, she symbolized to Europeans the possibility of peaceful relations with Native Americans.

1608	1613	1614	1922
Saves John Smith's life	Colonists take her hostage for the return of English colonists held prisoner by Chief Powhatan	Marries John Rolfe	A statue of Pocahontas is erected in Jamestown, Virginia

**APA**

Chicago

Harvard

## MLA

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Pocahontas. (2009). In S. Sepehri, *Rourke's native American history & culture encyclopedia*. Vero Beach, FL: Rourke Publishing Group, LLC. Retrieved from [https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/pocahontas\\_d\\_1617](https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/pocahontas_d_1617)

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## APA

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## Chicago

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## Harvard

Pocahontas. (2009). In S. Sepehri, *Rourke's native American history & culture encyclopedia*. [Online]. Vero Beach: Rourke Publishing Group, LLC. Available from: [https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/pocahontas\\_d\\_1617](https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/pocahontas_d_1617) [Accessed 16 October 2019].

## MLA

"Pocahontas." *Rourke's Native American History & Culture Encyclopedia*, Sandy Sepehri, Rourke Publishing Group, LLC, 1st edition, 2009. *Credo Reference*, [https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/pocahontas\\_d\\_1617](https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/pocahontas_d_1617). Accessed 16 Oct. 2019.