

1) Description

- a) Name of society, language, and language family:
 - i) Powhatan, Algonquian language family.
- b) ISO code (3 letter code from ethnologue.com):
 - i) pim
- c) Location (latitude/longitude):
 - i) Eastern Virginia; New Jersey, Powhatan Renape Nation, Rankokus Indian Reservation, Rancocas. (Lewis, 2009)
- d) Brief history:
 - i) I was unable to locate information on the powhatan history before the arrival of Europeans except one brief statement that they had arrived in virginia 300 years before Europeans but I have lost the source of that and have not found anything to back it up. Europeans first made contact around 1600. They were known as Powhatans because that is what they called their leader. Powhatan(the chief) had a daughter who married and Englishman so things were peaceful for awhile. Then in 1622 their new leader led an attack on English settlements which resulted in war. Around 1644 their leader was killed and his successor signed a peace treaty which restricted them to reservations and by 1722 almost all of them were extinct. (The Powhatan Indians, 2011)
- e) Influence of missionaries/schools/governments/powerful neighbors:
 - i) Europeans systematically killed most of them.
- f) Ecology:
- g) Population size, mean village size, home range size, density
 - i) 13,000 to 14,000 people dispersed among 30 tribes (The Powhatan Indians, 2011)

2) Economy

- a) Main carbohydrate staple(s):
 - i) they farmed maize, beans, pumpkins, and various fruits (Advameg, Inc., 2011)
- b) Main protein-lipid sources:
 - i) Fish, shellfish, deer, beaver (beaver tail was a delicacy highly sought after), otter, birds and several other kinds of animals were hunted though deer were probably eaten most since, according to Rountree, Powhatan(the leader) required hunters to pay him tribute in deer skins. (Rountree, 1989)
- c) Weapons: Bow and arrow, blowguns?:
 - i) They used bows and arrows and interestingly also used wrist guards and shooting gloves (Rountree, 1989) stone knives and axes, war clubs, tomahawks (Rountree & Turner III, Before and After Jamestown: Virginia's Powhatans and Their predecessors, 2002)
- d) Food storage:
 - i) The Pemunkey(subgroup of the Powhatan) used pottery (Pamunkey Pottery: Documenting the Past) and Rountree talks about wicker fish traps (Rountree, 1989) so it might be assumed that they also used baskets.
- e) Sexual division of production:
 - i) Men fished and hunted and fought being good at these things were considered proof of manhood, women tended the children the house and the crops. (Rountree, 1989)
- f) Land tenure:
- g) Ceramics:
 - i) The remaining Pamunkey peoples still make pottery and claim that it is a continuation of original practices especially that pottery containing gray and black polished stones (Pamunkey Pottery: Documenting the Past)
- h) Specified (prescribed or proscribed) sharing patterns:
- i) Food taboos:
 - i) From Rountrees description of hunting and fishing they didn't seem to have aversions to anything edible (Rountree, 1989)
- j) Canoes/watercraft?
 - i) They built pretty large canoes from cypress, some of the conoes were big enough to carry 40 people (Rountree, 1989)

3) Anthropometry

- a) Mean adult height (m and f):
 - i) According to Pollard they differ as greatly as anyone else but this is a scewed sample having come from a time period where none of them were full blooded, this information is of the Pamunkey subgroup not the Powhatans as a whole (Pollard, 1894)
- b) Mean adult weight (m and f):
 - i) Same as above

4) Life History, mating, marriage

- a) Age at menarche (f):
 - i) Specific Information wasn't available on age but Pocahontas was about fourteen when she married and girls in the Powhatan culture were of marrying age as soon as they hit menarche I also found that they believed a man's penis would shrivel up if he slept with a woman while she was menstruating (Rountree & Turner III, Before and After Jamestown: Virginia's Powhatans and Their predecessors, 2002)
- b) Age at first birth (m and f):
- c) Completed family size (m and f):

- i) nuclear family would have been small due to long birth intervals but if you include the mans many wives and children the family could be very large (Rountree & Turner III, Before and After Jamestown: Virginia's Powhatans and Their predecessors, 2002)
- d) Inter-birth-interval (f):
 - i) tended to be a few years due to long terms of breast feeding and the amount of work required of women. (Rountree & Turner III, Before and After Jamestown: Virginia's Powhatans and Their predecessors, 2002)
- e) Age first marriage (m and f):
 - i) Right after Menarche (Rountree & Turner III, Before and After Jamestown: Virginia's Powhatans and Their predecessors, 2002)
- f) Proportion of marriages ending in divorce:
- g) Percent marriages polygynous, percent males married polygynously:
 - i) Polygyny was very common and actually happened with both males and females though women tended to ask their husbands for permission to have extramarital relations. John Smith pretty much called Powhattan women easy. (Rountree & Turner III, Before and After Jamestown: Virginia's Powhatans and Their predecessors, 2002)
- h) Bride purchase (price), bride service, dowry?:
 - i) A man had to pay bridewealth, pretty much paying for the privilege of marrying a capable woman (Rountree & Turner III, Before and After Jamestown: Virginia's Powhatans and Their predecessors, 2002)
- i) Inheritance patterns:
 - i) Matrilineal, atleast when it came to being chief, an inherited chiefdom was inherited through your mother or a sibling of your mother and your heir would be your siblings or your sisters children. (Rountree & Turner III, Before and After Jamestown: Virginia's Powhatans and Their predecessors, 2002)
- j) Parent-offspring interactions and conflict:
 - i) The Powhatan people very seldom physically punished their children instead chose to lead by example (Rountree & Turner III, Before and After Jamestown: Virginia's Powhatans and Their predecessors, 2002)
- k) Homosexual activities, social attitudes towards homosexuals:
- l) Pattern of exogamy (endogamy):
- m) What is the belief of the role of males in conception; is paternity partible? Are these "other fathers" recognized?
 - i) Men provide for their children and wives and help raise their sons. They are not absent from the lives of their daughters but the daughters will spend most of their time with their mothers and there is very little interaction between men and women in many cases (Rountree & Turner III, Before and After Jamestown: Virginia's Powhatans and Their predecessors, 2002)
- n) What is the belief of the mother's role in procreation exactly? (e.g., "receptacle in which fetus grows")
 - i) The woman bears children and is mostly responsible for their upbringing when they are young but women are not thought of solely as breeders. (Rountree & Turner III, Before and After Jamestown: Virginia's Powhatans and Their predecessors, 2002)
- o) Is conception believed to be an incremental process (i.e., semen builds up over time)?
- p) Occurrence of sexual coercion, rape
 - i) Nothing specific was said about rape though it was stated that women(warbrides) and children would be kidnapped from other tribes they were at war with as a humiliation to the men of those tribes who failed to protect them. These children and women would be held prisoner but were treated kindly and would eventually assimilate into the Powhatan people. (Rountree & Turner III, Before and After Jamestown: Virginia's Powhatans and Their predecessors, 2002)
- q) Preferential category for spouse (e.g., cross cousin)
 - i) Not too important except when your related to a chiefs wife you want to marry her daughter to stay connected to the chief, even if that means marrying a cousin. In "Before and After Jamestown" an example is given of a man marrying his sisters daughter to remain connected to the chief who was his sisters husband. (Rountree & Turner III, Before and After Jamestown: Virginia's Powhatans and Their predecessors, 2002)
- r) Do females enjoy sexual freedoms?
 - i) Yes, they are able to have multiple marriages and multiple lovers though often they ask permission. Love does not always play a part in Powhatan marriage, it is a bonus if it is there but ultimately unnecessary (Rountree & Turner III, Before and After Jamestown: Virginia's Powhatans and Their predecessors, 2002)
- s) Evidence of giving gifts to extramarital partners or extramarital offspring
 - i) No info
- t) If mother dies, whose raises children?
 - i) I found no information on this but seeing as the fathers were involved anyway im sure they played a role and perhaps one of the husbands other wives would help raise the child
- u) Adult sex ratio: number of adult males divided by number of (reproductive) females
- v) Evidence for couvades
- w) Different distinctions for potential fathers (e.g., lesser/younger vs. major/older)
- x) Kin avoidance and respect?
- y) Joking relationships?
- z) Patterns of descent (e.g., bilateral, matrilineal) for certain rights, names or associations
- aa) Incest avoidance rules
- bb) Is there a formal marriage ceremony?

- i) The couple met with their families in the center of the village they joined hands and had a shell bead necklace broken over their head and then everyone had a feast. (Rountree & Turner III, Before and After Jamestown: Virginia's Powhatans and Their predecessors, 2002)
- cc) In what way(s) does one get a name, change their name, and obtain another name?
 - i) You received a private name, one that was held secret to avoid a malicious sorcerer from harming you through such a name which was very personal, and you received a public name which everyone used. You could receive another name through deed, Boys for instance received a new name when they attend their first hunt thus becoming a man and would try to accumulate as many names as possible through accomplishments and things they had seen.
- dd) Is marriage usually (or preferred to be) within community or outside community? (m/f difference?)
- ee) Are marriages arranged? Who arranges (e.g., parents, close kin)?
 - i) Not usually arranged but it is a mutual understand amongst both individuals and the wifes parents who will receive the bridewealth (Rountree & Turner III, Before and After Jamestown: Virginia's Powhatans and Their predecessors, 2002)
- ff) Evidence for conflict of interest over who marries who:

5) Warfare/homicide

- a) Percent adult (male) deaths due to warfare:
 - i) I couldn't find exact numbers however war is a huge part of the Powhatan lifestyle (Rountree & Turner III, Before and After Jamestown: Virginia's Powhatans and Their predecessors, 2002)so it would be fair to expect the percentage to be high normally, and if you take into account that almost all powhatans were killed off in war with Europeans (The Powhatan Indians, 2011) the percentage would be very high
- b) Outgroup vs ingroup cause of violent death:
- c) Reported causes of in-group and out-group killing:
- d) Number, diversity and relationship with neighboring societies (external relations):
 - i) They often conquered and assimilated tribes, Chief Powhatan started with 6 united tribes and worked his way up to around 30 (Rountree & Turner III, Before and After Jamestown: Virginia's Powhatans and Their predecessors, 2002)
- e) Cannibalism?

6) Socio-Political organization and interaction

- a) Mean local residential (village) group size:
- b) Mobility pattern: (seasonality):
 - i) They were sedentary and even built walls around villages for protection (Rountree & Turner III, Before and After Jamestown: Virginia's Powhatans and Their predecessors, 2002)
- c) Political system: (chiefs, clans etc, wealth or status classes):
 - i) Several tribes with chiefs, and one supreme chief who was above all others. (The Powhatan Indians, 2011)
- d) Post marital residence:
- e) Territoriality? (defined boundaries, active defense):
 - i) They had defined regions with walls for defense (Rountree & Turner III, Before and After Jamestown: Virginia's Powhatans and Their predecessors, 2002)
- f) Social interaction divisions ? (age and sex):
 - i) Men and women didn't converse much mostly out of a lack of need. The elderly men and women became leaders and councilors for the younger people (Rountree & Turner III, Before and After Jamestown: Virginia's Powhatans and Their predecessors, 2002)
- g) Special friendships/joking relationships:
- h) Village and house organization:
 - i) There were no rules for where to put up a house except that when they went to build a wall they would build houses closer so that they could be surrounded. (Rountree & Turner III, Before and After Jamestown: Virginia's Powhatans and Their predecessors, 2002)
- i) Specialized village structures (mens' houses):
- j) Sleep in hammocks or on ground or elsewhere?
 - i) There was no description but "Before and After Jamestown" refers to their beds as "mat-curtained beds" (Rountree & Turner III, Before and After Jamestown: Virginia's Powhatans and Their predecessors, 2002)
- k) Social organization, clans, moieties, lineages, etc:
- l) Trade:
 - i) They definitely traded with settlers up until Powhatan(the chief) died, but there is also evidence to show that some pottery trade went on before the arrival of europeans (Rountree & Turner III, Before and After Jamestown: Virginia's Powhatans and Their predecessors, 2002)
- m) Indications of social hierarchies?
 - i) Some people had more elaborate houses and things that were more rare, and the supreme chief required tributes from the lower chiefs and all Powhatan men. There was also a reverence for shamans and priests and only the priests and Chief Powhatan were allowed in their religious huts (Rountree & Turner III, Before and After Jamestown: Virginia's Powhatans and Their predecessors, 2002)

7) Ritual/Ceremony/Religion (RCR)

8) 6 Time allocation to RCR:

- a) Specialization (shamans and medicine):
 - i) Quiyoughcosoughs, were shamans who could interact with spirits though any Powhatan man could do this, the shamans specialized in it. (Williamson, 2003)
- b) Stimulants:
 - i) Psychedelics are suggested by talk of people communicating with spirits while in a trance but no specific drug is mentioned (Williamson, 2003)
- c) Passage rituals (birth, death, puberty, seasonal):
- d) Other rituals:
- e) Myths (Creation):
- f) Cultural material (art, music, games):
- g) Sex differences in RCR:
- h) Missionary effect:
- i) RCR revival:
- j) Death and afterlife beliefs:
 - i) They believed the soul is immortal (Advameg, Inc., 2011)
- k) Taboo of naming dead people?
- l) Is there teknonymy?
- m) Briefly describe religion (animism, ancestor worship, deism, magic, totems etc.)
 - i) animism (Advameg, Inc., 2011)

9) Adornment

- a) Body paint:
- b) Piercings:
 - i) Shamans had piercings (Williamson, 2003)
- c) Haircut:
 - i) There were several styles of hair men preferring to shave half of their head and let the other half grow with no beards, except shamans who did have beards. Women used a variety of styles. Young girls shaved all hair except a single clump they allowed to stay in a ponytail (Williamson, Powhatan Hair, 1979)
- d) Scarification:
- e) Adornment (beads, feathers, lip plates, etc.):
- f) Ceremonial/Ritual adornment:
- g) Sex differences in adornment:
- h) Missionary effect:
- i) Cultural revival in adornment:

10) Kinship systems

- a) Sibling classification system:
- b) Sororate, levirate:
- c) Other notable kinship typology, especially cross-cousin (MBD/FZD) typology (Crow/Hawaiian/Omaha etc.):

11) Other interesting cultural features (list them):

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