



READ A COLONIST'S DIARY

Name _____

Class _____

Date _____

Directions: This is the way Father White's diary entry might look if he had written it today. Use it to compare with the original versions in the interactive.

When we first sailed into the river, we found the entire country armed for war, just as we had been warned. The King of the Piscataways had had gathered together 150 bowmen, which we saw as we traveled up the river. At night, they lit beacon fires throughout the woods. Our ship was the largest the Indians had ever seen. We learned that scouts reported we had come in a canoe as big as an island, with as many men aboard as there were trees in the forest.

We sailed up the river until we came to Heron Island. It was called this because of the great number of herons that lived there. We renamed the island St. Clements. We also renamed other islands we came upon. We called the second one St. Katherines, and the third one St. Cecelias. We first went ashore at St. Clements. This island is surrounded by very shallow water, so we had to leave the ship and wade ashore. The maids tried to get ashore in a smaller boat in order to do the laundry. But their skiff overturned and they almost drowned. A great deal of laundry was lost, including my best linens. This was a major loss, because there is no place around here to buy more.

The ground on the island is thickly covered many kinds of nuts. One, called pokickeries, is a kind of wild walnut. Its shell is very hard and thick. The meat of the nut inside the shell is very sweet, although there is not a lot of it. There also are black walnuts and acorns as large as those in England. There are also a great number of vines and salad greens, herbs, and flowers, as well as cedar and sassafras. The tiny island has only 400 acres, making it too small for settling.