



William Penn Reports on Pennsylvania

William Penn acquired Pennsylvania as a haven for his fellow Quakers. But the colony was not exclusively reserved for Quakers. As Penn intended, people of various nations and faiths settled there. In 1685 Penn published a book about his colony, called A Further Account of the Province of Pennsylvania. Here is a part of his Account. Read it carefully and then answer the questions that follow on separate paper.

"The people are a collection of different nations in Europe, such as French, Dutch, Germans, Swedes, Danes, Finns, Scots, Irish, and English. But as they are of one kind and in one place and under one allegiance, so they live like of one country. ...

"Philadelphia is two miles long and a mile broad, and at each end it lies a mile upon a navigable river. Besides the high street that runs in the middle, it has eight streets more that run the same course. And besides Broad Street, which crosses the town in the middle, there are twenty streets more that run the same course. ...

"During the first ten months since our arrival we have got up 80 houses at our town, and some villages were settled about it. During the next year the town advanced to 357 houses. Many of them were large and well-built, with good cellars and three stories. Some had balconies.

"There is also a fair wharf of about three hundred square feet. ...

"There lived most sorts of useful tradespeople such as carpenters, bricklayers, masons, plasterers, plumbers, smiths, glaziers, tailors, shoemakers, butchers, bakers, tanners, shipwrights. ...

"The hours for work and meals to laborers are fixed and known by ring of bell. ...

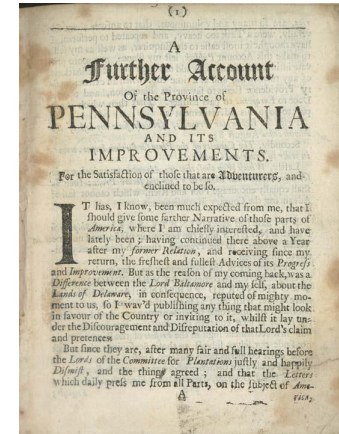
"Some vessels have been built here and many boats, which are useful for passage of people and goods. ...

With the natives we live in great friendship. I have made even purchases. And in pay and presents they have received at least twelve hundred pounds[English units of money] of me.

"They generally leave their guns at home when they come to our settlement. They offer us no insult, not so much as to one of our dogs. If any of them break our laws, they submit to be punished by them.

"We leave not the least wrong done to them unsatisfied. Justice gains and awes them. They have some great people among them, I mean for wisdom, truth, and justice."

[Adapted from William Penn, *A Further Account of the Province of Pennsylvania*(London?, 1685), pp. 2-6, 17-18, 20.]



1. What, according to Penn, causes the people of different nations to live together "like people of one country?"
2. What details does Penn give to show how Pennsylvania has grown and prospered?
3. Part of Penn's account is about the colony's dealings with the Indians. Do you think the Indians were treated fairly? Why or why not?