



NATIVE PEOPLE: RELIGION

"They conceive of many divine powers ... [one the] maker of all the rest .. created all the rest ... created the heavens, earth, sea and all creatures contained therein; also that he made one man and one woman."

Edward Winslow

The Wampanoag had a strong and complex spirituality. Many English could not recognize these beliefs as "religion." They defined the Natives (and others, such as the Irish) as "savages."

Some Puritan ministers set out to convert the Natives. Reverend John Eliot translated the Bible into the Native language.

Some Natives converted. Their reasons ranged from genuine belief to basic survival. Other Natives incorporated selected Christian beliefs into their own religion. Many maintained their traditional religion.

NATIVE PEOPLE: LAND USE

Every sachim knoweth... the bounds and limits of his own country... if any of his men desire land to set their corn, he giveth them as much as they can use."

Edward Winslow

The Natives used the land according to the seasons. In spring, women gathered plants near the ocean and men fished. In summer, women planted corn in other locations. In autumn and winter, men hunted.

The Pilgrims bought their land from the Natives, but the Natives expected to continue to use the land's resources. The colonists built fences where no fences had ever been before, closing off their property to make the land their own.