

ACTIVITY SHEET

Name: _____

Date: _____

Today we will be reading an online article, “From Beads to Bounty: How Wampum Became America’s First Currency – And Lost Its Power” by Ann C. Tweedy.

STEP ONE: Before you read:

- What is an *excerpt*?
- Based on the title, what do you think this article will be about?

STEP TWO: Read the excerpt on your own. If there are any words you don’t understand, circle them and try to move on rather than get bogged down. We can answer questions as a class later.

STEP THREE: In teams of two, choose one word bolded in **black** from each of the paragraphs. Divide them between you and write the definitions below:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

STEP FOUR: Now that you’ve had time to explore the text on your own, we’ll discuss as a class what this article is about. Put any questions you have in the space below so you remember to ask them:

STEP FIVE: This reading tells us that Native Americans had a very different understanding of wampum's value than did the Europeans with whom they traded. What does the Native use of wampum tell us about *value*? Think about the following questions and write your thoughts in your journal or on a separate sheet:

1. What two colors were wampum and what did each mean?
2. On what occasions might Native people give each other wampum? Where did its *value* come from?
3. Where did wampum's value come from once the Dutch started using wampum as money? (What decided how much it was worth?)
4. Once wampum was mass-produced, do you think a single piece of wampum was worth more or less?
5. How did turning wampum into money change relationships between Native groups?
6. Why did colonists stop using wampum as money?

STEP SIX: Mapping activity

Use the handouts to map the following groups of people from the reading: Dutch West India Company (Fort Orange and New Amsterdam), Pequots, Narragansetts, and Massachusetts Bay Colony. Point an arrow in the direction of Africa and the West Indies. Shade the area of the Lenape.

