Document # 1 The following document gives a description of wampum and its many uses among the Algonquian tribes of the Northeast.

From Beads to Bounty: How Wampum Became America's First Currency-And Lost its Power

"Wampum was white or purple beads and discs fashioned from two shells: the white beads from the whelk, a sea snail with a spiral shape, and the quahog, a clam with purple and white coloring. Quahogs are found in the waters from Cape Cod south to New York, with a great abundance in Long Island Sound.

The clams were harvested in the summer, their meat consumed, and the shells were then worked into beads. Wampum beads were difficult to make back then. Drilling (with stones) could shatter the clam and the dust from the drilling contained silica that cut up lungs if inhaled. Water was used to limit the dust. The shells were ground and polished into small tubes with a stone drill. They were placed on strings made of plant fiber or animal tendon and woven into belts, necklaces, headpieces, bracelets, earrings—a variety of adornments depending on the status of the wearer.

The color of the beads had meaning. For the Algonquians (native peoples of the Northeast), white beads represented purity, light and brightness, and would be used as gifts to mark events that invoked those characteristics, such as the birth of a child. Purple beads represented solemn things like war, grieving and death. The combination of white and purple represented the duality of the world; light and dark, sun and moon, women and man, life and death. Wampum was given as a gift for many occasions: births, marriages, the signing of treaties, occasions for condolence and remembrance..."

From Beads to Bounty: How Wampum Became America's First Currency—And Lost Its Power; Ann Tweedy; January 14, 2013; <

http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2013/01/14/beads-bounty-how-wampum-became-america%E2%80%99s-first-currency%E2%80%94and-lost-its-power-146941>

Document # 2: The following document describes the many purposes of the wampum among the Indians of the Northeast.

Wampum had many purposes. 1. Storytelling: wampum could be used to help people remember stories. Often, story-tellers would hold belts and point to certain parts of the belt while they told their story. 2. Adding on to History: New events were woven into a belt or added on to a belt to tell the history of a tribe. 3. Asking for marriage: Sometimes, a man who met a woman he wanted to marry would give wampum to the woman and her family. If the wampum was accepted it showed that the woman and her family said "yes" to the idea of the marriage. If they returned the wampum, they were saying "no." 4. Gifts: Belts were also give to people as gifts. Belts could be given from one tribe to another a way of indicating peace, war, or friendship. 5. To show an agreement between two groups of people: After European people

came to America, wampum was sometimes used as a "treaty"-- a way of showing an agreement between the white people and Indian people. 6. To declare war or request peace between two groups: Wampum could be given from one group to another as a way of declaring war or requesting peace.

All About Wampum; Liberato, Rachel; September 2001; < http://web.grinnell.edu/courses/edu/f01/edu315-01/liberato/wampum.html>

Document # 3: The following document from from the Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation website describes the role the wampum played in Pequot society.

...The Native people in the Pequot and surrounding coastal territories were adept at the production of Wampum....purple....or white beads made of various types of shell, and worked with a metal called "Indian Gold" to create elaborate bead work and jewelry. Wampum played a very significant part in the spiritual, cultural and "political" lives of the Pequot....

Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation:History; http://www.easternpequottribalnation.com/history.html

Document # 4 The following document describes how the Dutch arrived in the Northeast and became involved in the wampum trade.

"Soon after Henry Hudson claimed the land now known as the Hudson River valley for the Netherlands in 1609, the Dutch tried to exploit the area for a profit. Adventurous merchant traders came to the area as early as 1611-1612 and quickly discovered there was money to be made in the fur trade. From that point the trade in beaver pelts remained the basis of the New Netherland economy throughout the Dutch colonial period. Furs were acquired from the Indians at a favorable rate and then shipped to Amsterdam where they commanded much higher prices. To be successful in this venture the traders needed to be able to deal with the Indians and therefore they needed to know what the Indians valued and what would be accepted in exchange for furs. From this rather pragmatic approach the Dutch learned the value of wampum. Therefore, even before the arrival of the first permanent New Netherland settlers in 1624, the Dutch had an keen understanding of wampum,..."

Money Substitutes in New Netherlands and Early New York: Wampum;http://www.coins.nd.edu/ColCoin/ColCoinIntros/NNWampum.html

Document # 5 The following document examines the elaborate relationship between the Pequots and other tribes in the area as well as the Dutch and Pequut relationship involving the wampum trade.

The Dutch start trading furs acquired along the Hudson River for wampum from the coastal nations. They then used the wampum for their transactions with Native fur traders. This influx

of wampum piqued the interest of the more northern Native fur-trading nations that normally conducted business with the French hunters and traders. (The French had no wampum, so they suddenly found it hard to compete with the Dutch for the furs.)

Now that they were using wampum as currency, the pragmatic and profit-minded Dutch knew it would be cheaper and easier to manufacture beads in the New World....[The Narragansetts and Pequots began] to mass-produce the wampum beads, stringing the them together in belts of pure white or pure purple and setting fixed rates of exchange with the Indians of the interior; so many fathoms of wampum for such and such a pelt.

The Narragansetts and Pequots and their tribute nations and tribes saw the advantage of becoming integral players in a lucrative trade market with a rare local commodity they could control. These powerful neighboring nations were the favored trade partners of the Dutch, and within a few years, wampum production became the primary occupation for both. The Pequots made an alliance through marriage with the Mohegans and their influence increased.

From Beads to Bounty-How Wampum Became America's First Currency & Lost it's Power; Ann Tweedy; January 14, 2013; http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2013/01/14/beads-bounty-how-wampum-became-america%E2%80%99s-first-currency%E2%80%94and-lost-its-power-146941>

Document # 7 Describes the initial attitudes among the Pequots regarding trade with the with the Dutch and later the English traders.

....the Pequots were initially amicable, gracious and enjoyed the trade with Europeans – who had goods previously unavailable to them such as metal pots, cloth coats, and reams of linen and other cloth to trade for their amicability

Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation:History; http://www.easternpequottribalnation.com/history.html>

Document # 8 This document describes the Pequot-Dutch trade alliance and the arrival of the English into the wampum trade.

During the 1620s the Dutch and Pequot controlled all trade in the region as the Pequot attempted to subjugate other tribes throughout Connecticut and the islands offshore. By 1635, the Pequot extended their political and economic ties through a tributary confederacy using coercion, warfare, diplomacy, and intermarriage. This created a potentially volatile situation. With the arrival of English traders and settlers in the Connecticut River Valley in the early 1630s, the balance shifted, resulting in conflict and intense competition for power as tribes wrested themselves from Pequot subjugation. The English tried to break the Dutch-Pequot control of

trade, while the Pequot attempted to maintain their political and economic dominance in the region.

Causes of the Pequot War; http://connecticuthistory.org/causes-of-the-pequot-war/#sthash.Swm7dc8S.dpuf

Document # 9 The document bellows describes the English desire to control the region and the wampum trade.

...In the 1630's, a large migration of English Puritans to Massachusetts Bay presented another complication. The colony interposed itself into the trade network creating increased competition, rivalry, and agitation. For the period between 1630 and 1660, wampum was a prized commodity in New England spurred on by the fur trade that compelled the struggle. What followed in the next several decades leading up to King Philip's War (1675-1676) was a complicated series of initiatives from the Bay Colony, whose ultimate goal was to control the region and resources. Ruth Thomas of the Mashantucket Pequot put it simply, "They wanted to cut out the middleman," and so they did, isolating, then devastating first the powerful Pequot, then the dynamic Narragansett, and then appropriating both the land and control of the wampum trade. 59 The Bay Colony, having found small beads more portable than corn for trade and saving coin for European markets, declared wampum legal tender in 1637 valued at six beads a penny.

The Significance of Wampum to 17th Century Indians on New England; Lois Scozzari; http://www.hartford-hwp.com/archives/41/037.html.

Document # 10: This document describes the story of the start of war between the English and the Pequot people.

...Dutch traders decided to start a trading post along the Connecticut River at what is now Hartford, Connecticut. The post, known as The House of Hope, allowed the Dutch to beat out other European competitors trading with the northern nations along the Hudson River, and allowed the Dutch to trade with formerly disenfranchised smaller bands and tribes. The Hope was a place, the Dutch proclaimed, where "all tribes of Indians shall be permitted to come freely...to trade with us; and [where] the enemies of the one or the other nation shall not molest each other."

This was a problem for the Pequot, who no longer controlled the river trade and were no longer the primary trading partners of the Dutch. So they start attacking other Natives trading at the Hope. The Dutch retaliated, killing the Pequot sachem Tatobem and his followers.

There was now a complicated and dangerous chess game going on between the two English settlements, the new English arrivals, the Dutch, the large Native nations and small tribes—all of them angling to gain access to the trade networks along the Connecticut River.

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Document # 11 Puts forth some final thoughts on the true causes of the Pequot War.

The murders of English traders are often cited as the cause for the Pequot War; however, these deaths were the culmination of decades of tension between Native tribes further stressed by the arrival of the Dutch and English. -

Causes of the Pequot War; http://connecticuthistory.org/causes-of-the-pequot-war/#sthash.Swm7dc8S.dpuf