

Tempest reading response examples

Score = 4

How did the English justify the wars they waged against the natives?

Years after the English first set foot on the New World, new settlers saw many opportunities to expand their colonizations, but there was one thing that they felt would keep them from doing so: the Natives. What the English did was just in their minds. The annihilation of the Pequot, and the taking of land from many other tribes was all for a purpose. The English needed a reason to take the land, so they stirred up some trouble, and killed a few Indians while they were at it. Shortly after, the Natives responded, "In 1622, the natives tried to drive out the intruders, killing some three hundred colonists" (35). Although the English had most likely killed more than their share of Indians, they saw no reason why the Natives could do the same thing back. John Smith called this act a "massacre" and called the Indians "savage and cruel beasts". Killing of English men, had given the English the right to the land of the Natives, giving them no problem to wipe the rest of them out. Besides land ownership and rights to claim it, the English saw reason to take action upon the "savage" Natives through their religion(s). When the Puritans arrived, about a third of the population of Indians had been abolished by disease brought from early English settlers. The Puritans interpreted the deaths as "divinely sanctioned opportunities to take the land" (39). They felt they had a manifested Puritan destiny to take the land and make room for more settlers to come from England. Considering this, the Puritans also had no problem wiping out a few Indians so more colonies could be settled and more land could be claimed. Total war was sought, and total war was achieved.

Score = 2

How did the English justify the wars they waged against the natives?

When the English began to settle in the colonies, they believed the land was rightfully theirs. The reason they believed that the land belonged to them was due to their belief that God had given them the land. "The English, justifying colonization, enslavement and murder, they did not see the actions as a taking or robbery." With the colonists believing it was God's choice to give them the land. They continue to take the natives' land and push them outward. With the colonists taking the land, of course the natives would have to rebel. Which the proceeds the colonists to kill the natives and continue to move outward into the land and expanding. The killing of the natives would later then develop into a war where the colonists feel justified for fighting to take the natives' land away from them