

POCAHONTAS
By Carole L. Cooney

Pocahontas was an Indian girl born in Virginia to the great Chief Powhatan. Her tribal name was Matoaka which means "Little Snow Feather." Pocahontas was her nickname which meant "playful one." Her young life was spent learning to farm. When Pocahontas was 12 years old, men from England arrived by ship. These men were strange looking with their light skin and hairy faces. Because Pocahontas was kind and courageous, she was able to help her father, the great Chief, communicate with the visitors.

Setting: Powhatan land

Characters:

Narrator

Pocahontas

Wenona, a young girl

Kaya, a young girl

Chief Powhatan

Narrator: Pocahontas, a famous American Indian girl, was born in Virginia to the great Chief Powhatan. Her young life was spent with her sisters farming. When Pocahontas was 12 years old, men from England arrived by ship. One day she and her sister, Wenona, were planting corn when they saw something in the distance.

Pocahontas: It is a very hot day to be planting. Do you want to rest awhile under the trees?

Wenona: Oh, yes. I was thinking the very same thing. I would be very happy to rest.

Narrator: Running through the field, the girls saw their sister, Kaya, waving her arms at them.

Pocahontas: Wenona, why do you think Kaya is waving to us?

Wenona: Let's go to her and find out.

Narrator: The three girls met in the middle of the field.

Pocahontas: What is the matter?

Kaya: (pointing to the sea) Look! Look! Over there. Do you see that huge ship?

Wenona: Yes. It is moving very quickly. Do you think it will land here?

Pocahontas: I wonder what it brings to us.

Narrator: The girls watched the tall ship glide toward the shore. Men in small boats guided the ship to a place to dock.

Kaya: LOOK! at those faces. They are so white. Who are they?

Wenona: Where did they come from? LOOK! at the dark hair on their faces. How strange!

Pocahontas: They seem to do no harm. Let's take some fruit and water to them. They must be very hot and tired.

Wenona: Are you sure father would want us to go near them?

Pocahontas: I think he would be pleased if we were friendly. Come, let's do it.

Narrator: The girls ran to their longhouse to gather fruit in baskets and water in gourds. They ran to the beach where they saw their father, Chief Powhatan standing on the sand surrounded by his men.

Pocahontas: (bowing her head) Father.

Chief: Why have you come, my daughters?

Pocahontas: We've brought fruit and water for the visitors. I knew you would be pleased.

Chief: You are very wise, Matoaka. Yes, we will treat these visitors in a friendly way.

Narrator: Pocahontas took food to the visitors that day. As the days followed, Pocahontas began to teach the Indians many things about the visitors called the colonists. Likewise, she taught the colonists many things about the Indians. Because she was a compassionate young girl, Captain John Smith wrote, Pocahontas was "the instrument to pursue this colonie from death, famine and utter confusion." Her courage and kindness allowed her to play an important role in American history.