

Kirby Brook Site

Lesson Plan Grade 5

Title: Land Use Through Time-Kirby Brook

Related Search Terms: Archaeology, Resource Use, Native Americans, Prehistory, Settlement Patterns, Land Use, Indigenous People, Subsistence Patterns, Colonists

Compelling Question:

Was the conflict over land use between the Native Americans and the Colonists unavoidable?

Supporting Questions:

How did Native Americans use the land?

How did Colonists use the land?

Why did the Colonists decided to settle where they did?

How do we learn about how people used the land without written records?

What do historic documents teach us about how land was used in the colonial period?

How did Indigenous people use resources differently than the colonists?

Tool Kit:

1869 Beer's Atlas of the Town of Washington showing the area of Kirby Brook

Plot of postmolds from the Kirby Brook excavation (both with and without interpretive lines)- marks from poles (saplings) which were used to construct village structures. Poles (saplings) would be driven into the ground to hold the bark that forms the walls of structures such as wigwams and sachem's houses.

Sample list of artifacts found during the excavation to compare to the 1760 appraisal of the estate.

Inquiry Activity:

Students will examine how the same piece of land was occupied at first by the Indigenous People of Connecticut and later the settlers of the town of Washington. The Indigenous People used this site as a seasonal camp; part of a larger movement pattern which would have included the surrounding area, as well as other seasonal camp and village sites. These sites were occupied by a group of Native Americans who were part of a large trade network spanning most of the Northeast. The colonists purchased the land over the course of several transactions from the Pootatuck Tribe beginning in the mid-seventeenth century. The colonists followed a different land use pattern staying on the land long term rather than moving seasonally as their native counterparts did. This illustrates some of the major conflicts which arose over land ownership between two groups with different ideas of land ownership.

Use the above photographs and maps to examine the different ways the land at the Kirby Brook site has been used overtime, then discuss as a class the difference between a seasonal round subsistence pattern and the colonial homestead settlement pattern.

Have students examine the images of artifacts found at the Kirby Brook site and read their descriptions, then examine the list of items on the property compiled during the 1760 appraisal of

John Baker's estate. Discuss how the Native Americans were using the land and how the Settlers were using the land. Discuss similarities and differences between the land use by both groups.

What resources important to Native Americans and what objects made from those materials?

What resources were important to the settlers?

Communicating Conclusions:

Native Americans occupied the area we now call New England for thousands of years. Their settlements sites were selected based on resource availability and often were where incoming colonists chose to settle due to the advantageous locations of these sites.

How does the use of natural resources and the land reflect the ideology of the people using the land/resources?

How would these different uses of land create conflict if these two groups occupied the same locations at the same time?

Examine your list of resources that would be necessary to survive in each of the styles of land usage. Have students examine the postmold plot from Kirby Brook and try to determine how the points could fit together to form a structure. Explain to them this is what archaeologists must do in order to determine how these buildings looked in the past. Wigwams are usually smaller, circular, single family dwellings while a sachem's house would have been an oblong multi family dwelling for the chief and his or her extended family; it was also a place for important visitors to stay. Discuss how these dwellings were different from the housing style of the settlers and how this reflects their land usage.

Lieutenant John Baker's estate was valued in 1760 at 321 pounds, 11 shillings, and 10 pence for the Land, house., and barn. His other property contained within the buildings were valued at 138 pounds, 2 shillings, and 8 pence.

Among the significant items inventoried:

- 1 axe and auger
- 1 small gouge
- 1 iron chain and part of a chain
- 1 old yoke and irons
- 1 pitchfork
- 1 hammer
- 2 footwheels (grindstones)
- 1 Chisel
- 1 broken hand saw
- 1 pair hand irons
- 3 hoes
- 1 scythe
- 1 lantern
- 1 iron crowbar

Livestock Included

- 1 pair horses
- 1 pair oxen
- 6 cows- 4 calves
- 6 swine plus 7 pigs
- 38 sheep

1 bay mare
1 steer
2 heifers
1 hive of bees

From this list what can we tell about the activities occurring on Lieutenant Baker's estate?

Kirby Brook Site - 1869 Beer's Atlas

This portion of map is from an 1869 atlas showing Kirby Brook, located in the Town of Washington, CT. Each of the small black squares represent a structure (house, school, or business).

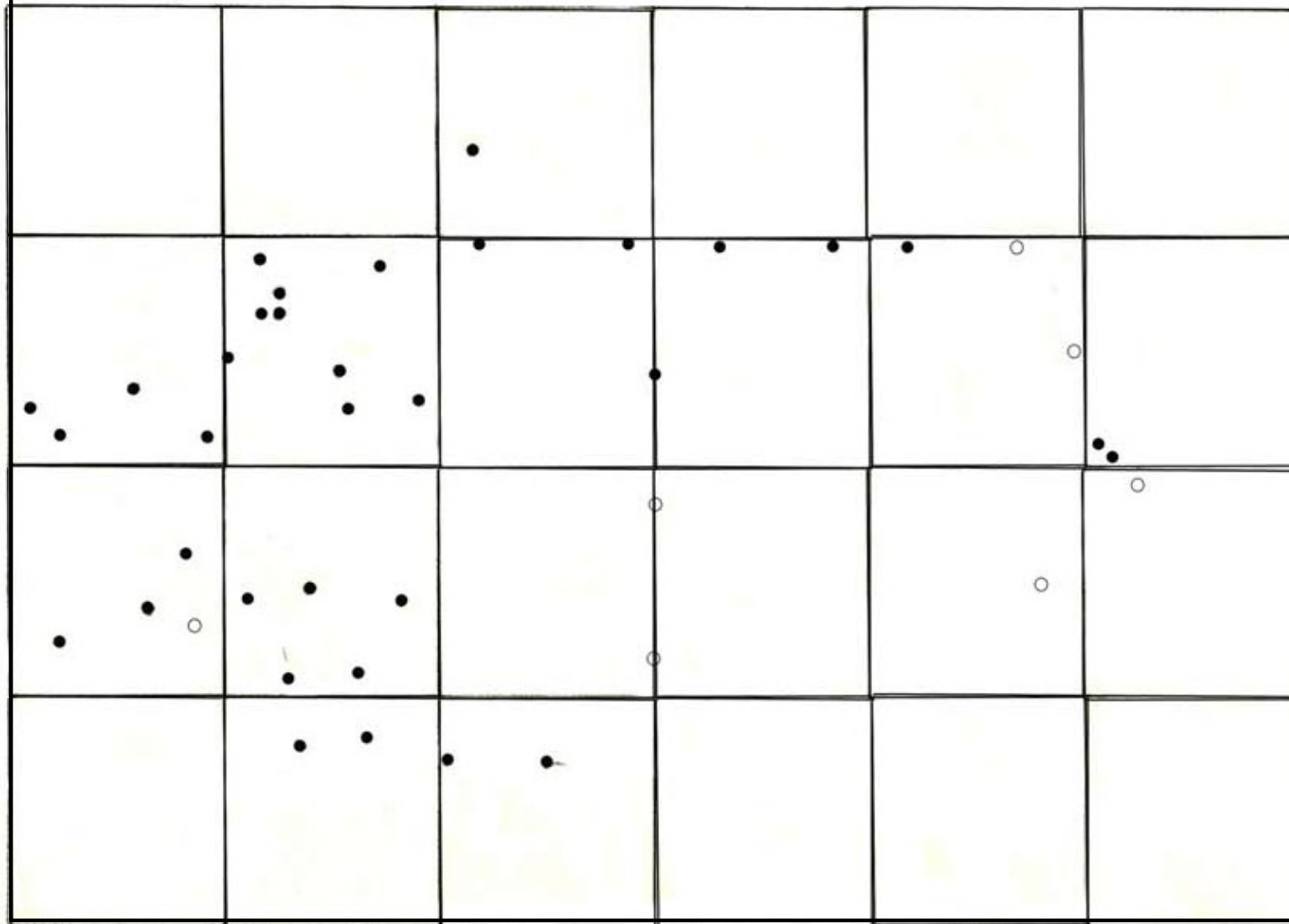
What is the first thing that you notice about the location of the structures?

What can you infer about how the people built those structures used the land around Kirby Brook?

How do you think this is different than the indigenous people who lived along Kirby Brook?

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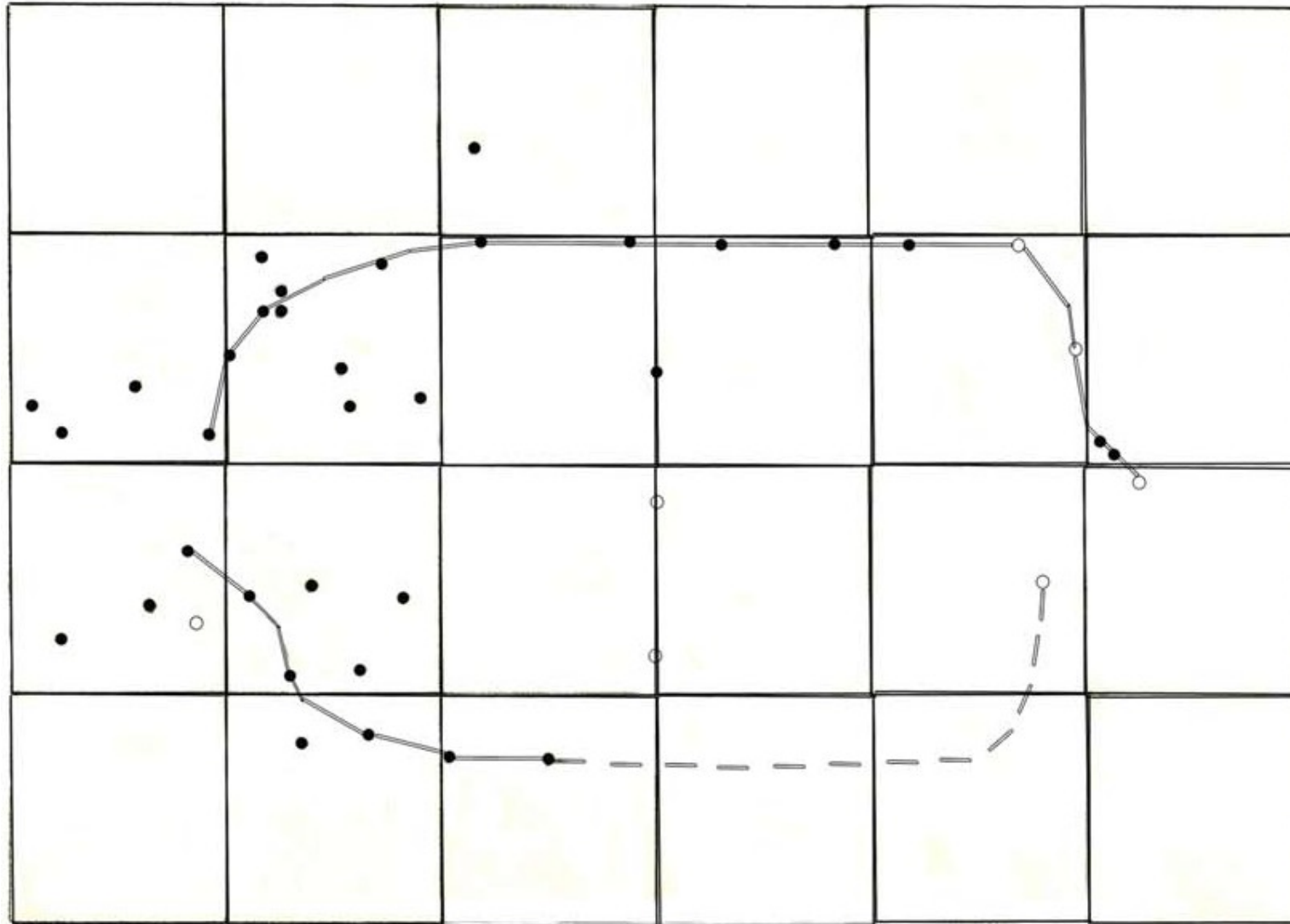
Kirby Brook Site – Locations of Post Molds



3 ft

Post Mold ●
Possible Post Mold ○

Kirby Brook Site – Locations of Post Molds With Interpreted Structure Lines



3 ft

Post Mold ●
Possible Post Mold ○

1760 Appraisal of Lieutenant John Baker's estate, inventoried by Fred Weeks and Seth Sherwood.

Land, house, and barn valued at 321 pounds, 11 shillings, and 10 pence

Other assets 138 pounds, 2 shillings, and 8 pence

1 axe and Auger	1 chisel
1 small gouge	1 broken hand saw
1 iron chain and part of a chain	1 wagon-tongue clevis and pin
1 old yoke and irons	1 pair hand irons (andirons)
1 iron tooth harrow	3 hoes
1 pitchfork	1 scythe
1 hammer	1 lantern
2 footwheels (Grindstones)	1 iron crowbar

Livestock Included

1 pair horses	1 bay mare
1 pair oxen	1 steer
6 cows- 4 calves	2 heifers
6 swine plus 7 pigs	1 hive of bees
38 sheep	

Noted that Lieutenant Baker raised wheat, rye, corn, hay, and flax (flax is a fiber used to create linen).
Indicating that he must have had a rather large and well established compound.

Sample List of Artifacts Recovered at the Kirby Brook Site

Projectile Points (Arrowheads)

5 Levanna Triangular Projectile Points- 2 made from chert and 3 made from quartz

4 Stemmed Sylvan Lake Projectile Points- 3 made from quartz and 1 made from chert

3 Orient Fishtail Projectile Points, made from chert

Other Stone Tools

6 Scrapers (Used in scraping animal skins)

1 Grooved Axe Head

1 Notched Axe Head

Multiple Hammerstones

2 Knives

Anvil stone

1 Drill, made from chert