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## King Philip, Bacon, and Colonial Conflict

Historians often study causation—cause and effect relationships—in historical events. Studying causation allows us to see how and why certain events or developments occurred and what impact they had on other historical events and developments. Causation also involves studying history as a process of **human action and decisions**. **History does not simply happen**—the actions of individuals and groups affect the events and outcomes of history.

Historians have asked for your help investigating the **causes** of two important events in colonial America in 1675-1676: Bacon's Rebellion and King Philip's War. Bacon's Rebellion was an uprising in 1676 in the Virginia Colony, led by Nathaniel Bacon, and King Philip's War, which was a war between New England colonists and Native Americans in 1675-1678. Your job is to determine the causes and similarities of these events in order to better understand what impact they had on the development of the colonies.

**King Philip's War:** The first event you will analyze is King Philip's War. In studying this event, historians hit a snag when their sources from the war got separated. You and your classmate have different documents about the causes of the war. In order to determine the causes, you will have to analyze your document and work together to figure out a cause.

First, complete the following chart based on your document:

Who wrote the document (name & who they were)	
Was it written before or after the war?	
Was it written for a specific purpose? Is it trying to convince readers of something?	
According to this document, what caused the war?	
How trustworthy or reliable do you think the document is and why?	

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**Part 2: Compare your document with your partner. According to their document, what caused the war?**

	According to this document, what caused the war?	How trustworthy or reliable do you think it is and why?
Document:		

**Compare the two documents. How are their arguments similar and different and why? Does one seem more reliable than the other?**

Similarities: How are they similar and what might cause these similarities?	Differences: How are they different and what might cause these differences?	Does one source seem more trustworthy than the other? Why or why not?

**After working with your classmates, come to a final conclusion. What caused King Philip's War? You must use and cite evidence from the documents.**

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**Bacon's Rebellion Analysis:** What caused Bacon's Rebellion? Why and how did Bacon enlist followers to join him in his rebellion against Governor Berkeley and the Virginia government? Read the four documents, keeping in mind the **source**-when/why it was written, who wrote it, etc.

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### Bacon's Rebellion: Background

Bacon's Rebellion was a Virginia uprising of poor farmers, indentured servants, and free and enslaved Africans against Governor Berkeley and the Virginia government. The leader, Nathaniel Bacon, was a plantation owner and planter who disliked Governor Berkeley and who wanted to benefit from the profitable fur trade that was often controlled by local Native American tribes. When Governor Berkeley did not act after a group of Doeg Indians allegedly killed a local farmer's pig, Bacon led attacks on local Native Americans in an attempt to drive them off western lands that could be opened up to more farmers. Bacon was then elected to the House of Burgesses and passed new laws to limit the power of the governor and give more rights to poor men who did not own land. Bacon also demanded that he be given command of a militia (army) against Native Americans. When Governor Berkeley refused, Bacon and his followers began attacking Native American villages and marched on Jamestown, burning the Virginia capital. The question is, why did these men join Bacon in his rebellion? What were their motives?

Several events and developments surrounded the rebellion:

- More indentured servants were living out their contracts, meaning they were owed 50 acres of land to start their own farms
- Governor Berkeley proposed building defensive forts to protect against Native American attacks, but said they would have to raise taxes to build them
- The price of tobacco, the major crop of Virginia, had decreased, meaning planters were not making as much money off their tobacco harvests

**Aftermath:** Shortly after the rebellion began, Nathaniel Bacon died of dysentery. Governor Berkeley quickly put down the rebellion and had 23 of the rebels executed by hanging.

Document	According to this document, what were the causes of Bacon's Rebellion?	Does this document seem trustworthy or reliable? Why or why not? (consider who wrote the document, when, why, etc)
<b>Document 1: Bacon's List of Grievances (Complaints)</b>		
<b>Document 2: Robert Beverly on Bacon's Rebellion</b>		

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<b>Document 3:</b> <b>Governor Berkeley,</b> <b>The State of the</b> <b>Colony [of Virginia],</b> <b>1673</b>		
<b>Document 4: A</b> <b>Narrative of the</b> <b>Indian and Civil</b> <b>Wars in Virginia, In</b> <b>the Years 1675 and</b> <b>1676.</b>		

Analysis: What would you tell historians? What caused Bacon's Rebellion? **Use evidence from at least 2 documents.**

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