

## Pocahontas

My name is Dr. Galgano and I teach history at the University of Richmond. I will answer your questions below.

Lucia-What hapend to her mom?What hapend to her failmy after she died?What day did she die on? Did she live in a teepee?

Lucia: No one wrote down what happened to Pocahontas' mother. We know very little about what Pocahontas' childhood was like, except that she traveled with her father, the paramount chief Wahunsenacawh (the English called him Powhatan). We do not know what happened to Pocahontas' Indian family but when Pocahontas married an Englishman named John Rolfe she changed her name to Rebecca Rolfe. Rebecca and John Rolfe had a son named Thomas. The family sailed to England in 1616 and visited with the king and queen. When the Rolfe family were on a ship getting ready to return to Virginia Pocahontas and her son Thomas were sick. Pocahontas died in March 1617 in Gravesend, England. Worried that Thomas was too sick to travel across the ocean, John Rolfe left Thomas with some friends and continued to Virginia alone. John Rolfe later married another woman. John Rolfe died in Virginia in 1622. Thomas Rolfe grew up in England and moved to Virginia in 1635 when he was 19 or 20 years old. He became a farmer and a soldier. While Thomas lived in English wooden houses in England and Virginia, Pocahontas lived in a Powhatan longhouse (called a yehakin) made from a wooden frame and covered with woven reed mats with her Powhatan family. Longhouses had two doors on either end of them and a hole in the roof so the hearth fire smoke could escape. Once she married John Rolfe, she lived in a wooden English house. Native peoples in the Great Plains lived in teepees.

Addison-What is her mams name? What is her mitl name? what is her suns name?

Addison: No one today knows what Pocahontas' mother's name was. While we do not know much about her mom, we know that Pocahontas had many names. When she was born, she was called Amonute. Powhatan people also had special personal names that very few people knew or used. Pocahontas' very personal name was Matoaka. She only told John Rolfe about her special name when they were getting married. When she married John Rolfe, Pocahontas became Rebecca Rolfe. Pocahontas was her nickname. Pocahontas liked to joke and dance around to get her father's attention. Her silly behavior earned her the name Pocahontas which, loosely translated, means "little jokester."