COOLIDGE CORNER SCHOOL RENAMING SEMI-FINALIST PROFILES



METACOMET: LEADER OF THE WAMPANOAG TRIBE

by Tayra Escotto

Metacomet was the sachem (intertribal chief) of indigenous peoples that included the Wampanoag and Narraganset tribes. Metacomet was the second son of Massasoit and became the tribe's leader after his death in 1661. Unlike his father, Metacomet had a more difficult time with the colonists. As the colonies began to expand into the territory of indigenous peoples, the local tribes became more concerned. Promises made by the colonists were broken as more and more people arrived from England.

Metacomet was determined to stop his land from being completely taken over. Fighting to protect his people from colonists, he agreed to sign a new agreement that included the surrender of Native American guns in 1671. The execution of three Wampanoag men eventually forced Metacomet to lead an uprising against the settlers, now known as the King Philip's War. Despite leading a group comprised of the Wampanoag, Narraganset, Abenaki, Nipmuc, and Mohawk tribes, Metacomet failed to secure peace and died in battle. Did You Know? Metacomet was given the nickname King Philip, after the Ancient Greek King Philip of Macedonia.

