

Student Worksheet for Activity One: Why Leave England?



Student Name _____ Date _____

Instructions:

Read [“Reasons for the Plantation in New England”](#) to determine the major reasons Puritans wanted to immigrate to New England. Working in groups, annotate and analyze the different reasons. The reasons are excerpt below.

Title of document or exercise

[“Reasons for the Plantation in New England”](#)

Questions to consider for reading and analyzing document/image/text

For each of the seven (7) reasons given below, explain the reason in your own words.

Reasons to be considered for justifying the undertakers of the intended Plantation in New England, and for encouraging such whose hearts God shall move to join with them in it.

1. It will be a service to the Church of great consequence to carry the Gospel into those parts of the world, to help on the fullness of the coming of the Gentiles, and to raise a bulwark against the kingdom of AnteChrist, which the Jesuits labor to rear up in those parts.

2. All other Churches of Europe are brought to desolation, and our sins, for which the Lord begins already to frown upon us and to cut us short, do threaten evil times to be coming upon us, and who knows, but that God hath provided this place to be a refuge for many whom he means to save out of the general calamity, and seeing the Church hath no place left to fly into but the wilderness, what better work can there be, than to go and provide tabernacles and food for her when she be restored.

3. This England grows weary of her inhabitants, so as Man, who is the most precious of all creatures, is here more vile and base than the earth we tread upon, and of less price among us than a horse or a sheep. Masters are forced by authority to entertain servants, parents to maintain their own children, all towns complain of their burden to maintain their poor, though we have taken up many unnecessary, yea unlawful, trades to maintain them. We use the authority of the Law to hinder the increase of our people, as by urging the statute against cottages and inmates — and thus it is come to pass, that children, servants and neighbors, especially if they be poor, are counted the greatest burdens, which if things were right would be the chiefest earthly blessings.
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4. The whole earth is the Lord's garden, and He hath given it to mankind with a general commission (Gen. 1:28) to increase and multiply and replenish the earth and subdue it, which was again renewed to Noah. The end is double and natural, that Mankind might enjoy the fruits of the earth, and God might have His due Glory from His creatures. Why then should one strive here for places of habitation, at such a cost as would obtain better land in another country, and at the same time suffer a whole continent as fruitful and convenient for the use of man to lie waste without any improvement?
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5. We are grown to that height of intemperance in all excess of riot that as no man's estate, almost, will suffice to keep sail with his equals. He who fails herein must live in scorn and contempt. Hence it comes that all arts and trades are carried on in that deceitful and unrighteous course, so that it is almost impossible for a good and upright man to maintain his charge and live comfortably in any of them.
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6. The fountains of learning and religion are so corrupted that most children (besides the unsupportable charge of their education) are perverted, corrupted, and utterly overthrown by the multitude of evil examples and the licentious government of those seminaries, where men strain at gnats and swallow camels, and use all severity for maintenance of caps and like accomplishments, but suffer all ruffianlike fashions and disorder in manners to pass uncontrolled.

7. What can be a better work, and more honorable and worthy of a Christian than to help rise and support a particular church while it is in its infancy, and to join his forces with such a company of faithful people, as by a timely assistance may grow strong and prosper, when for want of such help may be put to great hazard, if not wholly ruined.

8. If any such as are known to be Godly and live in all wealth and prosperity here, and shall forsake all this to join themselves with this Church and to run a hazard with them of a hard and mean condition, it will be an example of great use both for removing the scandal of worldly and sinister respects which is cast upon the Adventurer, to give more life to the faith of God's people in their prayers for the Plantation, and to encourage others to join the more willingly in it.

9. It appears to be a work of God for the good of His Church, in that He hath disposed the hearts of so many of His wise and faithful servants, both ministers and others, not only to approve of the enterprise but to interest themselves in it, some in their persons and estates, and others by their serious advice and help otherwise, and all by their prayers for the welfare of it. (Amos 3:) The Lord revealed his secret to His servants, the prophets, and it is likely He hath some great work in hand which He hath revealed to His prophets among us, whom He hath stirred up to encourage His servants to this Plantation, for He doth not use to seduce His people by His own prophets, but committeth that office to the ministry of false prophets and lying spirits.

Discussion/follow-up/summary question

Share your reason(s), either explaining them to the class, or present your annotations to other groups.

- List the reasons for going to New England
- Based on your reading of the document (and without any further research) speculate on what might be the most critical reasons for going?
- Why?
- Create a list of the “most” to “least” important reasons for the migration.

List of Reasons for Migration to New England

Most important

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9

Least important

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Read the ten (10) objections that are raised, which provide more insights into why the Puritans believed they should go to New England. For each of the objections explain the reason in your own words

Diverse objections which have been made against this Plantation, with their answers and resolutions:

Objection I — We have no warrant to enter upon that land, which has been so long possessed by others.

Objection II — It will be a great wrong to our Church and Country to take away the good people, and we shall lay it the more open to the judgment feared.

Objection III — We have feared a judgment a great while, but yet we are safe. It were better therefore to stay till it comes, and either we may flee then, or if we be overtaken in it we may well content ourselves to suffer with such a Church as ours is.

Objection IV — The ill success of the other Plantations may tell us what will become of this.

Objection V — It is attended with many and great difficulties.

Objection VI - It is a work above the power of the undertakers.

Objection VII — The country affords no natural fortifications.

Objection VIII — The place affords no comfortable means to the first inhabitants, and our breeding here at home has made us unfit for the hardship we are likely to endure there.

Objection IX — We must look to be preserved by miracle if we subsist, and so we shall tempt God.

Objection X — If it succeed ill, it will raise a scandal upon our profession (of our religion).

(Add Lesson Plan Title Here [8 pt. Arial BF]) — http://edsitement.neh.gov/view_lesson_plan.asp?id=

Prioritize these objections, from strongest to weakest. Be sure to explain how you decided what were the stronger and the weaker objections.

Strongest

Weakest
