

The Puritans

Directions: Read each and annotate each document. Answer the questions in complete sentences.

Document A: 'City upon a Hill' (Modified)

1. Sourcing: Who was John Winthrop speaking to in this sermon? What do you think is the purpose of this sermon?

Document: The only way to provide for our **posterity** is to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk **humbly** with our God. We must be knit together in this work as one man; we must take care of each other with brotherly affection.

We shall be united in the bond of peace, the Lord will be our God and delight to dwell among us, so that we shall see much more of his wisdom, power, goodness and truth.

We shall be as a City upon a Hill, the eyes of all people are upon us; so that if we shall [behave badly] and cause God to withdraw his help from us, we shall [invite] the mouths of enemies to speak evil of the ways of God, and cause their prayers to be turned into curses upon us.

Therefore let us choose life, that we, and our [children], may live; by obeying his voice, for he is our life, and our **prosperity**.

Vocabulary:

Posterity: future generations

Prosperity: wealth

Source: John Winthrop (1588–1649), lawyer and leader of the 1630 migration of English Puritans to Massachusetts Bay Colony, delivered this famous **sermon** (speech) aboard the Arbella to settlers traveling to New England.

2. Contextualization: Imagine what his audience might have been thinking and feeling as they listened to him on the ship. Describe it below.

3. Close reading: What is the main idea of this speech? What do you think Winthrop means when he says, "We shall be as a City Upon a Hill?"

Document B: 'The Divine Right to Occupy the Land' (Modified)

1. Sourcing: Who was John Cotton speaking to in this sermon? Why is he speaking about settling in a new land?

Document: The Bible says: "I will **appoint** a place for my people Israel, and I will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own, and move no more."

The settling of a people in this or that country is the Lord's decision.

Now, God makes room for a people in three ways: First, He drives out the **heathens** before them by waging war on the **inhabitants**.

Second, He gives a foreign people favor in the eyes of any native people to come and sit down with them.

Third, He makes a country empty of **inhabitants** where the people will live. Where there is an empty place, the sons of Adam and Noah are free to come and live there, and they neither need to buy it nor ask permission.

Vocabulary:

Heathen: a term used at this time to describe anyone uncivilized and who did not believe in God

Appoint: assign; decide on

Inhabitants: people who live in a certain place

Source: Puritan leader John Cotton gave the following **sermon** (speech) to members of his congregation who were immigrating to America in 1630. Cotton became a respected and influential **clergyman** (religious leader) in the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

2. Contextualization: In this sermon, who are the 'inhabitants' in the new land? Who are the 'foreign people'?

3. Close reading: What does Cotton say that God will do for the foreign people when they arrive in the new land?

Corroboration: Using evidence from Document A and Document B, answer the question below: Write at least 1 MEAEAL paragraph.

Were the Puritans selfish or selfless?