

Name: Date:

Puritans in America

**Please read the following:**

1. The Puritans were a group of people who criticized (wanted to “purify”) the corruption and hierarchy in the Church of England. The Church of England was the official church in England that everyone automatically belong to.
2. Puritans believe that the final authority came from the Bible, not from church officials, and therefore, every individual had direct access to the word God.
3. Some Puritans wanted to completely separate from the Church of England (they were called Separatists). The group of Pilgrims who came on the *Mayflower* in 1620 were Separatists.
4. 10 years after the *Mayflower*, a group of Puritans, led by John Winthorp landed in New England and established the Massachusetts Bay Colony. They were still loyal to the Church of England, but believed they could purify the behavior of individuals (purify the Church from within).

**Document A: *‘City upon a Hill’***

The only way to provide for our posterity it 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.

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

**Document A: Guiding Questions:**

1. **Sourcing:** Who was John Winthorp speaking to in this sermon? What do you think is the purpose of this sermon?
2. **Contextualization:** Imagine what his audience might have been thinking and feeling as they listening 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’***

The Bible says: “I will appoint a place for my people of 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 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

**Document B: Guiding Questions:**

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

**Based off the documents you have read, answer the following questions. Make sure to cite evidence to support your response.**

1. Based on these documents, how might the Puritans’ religion shape their actions in the New World?
2. How do you think the Puritans would have reacted to someone who strayed from the religion? Why?
3. Based on these documents, how do you think the Puritans reacted to the Native Americans they encountered?
4. Using evidence from the documents above, do you believe that the Puritans were selfish or selfless?