

SHAPING America

LESSON 3:

“SETTLING IN NEW ENGLAND”

Lesson Assignments

You are encouraged to be very attentive while viewing the video program. Review the video objectives and be prepared to record possible answers, in abbreviated form as you view the video. The topics and time periods may differ somewhat from the chapters of the textbook your school system is using. Each video program chronicles a wide array of events and personalities during a specific time period of American history prior to 1877. Keep in mind that one of the overarching goals of each lesson is to help you understand how past historical events and actions by historical personalities did not occur in a vacuum, and that they are inextricably interwoven in your society today.

Activities:

Your teacher may assign one or more activities for each lesson. Refer to your course syllabus for details.

OVERVIEW

Little did Martin Luther suspect that by nailing his protests against the door of the Catholic cathedral in Wittenberg in 1517, he was helping to shape the destiny of a yet unborn nation in the “New World.” He ignited the Protestant Reformation, which was to have major consequences for English settlement. British settlers at Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay were both motivated by religious considerations.

The Pilgrims at Plymouth and the Puritans in Massachusetts Bay Colony would find themselves facing a hostile and alien environment that was peopled by Native Americans who knew nothing of their religion. The Puritans were united in their unhappiness with the Anglican and Catholic Churches, but soon found dissension rearing its ugly head amidst their own community members. Roger Williams and Anne Hutchinson challenged Puritan orthodoxy and were eventually banished from the “city on the hill” that was to be a beacon to humanity.



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The spread of the Puritan settlements led inevitably to conflict with the Native Americans, in 1675 an Indian leader by the name of Metacomb forged an alliance among Indian tribes and launched the King Philip War, which resulted in a lasting defeat for New England Indians. The Puritans made few attempts to convert the Native Americans to Christianity and certainly never rivaled the efforts of the Catholic Spanish and French.

The growth of the New England Puritan settlements and the gradual lessening of religious fervor made it difficult for the clergy to maintain tight control over the congregations, and there was a decline in church membership. In effect, strict religious purity was sacrificed to encourage wider religious participation, and women were becoming the majority in the Puritan congregations. Women were also playing a prominent role in one of New England's most frightening religious episodes—the Salem witchcraft trials.

Before the hysteria of the “witch hunt” had ended in the 1690s, twenty individuals had been killed, along with two dogs. The witchcraft hysteria eventually ended in 1693 when the more responsible members of the clergy prohibited any further trials and pardoned those already convicted. The “witch hunt” became a blot on the Puritan record and passed into the American vocabulary as a metaphor for the often dangerous and irrational urge to find a scapegoat for social resentment.

VIDEO OBJECTIVES

The following objectives are designed to assist the viewer in identifying the most significant aspects of the video segments of this lesson. You should take succinct notes while viewing the video.

1. Assess the significance of the establishment of the Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay colonies and explain the roles played by Roger Williams, Anne Hutchinson, and John Winthrop.
2. Evaluate the interaction of the Puritan and Native American cultures with emphasis on the following: land ownership, Metacomb, King Philip War, colonial population growth, and Puritan missionary work.
3. Analyze the Salem witchcraft trials and assess the effects of the trials on Puritanism.

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WEB ACTIVITIES

These activities are assigned at the discretion of your teacher. They are offered as suggestions to help you learn more about the material presented in this lesson.

Activity 1: Salem Witchcraft Trials

- a. Access the following web sites:
Witchcraft in Salem Village: <http://etext.virginia.edu/salem/witchcraft/>
Do an Internet search to locate and review additional web sites on the Salem witchcraft trials.
National Archives and Records Administration Document Analysis Worksheets: <http://www.nara.gov/education/teaching/analysis/analysis.html>
The Salem Witchcraft Papers. "Afflicted Girls":
<http://etext.virginia.edu/salem/witchcraft/texts/residence.html>
- b. Access an account by one of the "Afflicted Girls" and use the National Archives Written Document Worksheet as a guide to analyze the account you select.



PRACTICE TEST

After watching the video and reviewing the objectives, you should be able to complete the following Practice Test. Access the Answer Key to score your answers after you have completed the Practice Test.

Multiple Choice:

Select the single best answer. It will be indicated if more than one answer is required.

1. The Salem witchcraft trials were:
 - A. The result of Roger Williams's activities.
 - B. The result of unsettled social and religious conditions in rapidly evolving Massachusetts.
 - C. Caused by the antics of Anne Hutchinson
 - D. The result of a revolt by indentured servants

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2. Roger Williams got into trouble with Massachusetts Bay authorities because he:
 - A. Questioned the legality of the Mayflower Compact.
 - B. Advocated Roman Catholicism.
 - C. Claimed that the colony's civil government should not regulate religions behavior.
 - D. Supported sending Puritan missionaries to work with the Native Americans.
3. King Philip's War resulted in:
 - A. The lasting defeat of New England's Indians.
 - B. France's moving into Canada.
 - C. The formation of a military alliance between the Indians and France.
 - D. The Puritans undertaking missionary work among the various Indian tribes.
4. The historical significance of the Pilgrims of Plymouth Bay, lies in their:
 - A. Numerical size.
 - B. Economic power.
 - C. Moral and spiritual qualities.
 - D. Willingness to compensate the Native Americans for land they occupied.
5. The Separatists and Puritans migrated from England to the "New World" in order to:
 - A. Avoid the coming war with France.
 - B. Gain wealth.
 - C. Escape religious persecution.
 - D. Convert the Indians to Christianity.

Essay Question:

1. Analyze the short term and long term effects of Puritanism and emphasize the significance of the Salem witchcraft trials.

Answers to the Practice Test:

The correct answer is indicated first, followed by the objective (s) that correlate with the test question.

1. B: 3
2. C: 1
3. A: 2
4. C: 1
5. C: 1