The Quakers and the Founding of Pennsylvania Guided Reading

Instructions: Read the following passage about the Quakers of colonial Pennsylvania and answer the questions within the reading. Answer the emboldened questions in complete sentences.


Part 1: Read the following secondary source quotes and answer the following questions.

England’s first six colonies were founded before 1640; the next six were founded or became English possessions during the Restoration era (1660-1688) when the Stuart monarchy was restored after the English Revolution. Georgia, the last of the thirteen colonies, was settled in the 1730s. All of the Restoration colonies were proprietary colonies where Crown favorites or “proprietors” were rewarded with large tracts of land to develop. Most of the proprietors had large visions but limited resources. William Penn was the exception. He had grown up in privilege and knew King James II well.

What kind of colony was Pennsylvania? ____________________________________________________

Why was William Penn an exceptional leader for an English colony?

Penn had converted to the Society of Friends or Quakers, a religious group who rejected worldly and spiritual hierarchies, believing that all men and women share an “inner light... He turned an old debt (from the king due to his father) into a charter for the proprietary colony called “Pennsylvania” (all the land between New Jersey and Maryland) his “holy experiment” in brotherly love, a contrast to the Puritan concept of a “City on a Hill”. Penn took great pains in setting up his colony; twenty drafts survive of his First Frame of Government, the colony’s 1682 constitution. Penn was determined to deal fairly and maintain friendly relations with the Lenni Lenape or Delaware Indians. He carefully planned the city of Philadelphia as well as organized other settlements and established the Free Society of Traders to control commerce with England. He sent back glowing accounts of the colony to his English friends and patrons. This Letter to the Free Society of Traders (found on EDSITEment reviewed History Matters), published in 1683, has been recognized as the most effective of his promotional tracts. And it proved successful.

Describe the Society of Friends/Quakers and their beliefs. ______________________________________

Penn organized the speediest and most efficient of the seventeenth-century efforts at English colonization. In 1682 twenty three ships from England reached the Delaware River with about two thousand colonists and their possessions. By 1700 Pennsylvania’s population reached 21,000. Pennsylvania’s fertile soils, temperate climate, and policy of religious freedom attracted many migrants beyond England. Germans from the Rhine Valley...
increasingly left their homelands because of its limited rural economy and religious intolerance; also, good news from Pennsylvania drew many discontented Germans across the Atlantic. Francis Daniel Pastorius arrived in Pennsylvania in 1683, commissioned by the Frankfort Land Company and a group of German merchants to obtain 15,000 acres of land for a settlement in the new colony of Pennsylvania. Pastorius, well educated in European universities, reported back to his friends in Germany. After he negotiated with Penn, Pastorius became a Quaker. His report was later published as *Positive Information From America, concerning the Country of Pennsylvania by a German who Traveled There* (1684), a promotional tract to encourage other Germans to immigrate. Pastorius found the journey to be difficult but the prospects attractive. He remarked notably upon the ethnic and religious complexity of the colony. Pastorius went on to lead settlement at Germantown of Mennonites and Quakers from the Rhineland.

What people group from Europe, not English, settled in Pennsylvania?
_________________________________

What did the Francis Daniel Pastorius particularly like about the Pennsylvania colony?
_________________________________________________

**Part 2: Read the following primary source quotes and answer the following questions.**

“Governments, like clocks, go from the motion men give them; and as governments are made and moved by men, so by them are ruined too. Wherefore governments rather depend upon men, than men upon governments. Let men be good, and the government cannot be bad; if it be ill, they will cure it. But, if men be bad, let the government be never so good, they will endeavor to warp and spoil it to their turn.

I know some say, let us have good laws, and no matter for the men that execute them: but let them consider, that though good laws do well, good men do better: for good laws may want good men, and be abolished or evaded by ill men; but good men will never want good laws nor suffer ill ones …”

What does William Penn see as necessary for good government?
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

“XXXV. That all persons living in this province, who confess and acknowledge the one Almighty and eternal God, to be the Creator, Upholder and Ruler of the world; and that hold themselves obliged in conscience to live peaceably and justly in civil society, shall, in no ways, be… prejudiced for their religious persuasion, or practice, in matters of faith and worship, nor shall they be compelled, at any time, to frequent or maintain any religious worship, place or ministry whatever.”

Who does William Penn want in his colony?
__________________________________________

How does he entice new settlers into moving to Pennsylvania?
___________________________________________________________________
The Walking Purchase, 1737

The Leni Lenape or Delaware Indians had been tricked by the early Dutch settlers of New Jersey and Pennsylvania. There is a story told of one early land purchase. The Dutch settlers asked the Indians to sell them land for a garden as big as the hide of a bullock. The Indians agreed and the Dutch then cut the hide into long thin strips and marked off a large circle of land. The Indians had been tricked. Years later when William Penn arrived he promised to treat the Indians fairly and refused to let any settler purchase land without the approval of the governor or his representatives. The Delaware had great respect for William Penn and always considered him their friend.

The Delaware trusted Thomas Penn, William’s son, when he became governor of the colony and expected that he would continue to trade and negotiate fairly with them. Among some Indians it had been a custom to measure off land that was to be sold by having a person walk the distance in a day and a half.

Around 1735 Governor Penn suggested that this “Walking Purchase” be used to settle a dispute over land that the Pennsylvania government said had been sold in 1696 and 1697. The Delaware denied that the land had been sold. Governor Penn produced a paper indicating the sale but it had been signed by Indians who never lived on the land. Wanting to settle the dispute peaceably, the Indian leaders agreed to turn over to the English the land that could be walked in one and a half days. It was agreed that the English would select three men to walk and that the Indians would appoint some to go along to witness the walk. The three men selected by the colony began a training program.

Governor Penn, in order to pay some of his debts, had sold the land he expected to get from the walk. The governor now had to make sure that this land was “walked” and turned over to the colony or he would be in serious trouble with those who had already purchased the land. In 1735, two years before the walk was to take place, the governor paid several men to survey the land to make sure that the “Walking Purchase” would be in the land that had already been sold. He also sent a party into the area to cut down trees and blaze a trail to make it easier for the men to walk a longer distance. The Indians trusted Penn and were unaware of what he was doing to make sure that the three men he selected would be able to walk a longer distance.

The “walk” began on September 19 and was to finish at noon the next day. The three men who were selected to walk were well trained. They also had a party of other men with horses carrying supplies that they might need during the walk. The Indians assigned to accompany them to make sure the walk was proper were surprised but didn’t think it would really help the walkers. One of the three men had to drop out between 10 and 11 o’clock in the morning of the first day. Another fell into a creek nearing nightfall and the walk had to stop. One of the two Indians who were with them to witness the walk became so upset that he gave up and left. He reported to the Indian leaders that the men were running and not walking as had been agreed. He also told the chiefs that the English runners were following a trail that had been marked out earlier.

On the next morning one man continued his “run.” By noon on the second day he had covered 65 miles. The Delaware who had agreed to this “Walking Purchase” thought that at the very best they would be able to cover less than half that distance.
The land was some of the richest in all of eastern Pennsylvania. The Delaware argued that the “Walking Purchase” was illegal and refused to leave the land. Almost immediately hundreds of settlers began moving into the disputed land. Pennsylvania called on the powerful Iroquois Nation to help. The Iroquois, who were on friendly terms with the Pennsylvania colony, ordered the Delaware to leave the disputed land. Since they would not get help from the powerful Iroquois Six Nations they had to leave the land.

The Delaware had trusted William Penn’s son and they had been tricked by him just as earlier the Dutch had tricked them into turning over a large section of land rather than the garden they had agreed to give the settlers. William Penn’s promise to always treat the Indians with fairness had been broken.


Questions

1. Was Governor Thomas Penn living up to the promises his father had made to the Delaware Indians?
2. Why did the Delaware agree to the “Walking Purchase?”
3. What steps did Governor Penn take to make sure that he would get all the land he desired from the “Walking Purchase?”
4. What lessons can you learn from this event in history?

Vocabulary

- **blaze a trail**: prepare a trail or path through the wilderness
- **bullock**: young bull
- **negotiate**: discuss an issue to come to some agreement
- **Six Nations**: Iroquois confederations or association of nations; the Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, Seneca, and Tuscarora
XXI. These poor People are under a dark Night in things relating to Religion, to be sure, the Tradition of it; yet they believe a God and Immortality, without the help of Metaphysicks; for they say, There is a great King that made them, who dwells in a glorious Country to the Southward of them, and that the Souls of the good shall go thither, where they shall live again. Their Sacrifice is their first Fruits; the first and fattest Buck they can kill, goeth to the fire, where he is all burnt with a Mournful Ditty of him that performeth the Ceremony, both with such marvellous Fervency and Labour of Body that he will even sweat to a foam. The other part is their Cantico, performed by round-Dances, sometimes Words, sometimes Songs, then Shouts, two being in the middle that begin, and by Singing and Drumming on a Board direct the Chorus: Their Postures in the Dance are very Antick and differing, but all keep measure. This is done with equal Earnestness and Labour, but great appearance of Joy. In the Fall, when the Corn cometh in, they begin to feast one another; there have been two great Festivals already, to which all come that will: I was at one my self; their Entertainment was a green Seat by a Spring, under some shady Trees, and twenty Bucks with hot Cakes of new Corn, both Wheat and Beans, which they make up in a square form, in the leaves of the Stem, and bake them in the Ashes: And after that they fall to Dance. But they that go, must carry a small Present in their Money, it may be six Pence, which is made of the Bone of a Fish; the black is with them as Gold, the white, Silver; they call it all Wampum.

XXV. We have agreed, that in all Differences between us, Six of each side shall end the matter: Don't abuse them, but let them have Justice, and you win them: The worst is, that they are the worse for the Christians, who have propagated their Vices, and yielded them Tradition for ill, and not for good things. But as low an Ebb as they are at, and as glorious as their Condition looks, the Christians have not out-liv’d their sight with all their Pretensions to an higher Manifestation: What good then might not a good People graft, where there is so distinct a Knowledge left between Good and Evil? I beseech God to incline the Hearts of all that come into these parts, to out-live the Knowledge of the Natives, but a fixt obedience to their greater Knowledge of the Will of God, for it were miserable indeed for us to fall under the just censure of the poor Indian Conscience, while we make profession of things so far transcending.

Letter From William Penn to the Committee of the Free Society of Traders (2)

Benjamin West Painting Analysis (questions to guide discussion) – 18th Century

- State observations (can be basic and them gets more advanced with greater discussion)
- Discuss the meaning of the images portrayed → how depicted/laid out → how are the Native American depicted? Meaning? Relevance? Accuracy (compared to letter).
- Who drew this painting (discuss the time period)
- What is Wm. Penn doing? (actions)
- What is the significance of his actions?
- Evaluate the role religion played in the relationships between Penn (Quakers) and the Native Americans.
- Why did other colonies not have similar experiences with the Natives? Explain your thoughts.
Duval Painting – 19th Century (image below)

- How is Penn portrayed/depicted in this painting? How does it differ from the previous images? Significance?

- How are the Native Americans portrayed? How does this differ from the previous images?
William Penn – 20th Century

- How is Penn depicted in this 20th century painting? How does this differ from the previous images? What does this depiction say about Penn’s importance in the colony?

- How are the Native Americans portrayed? How does this differ from the previous images? What is the significance of this depiction?
The Air is Sweet and Clear, the Heavens Serene, like the South Parts of France": William Penn Advertises for Colonists for Pennsylvania, 1683.

by William Penn

William Penn, a well placed English gentlemen and a Quaker, turned an old debt into a charter for the proprietary colony called "Pennsylvania," (all the land between New Jersey and Maryland) Penn took great pains in setting up his colony; twenty drafts survive of his First Frame of Government, the colony’s 1682 constitution. Penn was determined to deal fairly and maintain friendly relations with the Lenni Lenape or Delaware Indians. He laid out in great detail the city of Philadelphia as well as organized other settlements and established the Free Society of Traders to control commerce with England. He sent back glowing accounts of the colony to his English friends and patrons. This Letter to the Free Society of Traders, published in 1683, has been recognized as the most effective of his promotional tracts. And it proved successful; by 1700 Pennsylvania’s population reached 21,000.

For the Province, the general condition of it, take as follows:

I. The country itself in its soil, air, water, seasons, and produce, both natural and artificial, is not to be despised. The land contains divers sorts of earth, as sand, yellow and black, poor and rich; also gravel, both loamy and dusty; and in some places a fast fat earth, like to our best vales in England, especially by inland brooks and rivers. God in His wisdom having ordered it so, that the advantages of the country are divided, the back lands being generally three to one richer than those that lie by navigable waters. We have much of another soil, and that is a black hazel mold upon a stony or rocky bottom.

V. The natural produce of the country, of vegetables, is trees, fruits, plants, flowers.

VI. The artificial produce of the country is wheat, barley, oats, rye, peas, beans, squashes, pumpkins, watermelons, muskmelons, and all herbs and roots that our gardens in England usually bring forth.

XI. The NATIVES I shall consider in their persons, language, manners, religion, and government, with my sense of their original. For their persons, they are generally tall, straight, well built, and of singular proportion; they tread strong and clever, and mostly walk with a lofty chin. Of complexion black, but by design, as the gypsies in England. They grease themselves with bear’s fat clarified, and using no defense against sun or weather, their skins must needs be swarthy. Their eye is little and black, not unlike a straight-looked Jew….

XIII. Of their customs and manners there is much to be said. I will begin with children. So soon as they are born they wash them in water, and while very young, and in cold weather to choose, they plunge them in the rivers to harden and embolden them….

XVII. If a European comes to see them, or calls for lodging at their house or wigwam, they give him the best place and first cut. If they come to visit us, they salute us with an Itah, which is as much as to say “Good be to you,” and set them down, which is mostly on the ground, close to their heels, their legs upright. [It] may be they speak not a word more, but ob serve all passages. If you give them anything to eat or drink, [that is] well, for they will not ask; and, be it little or much, if it be with kindness, they are well pleased, else they go away sullen, but say nothing….

XIX. But in liberality they excel; nothing is too good for their friend. Give them a fine gun, coat, or other thing, it may pass twenty hands before it sticks; light of heart, strong affections, but soon spent, the most merry creatures that live, [they] feast and dance perpetually; they never have much, nor want much. Wealth circulates like the blood, all parts partake; and though none shall want what another has, yet [they are] exact observers of property….

XXV. We have agreed that in all differences between us, six of each side shall end the matter. Don’t abuse them, but let them have justice, and you win them. The worst is, that they are the worse for the Christians, who have propagated their vices and yielded them tradition for ill, and not for good things. But as low an ebb as they are at, and as glorious as their own condition looks, the Christians have not outlived their sight with all their pretensions to a higher manifestation. What good then might not a
good people graft, where there is so distinct a knowledge left between good and evil? I beseech God to incline the hearts of all that come into these parts to outlive the knowledge of the natives, by a fixed obedience to their greater knowledge of the will of God. For it were miserable indeed for us to fall under the just censure of the poor Indian conscience, while we make profession of things so far transcending... 

XXXI. ....And for the well government of the said counties, courts of justice are established in every county, with proper officers, as justices, sheriffs, clerks, constables, etc.; which courts are held every two months. But, to prevent lawsuits, there are three peacemakers chosen by every county court, in the nature of common arbitrators, to hear and end differences betwixt man and man. And spring and fall there is an orphan’s court in each county, to inspect and regulate the affairs of orphans and widows....

Your kind cordial friend, William Penn