

Diagnostic DBQ

Intro: Teaching through historical documents is a hallmark of history education. The Document-Based Question or DBQ is the standard used by the College Board for AP assessment and is the most frequently used method for incorporating documents and historical evidence into the classroom. This DBQ will serve as a diagnostic tool or pretest to determine your baseline level of skill, in other words, where you are at in your writing walking into the class. This is low stakes and is not graded for quality, only completion. We will use this baseline to chart your growth throughout the year. In writing the DBQ, you will use the following documents to better understand the first two English colonies, Massachusetts Bay (New England) and the Virginia colony (Chesapeake Bay Region/South). Below, you will find the question or prompt to guide your analysis of the documents.

Question: Which of the first English colonies, Massachusetts Bay or Virginia, will experience more success? Describe differences in their social, political, and economic structure that may influence success or failure. Use documents A-H and your knowledge of the period to address these questions.

Document A

Source: John Winthrop, *A Model of Christian Charity* (written on board the *Arabella* on the Atlantic Ocean, 1630).

God Almighty in his most holy and wise providence hath so disposed of the condition of mankind, [that] in all times some must be rich, some poor, some high and eminent in power and dignity, other mean and in subjection. . . . [Yet] we must be knit together in this work as one man. We must entertain each other in brotherly affection, we must be willing to abridge ourselves of our superfluities, for the supply of others' necessities. We must uphold a familiar commerce together in all meekness, gentleness, patience, and liberality. We must delight in each other, make others' conditions our own, rejoice together, mourn together, labor and suffer together, always having before our eyes our commission and community in the work, our community as members of the same body. So shall we keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace. . . . We must consider that we shall be as a city upon a hill. The eyes of all people are upon us, so that if we shall deal falsely with our God in this work we have undertaken, and so cause him to withdraw his present help from us, we shall be made a story and a by-word through the world. We shall open the mouths of enemies to speak evil of the ways of God, . . . shall shame the faces of many of God's worthy servants, and cause their prayers to be turned into curses upon us.

Document B

Source: Ship's List of Emigrants Bound for New England.
John Porter, Deputy Clerk to Edward Thoroughgood

Weymouth, the 20th of March, 1635

1. Joseph Hull, of Somerset, a minister, aged 40 years
2. Agnes Hull, his wife, aged 25 years
3. Joan Hull, his daughter, aged 15 years
4. Joseph Hull, his son, aged 13 years
5. Tristram, his son, aged 11 years
6. Elizabeth Hull, his daughter, aged 7 years
7. Temperance, his daughter, aged 9 years
8. Grissel Hull, his daughter, aged 5 years
9. Dorothy Hull, his daughter, aged 3 years
10. Judith French, his servant, aged 20 years
11. John Wood, his servant, aged 20 years
12. Robert Dabyn, his servant, aged 28 years
13. Musachiell Bernard, of Batcombe, clothier in the county of Somerset, 24 years
14. Mary Bernard, his wife, aged 28 years
15. John Bernard, his son, aged 3 years
16. Nathaniel, his son, aged 1 year

21. Timothy Tabor, in Somerset of Batcombe, tailor, aged 35 years
22. Jane Tabor, his wife, aged 35 years
23. Jane Tabor, his daughter, aged 10 years
24. Anne Tabor, his daughter, aged 8 years
25. Sarah Tabor, his daughter, aged 5 years
26. William Fever, his servant, aged 20 years
27. John Whitmarke, aged 39 years
28. Alice Whitmarke, his wife, aged 35 years
29. James Whitmarke, his son, aged 5 years
30. Jane, his daughter, aged 7 years
31. Onseph Whitmarke, his son, aged 5 years
32. Rich. Whitmarke, his son, aged 2 years

74. Robert Lovell, husbandman, aged 40 years
75. Elizabeth Lovell, his wife, aged 35 years
76. Zacheus Lovell, his son, aged 15 years
77. Anne Lovell, his daughter, aged 16 years
78. John Lovell, his son, aged 8 years
79. Ellyn, his daughter, aged 1 year
80. James, his son, aged 1 year
81. Joseph Chickin, his servant, 16 years
82. Alice Kinham, aged 22 years
83. Angell Hollard, aged 21 years
84. Katheryn, his wife, 22 years
85. George Land, his servant, 22 years
86. Sarah Land, his kinswoman, 18 years
103. John Hoble, husbandman, 13
104. Robert Huste, husbandman, 40 . . .

Document C

Source: Ship's List of Emigrants Bound for Virginia.

Ultimo July, 1635

These underwritten names are to be transported to Virginia, embarked in the Merchant's Hope, Hugh Weston, Master, per examination by the minister of Gravesend touching their conformity to the Church discipline of England, and have taken the oaths of allegiance and supremacy:

Edward Towers	26	Jo. Kennedy	20
Henry Woodman	22	Sam Jackson	24
Richard Seems	26	Allin King	19
Vyncent Whatter	17	Rowland Sadler	19
James Whithedd	14	Jo. Phillips	28
Jonas Watts	21	Daniel Endick	16
Peter Loe	22	Jo. Chalk	25
Geo. Brocker	17	Jo. Vynall	20
Henry Eeles	26	Edward Smith	20
Jo. Dennis	22	Jo. Rowledge	19
Tho. Swayne	23	Wm. Westlie	40
Charles Rinsden	27	Jo. Smith	18
Jo. Exston	17	Jo. Saunders	22
Wm. Luck	14	Tho. Bartcherd	16
Jo. Thomas	19	Tho. Dodderidge	19
Jo. Archer	21	Richard Williams	18
Richard Williams	25	Jo. Ballance	19
Francis Hutton	20	Wm. Baldin	21
Savill Gascoyne	29	Wm. Pen	26
Rich. Bulfell	29	Jo. Gerie	24
Rich. Jones	26	Henry Baylie	18
Tho. Wynes	30	Rich. Anderson	50
Humphrey Williams	22	Robert Kelum	51
Edward Roberts	20	Richard Fanshaw	22
Martin Atkinson	32	Tho. Bradford	40
Edward Atkinson	28	Wm. Spencer	16
Wm. Edwards	30	Marmaduke Ella	22
Nathan Braddock	31	<i>Women:</i>	
Jeffrey Gurrish	23	Ellin Hawkes	18
Henry Carrell	16	Ann Swayne	22
Tho. Tyle	24	Eliz. Cote	22
Gamaliel White	24	Ann Rice	23
Richard Marks	19	Kat. Wilson	23
Tho. Clever	16	Maudlin Lloyd	24
Jo. Kitchin	16	Mabell Busher	14
Edmond Edwards	20	Annis Hopkins	24
Lewes Miles	19	Ann Mason	24
		Bridget Crompe	18
		Mary Hawkes	19

Document D

Source: Articles of Agreement, Springfield, Massachusetts, 1636.

We whose names are underwritten, being by God's providence engaged together to make a plantation . . . do mutually agree to certain articles and orders to be observed and kept by us and by our successors. . . .

1. We intend by God's grace, as soon as we can, with all convenient speed, to procure some Godly and faithful minister with whom we purpose to join in church covenant to walk in all the ways of Christ.
2. We intend that our town shall be composed of forty families, . . . rich and poor.
3. That every inhabitant shall have a convenient proportion for a house lot, as we shall see [fit] for everyone's quality and estate. . . .
5. That everyone shall have a share of the meadow or planting ground. . . .

Document E

Source: Wage and Price Regulations in Connecticut, 1676.

Whereas a great cry of oppression is heard among us, and that principally pointed at workmen and traders, which is hard to regulate without a standard for pay, it is therefore ordered that . . . [prices and wages] be duly set at each of our General Courts annually. . . . [A]ll breaches of this order to be punished proportionable to the value of the oppression. . . . This court . . . in the interim recommends [that] all tradesmen and laborers consider the religious end of their callings, which is that receiving such moderate profit as may enable them to serve God and their neighbors with their arts and trades comfortably, they do not enrich themselves suddenly and inordinately (by oppressing prices and wages) to the impoverishing [of] their neighbors . . . live in the practice of that crying sin of oppression, but avoid it.

Document F

Source: Captain John Smith, *History of Virginia*, 1624.

When the [large ship] departed, . . . those of us that had money, spare clothes, credit to give bills of payment, gold rings, fur, or any such commodities, were ever welcome to [purchase supplies. The rest of us patiently obeyed our] vile commanders and [bought] our provisions at fifteen times the value, . . . yet did not repine but fasted, lest we should incur the censure of [being] factious and seditious persons. . . . Our ordinary [food] was but meal and water so that this . . . little relieved our wants, whereby with the extremity of the bitter cold frost . . . more than half of us died.

The worst [among us were the gold seekers who] with their golden promises made all men their slaves in hope of recompenses. There was no talk . . . but dig gold, wash gold, refine gold, load gold. . . . Smith, perceiving [we lived] from hand to mouth, caused the pinnace [small ship] to be provided with things fitting to get provision for the year following.

[Two councilors] Wingfield and Kendall, . . . strengthened themselves with the sailors and other confederates [and planned to go] aboard the pinnace to alter her course and to go for England.

Smith had the plot discovered to him. Much trouble he had to prevent it, till with store of saker and musket shot he forced them to stay or sink in the river; which action cost the life of Captain Kendall.

These brawls are so disgustful, as some will say, they were better forgotten.

Document G

Source: Governor Berkeley and His Council on Their Inability to Defend Virginia Against a Dutch Attack, December 1673.

We thought it our duty . . . to set forth in this our Declaration, the true state and condition of this country in general and our particular . . . disabilit[y] to . . . [engage in] war at the time of this invasion [by the Dutch]. . . . [We] therefore do most humbly beseech your majesty and your most honorable council to consider that Virginia is intersected by so many vast rivers as makes more miles to defend than we have men of trust to defend them. For by our nearest computation we leave at our backs as many servants (besides Negroes) as there are freemen to defend the shores and all our frontiers [against] the Indians. . . . [This] gives men fearful apprehensions of the danger they leave their estates and families in, while they are drawn from their houses to defend the borders. Also at least one third [of the freemen available for defense] are single freemen (whose labor will hardly maintain them) or men much in debt, . . . [whom] we may reasonably expect upon any small advantage the enemy may gain upon us, . . . [to defect] to them in hopes of bettering their condition by sharing the plunder of the country with them.

Document H

Source: Bacon's "Manifesto," justifying his rebellion against Virginia Governor Berkeley in 1676.

We cannot in our hearts find one single spot of rebellion or treason or that we have in any manner aimed at subverting the settled government. . . . All people in all places where we have yet been can attest our civil, quiet, peaceable behavior far different from that of rebellion. . . . Let truth be bold and all the world know the real foundations of pretended guilt. . . . Let us trace . . . [the] men in authority and favor to whose hands the dispensation of the countr[y's] wealth has been committed. Let us observe the sudden rise of their estates . . . [compared] with the quality in which they first entered this country. Let us consider their sudden advancement. And let us also consider whether any public work for our safety and defense or for the advancement and propagation of trade, liberal arts or sciences is in any [way] adequate to our vast charge. Now let us compare these things together and see what sponges have sucked up the public treasure and whether it has not been privately contrived away by unworthy favorites and juggling parasites whose tottering fortunes have been repaired and supported at the public charge.