# (6:8) Middle School Documents: British Colonies

# Report by Captain John Smith, Virginia Colony at Jamestown (1609)

“As for corn provision and contribution from the savages, we had nothing bur mortal wounds, with clubs and arrows. As for our hogs, hens, goats, sheep, horses, and what lived, our commanders, officers, and savages daily consumed them. Some small proportion sometimes we tasted, till all was devoured. Then swords, arms, pieces or anything we traded to the savages, whose cruel fingers were so often imbrued in our blood that what by their cruelty, our Governor's indiscretion, and the loss of our ships, of five hundred within six months there remained not past sixty men, women and children, most miserable and poor creatures. And those were preserved for the most part by roots, herbs, acorns, walnuts, berries, now and then a little fish. They that had courage in these extremities made no small use of it; yea, they are even the very skin of our horses.

Nay, so great was our famine that a savage we slew and buried, the poorer sort took him up again and ate him; and so divers one another boiled and stewed with roots and herbs. And one amongst the rest did kill his wife, salt her, and had eaten part of her before it was known, for which he was executed, as he well deserved. Now whether she was better roasted, boiled or broiled, I know not; but of such a dish as salted wife I never heard of.”

**Questions**

1. What happened to the food supply of the Virginia colony at Jamestown?

2. What evidence do we have that the European settlers were desperate?

3. In your opinion, why were conditions in the settlement so (dire) bad?

**Trial of Anne Hutchinson**

Source: www.annehutchinson.com/anne\_hutchinson\_trial\_010.htm

**Instructions**: This is the story of the trial of Anne Hutchinson. In 1638, she was found guilty of heresy (believing in false Gods) and banished from (forced to leave) the Puritan colony in Massachusetts Bay. Read the transcript and answer questions 1-4.

## **A. The Testimony**

**Mrs. Anne Hutchinson**: I was much troubled to see the falseness the Church of England. I have turned Separatist (become an independent preacher). Since that time I confess God has helped me distinguish between his voice and the voice of antichrist. If you do condemn me for speaking what in my conscience, I will rely on the Lord.

**Mr. Nowel**: How do you know the voice you heard was the voice of God?

**Mrs. Anne Hutchinson**: How did Abraham know that it was God that bid him offer his son for sacrifice?

**Dep. Gov. Thomas Dudley**: By an immediate voice.

**Mrs. Anne Hutchinson**: So to me by an immediate revelation.

**Dep. Gov. Thomas Dudley**: How! an immediate revelation.

**Mrs. Anne Hutchinson**: By the voice of his own spirit to my soul. You have power over my body but the Lord Jesus has power over my body and soul. If you continue to persecute me you will bring a curse upon you and your children. The mouth of the Lord has spoken it. I fear not what man can do to me.

**Gov. John Winthrop**: Daniel was delivered by miracle; do you think you will be saved also?

**Mrs. Anne Hutchinson**:. I look that the Lord should deliver me by his providence.

**Gov. John Winthrop**: I believe that the revelation she claims is a delusion

**B. The Sentence**

**Gov. John Winthrop**: Mrs. Hutchinson, the sentence of the court is that you are banished from out of our jurisdiction as being a woman not fit for our society, and are to be imprisoned until the court shall send you away.

**Mrs. Anne Hutchinson**: I want to know why I am banished?

**Gov. John Winthrop**: Say no more. The court knows why and is satisfied.

**Questions**:

1. Why did Mrs. Hutchinson become a “Separatist”?
2. What does she claim?
3. What does the court decide?

In your opinion, why does the court take this action?

**Runaway Slave Advertisement**

*The New York Weekly Journal*, October 2, 1738. Runaway from Frederick Zepperly of Rhinebeck in Dutchess County, a copper colored Negro fellow named Jack, aged about 30 years, speaks nothing but English and reads English. Whoever takes up said run away and secures him so his master may have him again or gives notice of him to Harry Beekman or to John Peter Zenger shall have forty shillings and all reasonable charges.

**Questions**

1. Who was “Jack”?

2. Why was this advertisement placed in a newspaper?

3. Where did Frederick Zepperly live?

3. The advertisement for “Jack” says to give notice to John Peter Zenger. Who was John Peter Zenger?