Why Cross the Ocean?

Compare the reasons people came to Plymouth and Jamestown.

5.C.1.7 "Describe the importance of freedom from religious persecution that motivated immigration by Pilgrims (separatists) to Plymouth Colony as opposed to economic reasons that motivated other colonists."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details that show why the Separatists sought religious freedom. Circle two details that show why other colonists hoped to earn money or find land.

Different Reasons for a Difficult Journey

1 In England in the early 1600s, a group called Separatists believed they should worship apart from the Church of England. English laws required people to follow that church. Separatists who met for their own services could face fines or jail. They first moved to the Netherlands, where they could worship more freely. Still, they wanted a place where their group could build a lasting community.

2 In 1620, some Separatists and other passengers crossed the Atlantic on the Mayflower. The Separatists, often called Pilgrims, settled at Plymouth, on land long home to the Wampanoag people. The voyage was dangerous, and the first winter was deadly. For the Separatists, living together and worshiping according to their beliefs mattered enough to risk the journey. They sought freedom from punishment for their religious practices.

3 Other English colonists crossed the Atlantic mainly for economic reasons. In 1607, the Virginia Company sent settlers to Jamestown, hoping to earn money through trade and valuable resources. Settlers also hoped for jobs or land. Their goal was different from the Separatists' main reason for going to Plymouth: practicing their faith without punishment. Both groups faced hard journeys, but their chief reasons for leaving were not the same.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did English laws make the Separatists' religious beliefs a reason to leave?

2. Why was the dangerous voyage to Plymouth worth the risk to the Separatists?

3. How did the Virginia Company's reason for sending settlers differ from the Separatists' reason for going to Plymouth?

4. A settler hoped to find a job or land. Which settlement in the passage fits that goal better, and how is that goal different from the Separatists' main goal?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a Separatist bound for Plymouth and a settler bound for Jamestown could talk across time. Write four lines of dialogue, two per person, explaining the different reasons each would risk the voyage.

ANSWER KEY

Why Cross the Ocean?

GRADE 5 · 5.C.1.7

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details that show why the Separatists sought religious freedom. Circle two details that show why other colonists hoped to earn money or find land. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did English laws make the Separatists' religious beliefs a reason to leave?	**English laws required them to follow the Church of England, and they could face fines or jail for holding their own services.**
2	Why was the dangerous voyage to Plymouth worth the risk to the Separatists?	**They wanted to live together and worship according to their beliefs without being punished.**
3	How did the Virginia Company's reason for sending settlers differ from the Separatists' reason for going to Plymouth?	**The Virginia Company hoped to earn money through trade and resources, while the Separatists sought freedom to practice their faith.**
4	A settler hoped to find a job or land. Which settlement in the passage fits that goal better, and how is that goal different from the Separatists' main goal?	**Jamestown fits better because the settler's goal was economic. The Separatists went to Plymouth mainly to worship without punishment.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Separatist: In England, I could be fined for joining my friends in worship.
Jamestown settler: I hope to earn money by helping trade goods.
Separatist: The ocean crossing frightens me, but I want to practice my faith without punishment.
Jamestown settler: The trip worries me too, but I hope to find work and build a living.

Accept answers that distinguish the Separatists' main religious reason from economic hopes tied to Jamestown. Students may cite fines, jail, trade, jobs, or land as supporting details.