Rules That Lasted

Puritan beliefs and government in Massachusetts Bay

5.C.1.9.A "a stable government influenced by Puritan religious beliefs"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline how colony leaders were chosen, circle two government rules shaped by Puritan beliefs, and write 1 beside a detail that shows how the government could keep working over time.

Governing Massachusetts Bay

1. In the 1630s, Puritan settlers built towns in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Imagine townspeople gathering to discuss where to put a road. Puritans wanted a community guided by their religious beliefs. They also needed a government that could make decisions year after year. They created rules for choosing leaders and used local meetings to handle town business.

2. At the colony level, male church members who had been approved as voters, called freemen, elected a governor and representatives to the General Court. Elections took place each year, so voters could choose leaders again. The General Court made laws and handled colony business. These repeated steps helped the government keep working even when leaders changed.

3. Puritan beliefs also shaped what the government did. In 1647, the General Court required larger towns to provide schools so children could learn to read, especially the Bible. The government also made rules about observing Sunday as a day of worship and rest. Shared rules could bring order, but women and people who were not church members could not vote in colony elections.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did yearly elections help the colony's government keep working when leaders changed?

2. How did the colony's voting rule connect Puritan beliefs to who could choose its leaders?

3. How did the 1647 school law connect a government decision to Puritan beliefs?

4. How could the Sunday rules both reflect Puritan beliefs and help bring order?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a new Massachusetts Bay town needs rules for its shared well. In three sentences, propose a way to keep decisions about the well working over time, connect one rule to a Puritan belief, and suggest how to hear from people excluded from colony elections.

ANSWER KEY

Rules That Lasted

GRADE 5 · 5.C.1.9.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline how colony leaders were chosen, circle two government rules shaped by Puritan beliefs, and write 1 beside a detail that shows how the government could keep working over time. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did yearly elections help the colony's government keep working when leaders changed?	**Approved voters could choose leaders each year, while the General Court continued to handle colony business.**
2	How did the colony's voting rule connect Puritan beliefs to who could choose its leaders?	**Only approved male church members, called freemen, could vote for colony leaders. Women and people who were not church members could not vote in colony elections.**
3	How did the 1647 school law connect a government decision to Puritan beliefs?	**The law required larger towns to provide schools, helping children learn to read the Bible.**
4	How could the Sunday rules both reflect Puritan beliefs and help bring order?	**The rules set aside Sunday for worship and rest, reflecting Puritan beliefs and giving the community a shared rule to follow.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The town could choose a well keeper each year and review the well rules at a town meeting. Since Puritans set aside Sunday for worship and rest, the keeper could schedule routine repairs on another day. The meeting could ask women for their ideas even though women could not vote in colony elections.

Accept other passage-supported connections between government practices and Puritan beliefs. For Part 3, look for a repeatable decision-making plan, a plausible religious connection, and a way to hear from an excluded group without claiming that group could vote in colony elections.