A Colony Takes Shape

Read how beliefs, voting, and written rules shaped Massachusetts Bay.

5.C.1.9 "Explain the founding and development of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, including a stable government influenced by Puritan religious beliefs self-government through town meetings governors elected by freemen protection of individual rights..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that show how Puritan beliefs shaped the colony. Circle three details about town meetings, governor elections, or the protection of rights.

Building Massachusetts Bay

1. In 1630, ships carrying English Puritans reached the coast of Massachusetts. They wanted to build a community where they could worship and live by their religious beliefs. Their leader, John Winthrop, called the colony a "city upon a hill." He meant that other people would watch how the settlers lived. To him, a community built on shared faith and care for one another could set an example.

2. To keep the growing Massachusetts Bay Colony organized, its leaders built a government that lasted. Puritan beliefs shaped many of its rules, including the expectation that people follow their church's teachings. Freemen elected the colony's governor. At first, only men who belonged to Puritan churches could become freemen, so many adults had no vote. Each election gave eligible voters a say in who led the colony.

3. In towns, eligible men met to make decisions about local matters, such as roads and schools. These town meetings gave some settlers practice in self-government, though women and many men could not vote. In 1641, the colony adopted the Massachusetts Body of Liberties. This written list protected certain rights, including rules for fair trials. Its protections were limited, but it placed rules on leaders as they governed a religious community.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Winthrop's idea of a “city upon a hill” connect to why the Puritans founded the colony?

2. How did Puritan beliefs shape who could help choose the governor?

3. How did town meetings give settlers a part in governing? Who could not vote?

4. How did the Massachusetts Body of Liberties affect the colony's government?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A new settler says, “Everyone in Massachusetts Bay can vote, and its leaders have no rules to follow.” Write a 4- to 5-sentence reply that corrects both mistakes and explains how Puritan beliefs shaped the colony. Include town meetings, governor elections, and the Massachusetts Body of Liberties.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 5 · 5.C.1.9

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline details that show how Puritan beliefs shaped the colony. Circle three details about town meetings, governor elections, or the protection of rights. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Winthrop's idea of a "city upon a hill" connect to why the Puritans founded the colony?	**The Puritans wanted to live by their beliefs, and Winthrop hoped their community would set an example that others would watch.**
2	How did Puritan beliefs shape who could help choose the governor?	**Freemen elected the governor, but at first only men who belonged to Puritan churches could become freemen.**
3	How did town meetings give settlers a part in governing? Who could not vote?	**Eligible men made decisions about local matters at town meetings. Women and many men could not vote.**
4	How did the Massachusetts Body of Liberties affect the colony's government?	**It put rules on leaders in writing and protected certain rights, including rules for fair trials.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Puritans founded Massachusetts Bay to build a community guided by their faith. Eligible men made local decisions at town meetings, but women and many men could not vote. Freemen elected the governor, and at first only men in Puritan churches could become freemen. The Massachusetts Body of Liberties gave leaders written rules to follow and protected certain rights, including rules for fair trials.

Accept answers that connect religious beliefs to the colony's founding or voting rules. For the open task, look for both corrections, all three named parts of government, and an explanation of how Puritan beliefs shaped the colony.