A Place for Beliefs

Roger Williams and the founding of Providence

5.C.2.1.A "Roger Williams' advocacy for religious freedom and his founding of the Providence Plantation"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two statements about Williams's beliefs on religion. Circle two details about how he founded Providence, then use your marks to connect his ideas with his actions.

Roger Williams Starts Providence

1. In the 1630s, Roger Williams lived in the Massachusetts Bay Colony, where Puritan leaders wanted people to follow their religious rules. Williams was a Puritan minister, but he disagreed with laws that forced people to worship in one way. He argued that faith should be a person's own choice. He also said colonists should get land from Native peoples by agreement, not simply take it.

2. These views brought Williams into conflict with the colony's leaders. In 1635, they ordered him to leave. The next year, Williams traveled to land near Narragansett Bay. With help from the Narragansett people, he arranged to settle on land with the agreement of Narragansett leaders. He named the new settlement Providence. It later became part of what was known as the Providence Plantations.

3. Providence put Williams's beliefs into practice. People with different religious beliefs could live there without being forced to join the same church. Williams believed the government should keep order, not decide what a person must believe about God. As more colonists arrived, Native peoples still faced pressure on their lands. Williams's stand for freedom of conscience helped shape later ideas about religious liberty in America.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why did Williams disagree with laws that forced people to worship in one way?

2. How did Williams's conflict with Massachusetts Bay leaders lead to the founding of Providence?

3. How did religious life in Providence reflect Williams's beliefs?

4. How did Williams's agreement with Narragansett leaders reflect an idea he had argued for earlier?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you help write a rule for a new settlement based on Williams's ideas. In four sentences, state a rule about religion, give your own example of two neighbors with different beliefs, and explain how the rule follows his ideas.

ANSWER KEY

A Place for Beliefs

GRADE 5 · 5.C.2.1.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two statements about Williams's beliefs on religion. Circle two details about how he founded Providence, then use your marks to connect his ideas with his actions. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did Williams disagree with laws that forced people to worship in one way?	**He believed faith should be a person's own choice, not something the government decided.**
2	How did Williams's conflict with Massachusetts Bay leaders lead to the founding of Providence?	**The leaders ordered him to leave. He arranged to settle on land near Narragansett Bay and named the new settlement Providence.**
3	How did religious life in Providence reflect Williams's beliefs?	**People with different religious beliefs could live there without being forced to join the same church.**
4	How did Williams's agreement with Narragansett leaders reflect an idea he had argued for earlier?	**He had argued that colonists should get land from Native peoples by agreement rather than simply taking it.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our town will not require anyone to attend a church or follow a certain religion. One neighbor worships at a church, while another does not practice a religion. Both neighbors can live here without being punished for their beliefs. This rule follows Williams's belief that faith is a personal choice and the government should not control it.

Accept accurate wording that connects Williams's belief in religious choice to his actions in Providence. For the open task, look for an original example involving different beliefs and a rule consistent with religious freedom.