

Pamphlets, Propaganda & Reading Like a Historian

Learning Objectives	Context	Success Criteria
*Closely read primary documents *Examine Evidence *Interpret Evidence *Identify multiple causal relationships	*The Plantations *The 1641 Rebellion	*Having learned with others * Discussed and debated * Having listened and expressed their opinion *Organised and evaluated information and data

Pamphlets were cheap, short, unbound books which first came into circulation in the 16th Century. Their cheapness and ease of production made them an ideal means of quickly spreading news, gossip or propaganda. We provide three pamphlets here of ranging reliability and ask the students to analyze them with guiding questions. As teacher you can gauge the difficulty of this exercise and decide whether to hand out all three pamphlets to each group or just one or two. Alternatively, you can analyze one pamphlet per class.

Lesson Road Map

1. Divide the class into their groups. Get each group to decide what they understand the word pamphlet to mean. Discuss the meaning of the word pamphlet with the class.
2. Ask the students to brainstorm the functions pamphlets they have seen were performing (Advertising? News? Promotion? Menu?). After they have shared their answers discuss the function of an early modern pamphlet (reminding them that these date from a time with no radio, no TV, no phones, and really limited access to printed books for all but the richest people).
3. Hand out the pamphlets/pamphlet. Ask the students to analyse the pamphlet using the guiding questions.
4. When the students have completed this activity the groups must share their answers in a whole group discussion and defend their answers.