Document 1

Not to look back further than the troubles that were between the Colony of New Plymouth and Philip, sachem (chieftain) of Mount Hope, in the year 1671, it may be remembered that ... he] was the offending party; and that Plymouth had just cause to take up arms against him; and it was then agreed that he should pay that colony a certain sum of money, in part of their damage and charge by him occasioned; and he then not only renewed his ancient covenant of friendship with them; but made himself and his people absolute subjects to our Sovereign Lord King Charles the Second...



But sometime last winter the Governor of Plymouth was informed by Sassamon, a faithful Indian, that the said Philip was undoubtedly endeavoring to raise new troubles, and was endeavoring to engage all the sachems round about in a war against us; some of the English also that lived near the said sachem, communicated their fears and jealousies concurrent with what the Indian had informed. About a week after John Sassamon had given his information, he was barbarously murdered by some Indians for his faithfulness (as we have cause to believe) to the interest of God and of the English; some time after Sassamon's death Philip, having heard that the Governor of Plymouth had received some information against him and purposed to send for or to him to appear at their next Court that they might inquire into those reports, came down of his own accord to Plymouth a little before their Court, in the beginning of March last; at which time the Council of that colony upon a large debate with him, had great reason to believe, that the information against him might be in substance true, but not having full proof thereof and hoping that the discovery of it so far would cause him to desist they dismissed him friendly; giving him only to understand that if they hear further concerning that matter they might see reason to demand his arms to be delivered up for their security; which was according to former agreement between him and them; and he engaged (pledged] on their demand they should be surrendered unto them or their order.

At that Court we had many Indians in examination concerning the murder of John Sassamon but had not then testimony in the case but not long after, an Indian appearing to testify; we apprehended three by him charged to be the murderers of Sassamon; and secured them to a trial at our next Court (held in June) at which time, a little before the Court, Philip began to keep his men in arms about him and to gather strangers unto him and to march about in arms towards the upper end of the neck on which he lived and near to the English houses; who began thereby to be somewhat disquieted, but took as yet no further notice but only set a military watch in the next towns; as Swansea and Rehoboth some hints we had that Indians were in arms while our Court was sitting but we hoped it might arise from a guilty fear in Philip; that we would send for him and bring him to trial with the other murderers; and that if he saw the Court broken up and he not sent for, the cloud might blow over; and indeed our innocency made us very secure and confident it would not have broken out into a war. **- Josiah Winslow and Thomas Hinckley, Plymouth Commissioners, responding to the war against Metacom and his followers, 1675**

Document 2



At last, when the ship we were in had got in all her cargo, they made ready with many fearful noises, and we were all put under deck, so that we could not see how they managed the vessel. But this disappointment was the least of my sorrow. The stench of the hold while we were on the coast was so intolerably loathsome, that it was dangerous to remain there for any time, and some of us had been permitted to stay on the deck for the fresh air; but now that the whole ship's cargo were confined together, it became absolutely pestilential. The closeness of the place, and the heat of the climate, added to the number in the ship, which was so crowded that each had scarcely room to turn himself, almost suffocated us. ... This wretched situation was again aggravated by the galling of the chains, now become insupportable; and the filth of the necessary tubs, into which the children often fell, and were almost suffocated. The shrieks of the women, and the groans of the dying, rendered the whole a scene of horror almost inconceivable. Happily perhaps for myself I was soon reduced so low here that it was thought necessary to keep me almost always on deck; and from my extreme youth I was not put in fetters.... Every circumstance I met with served only to render my state more painful..." **Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa, the African, written by Himself* (London: 1790)**

Directions:

Make three observations about the experiences told in both documents. Think in terms of categories: Economic, physical, emotional, political, etc

Consider the sources of both documents. What credibility does each one have? What potential flaws or weaknesses should be considered? What parts of their accounts seem to you to be exaggerated?

Then, using the two documents, practice the following SAQ with your partner

A) Briefly describe one similarity of the Native American and African experience at the hands of Europeans
B) Briefly describe one difference of the Native American and African experiences at the hands of Europeans
C) Briefly describe ONE historical event or development NOT CONTAINED IN THE DOCUMENTS that corroborates the experience of EITHER the Natives or the Africans as described in either of the two documents.