

Anne Hutchinson challenges authority

1637–1638 | Grade 4 · Explain with evidence

Words to know

belief — an idea someone accepts as true

authority — the power to make and enforce decisions

disagree — have a different opinion

Look closely



Context image; not a photograph of this event.

Read the story

Anne Hutchinson held meetings about religion. Leaders disagreed with her teachings. A court ordered her to leave Massachusetts Bay in 1637. She left in 1638. Her story raises questions about who could speak.

The civil trial and banishment order occurred in 1637; church proceedings followed in 1638. These were distinct events. Religious disagreement and expectations about women's roles shaped the conflict.

Think, talk, and show evidence

1. State the main idea. Support it with two details from the reading.
2. Explain a change or challenge described in the text. Which words support your answer?
3. Use one vocabulary word in a new sentence about this event.
4. What can the image and caption help explain? What can they not tell you?

Follow-up reading: A printing press reaches Cambridge

1638–1639

A printing press reached Cambridge in 1638. Printing began there in 1639. Workers used ink and type to make copies of words. The press helped ideas travel. Printing already existed elsewhere in the world.

Elizabeth Glover helped bring the equipment; Stephen Daye operated it. The Bay Psalm Book followed in 1640. This was an early press in English North America, not the first anywhere in the Americas.

Compare the two readings. Explain one similarity or difference using a detail from each. Their order does not prove that one caused the other.

Teacher guide & source trail

Original classroom adaptation. Suggested reading levels are instructional choices, not standardized readability certifications. Use professional judgment and learner feedback.

ELA practice: RI.4.1: refer to details; RI.4.2: main idea and summary; RI.4.3: explain events; RI.4.7: interpret visual information; W.4.2 and SL.4.1: explain and discuss.

These tasks support selected skills in the [Massachusetts 2017 ELA framework](#); they do not establish mastery of an entire standard.

Answer guidance

Factual anchor: Anne Hutchinson held meetings about religion. Leaders disagreed with her teachings. A court ordered her to leave Massachusetts Bay in 1637. She left in 1638. Her story raises questions about who could speak. The civil trial and banishment order occurred in 1637; church proceedings followed in 1638. These were distinct events. Religious disagreement and expectations about women’s roles shaped the conflict.

Accept accurate main ideas and explanations supported by the text. Vocabulary meanings are in the opening word bank. For picture questions, use the caption and credit below; distinguish what is visible from what is inferred. For comparison, accept a specific connection supported by both readings. Do not require personal accounts of trauma.

Continue the inquiry

[Research source for this event ↗](#)

[Research source for follow-up ↗](#)

[Event page, accessible HTML reading, and vocabulary game ↗](#)

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The PDF contains selectable English text and embedded fonts. For adjustable text and browser reading tools, use the event’s [HTML page](#). External sources may need adult guidance.