

Myles Standish



Notes for Teachers

Title slide

- Images of the Myles Standish Monument, a 116ft tower completed in 1898,
- Vintage postcards of the Miles Standish house in Duxbury, Massachusetts, 1914.
- Entrance to Myles Standish state park and forest.
- Copy of *The Courtship of Miles Standish* by H.W. Longfellow. The ballad was very popular in nineteenth-century America. It was published in book form on October 16, 1858, and it sold 25,000 copies after two months. Reportedly, 10,000 copies were sold in London in a single day

Cover portrait of Myles Standish

Slide 2

The illustration on the cover is the only known image said to be of Myles Standish. It was based on a painting that disappeared in 1919. The original portrait was said to have been painted sometime during 1625-6 when he returned to England for a short time. During the latter part of the 19th century its authenticity was vouched for by Captain Harrison, who bought it in Boston. The portrait had previously been in the possession of the Gilbert and Chew families who were said to be reputable sources, although it doesn't appear to have ever been in the possession of the Standish family.

The picture depicts the costume of the late Elizabethan period around 1580 – 1600, showing a man with short hair, a rounded beard and moustache and wearing a stiffly starched standing neck ruff. By 1611 the standing ruff was out of fashion. In 1625 a gently falling ruff (rather like a lace collar) had become popular, especially amongst Puritans. Hair was worn longer and beards had become much more pointed (due to the change in ruff fashions).

The portrait was said to have had M. Standish written in one corner. This could stand for Myles; but there was a Matthew Standish alive during the Elizabethan period. It is also recorded on the portrait that the sitter was in the thirty eighth year. This would put Myles date of birth somewhere around 1587-88, making him rather young to enter the army in 1599/1600. Discuss the provenance of the picture. Other examples of portrayals of Myles Standish are shown on the cover. Links can be made when discussing the how students are going to prepare their interpretation of Myles Standish in task 5

Task 1 – Obituary of Myles Standish

The text provides an overview of the life of Myles Standish. Students are to correct the mistakes using green/coloured pen. Partners could then double check for any mistakes missed marking in red pen.

Odd one out starters

The aim is to get student to think about a supporting reason for their choice.

Slide 4 – D is the odd one out as this shows Myles Standish leading the first exploratory voyage while the others show the arrival at Plymouth Rock. Other choices might be around presence of Myles Standish, weather, age of illustration.

Slide 5 – Choices might be based on presence/absence of Myles Standish, Mayflower, women, moment of landing

Task 2 - Was Myles Standish from Chorley

Students are to analyse and evaluate the evidence for usefulness and reliability. Then use the information to make a judgement and write a paragraph to replace paragraph 1 in the obituary.

Use the information in source A to identify the places mentioned in the will on the map in source B. Slides 6 (highlighted place-names)-9 show maps from 1577, 1610, 1696, 1786 to help with identification.

Source E – Slide 11 shows prevalence of English place names used for settlements.

Source G - For Canon Porteus's account of this see Page 30 Porteus, Thomas C. (1920). *Captain Myles Standish: His Lost Lands and Lancashire Connections*. The link can be found in the references in the Wikipedia entry for Myles Standish.

Slide 9 – Location of the Isle of Man farm near Croston and stamp produced by the Isle of Man Commemorative stamps from 1986 and 2020

Source H - The Standish family are recorded at Standish in Lancashire since the thirteenth century. Their home, Standish Hall, rebuilt in 1574, was demolished in 1923. This original family are the Standishes of Standish

from whom Myles said he was descended. A branch descending separately since the thirteenth century lived at Duxbury Hall, Chorley, Lancashire. Apparently there was continued contact and sometimes cousins married each other. The old hall of Duxbury was replaced in 1828 by a house that in turn was demolished ca. 1950. By the late fifteenth century, other descendants of the Standish of Standish family held land in Ormskirk in Lancashire. From the Ormskirk Standishes, a branch moved around 1540 or slightly earlier to the Isle of Man, acquiring property there, particularly at Ellenbane, Lezayre parish. To assert claims to any land in the Isle of Man, Myles Standish has to have been from the Standishes who lived and owned property there. Additionally, Myles must have felt some close connection to the Duxbury Standishes, considering that one must assume that he it is who gave the name "Duxbury" to the town in Plymouth Colony that he helped to found and to which he moved around 1629. It has been suggested, on the other hand, that Myles Standish's wife might have been a cousin from the Duxbury branch of the family, and that Myles named his new home in honor of his wife's origins. Nothing, however, is known about the origins either of his first wife, Rose, or his second wife, Barbara, — not even their last names.

For a detailed discussion of questions about Myles Standish's birthplace see the first reference in the Wikipedia entry for Myles Standish - Jeremy D. Bangs (2006). "Myles Standish, Born Where? The State of the Question".

Task 3 - Significant events in the life of Myles Standish

- Storyboard

1. Scouting voyages and First Encounter (Slides 14-21)

Slide 15 includes a link to The Pilgrims documentary. Watch from 46-45 to 58-50 for a description of the devastating impact of disease on the Native Americans Wampanoag brought by contact with European fisherman in 1616. It will provide context and understanding of the First Encounter.

Slide 16 – Compare and contrast the different descriptions between the two plaques commemorating ‘The First Encounter’ “Hostile Indians” v “Protect Themselves”

2. The Great Sickness (Slides 22-23)

Slide 23 can be used to help in translating the contemporary description of the Great Sickness from the original 17th century text.

Squanto – Slides 24-25

3. The Nemasket Raid (Slides 26-28)

Slide 26 Peace Treaty with Massasoit

Slide 27 - Coloured print of ‘The March of Miles Standish’ (1623) produced in Boston in 1873. Two stanzas from Longfellow's, "The Courtship of Miles Standish" appear beneath the image on each side of the title.

Slide 28 - An account of the Nemasket Raid from Of Plymouth Plantation 1620-1647 by William Bradford

4. Building the Palisade (Slides 29-32)

Slide 29 – Interpretation of Narragansett threat

Slides 30-31 – Reconstruction drawings of palisade and settlement. Link to 2015 archaeological review of fort.

Slide 32 – Reconstruction of palisade by volunteers in 2013

Consider the effort required for gathering the materials and construction...its defensive/deterrent effect in protecting the settlement.

5. The Wessagusset Raid (Slides 33-36)

Slide 33 – The original account of the raid from Good News from New England by Edward Winslow printed in 1624. For several years Winslow acted as the Pilgrims’ primary negotiator with New England Algonquians, including the Wampanoag, Massachusett, and Narragansett Indians. It was in the context of all of these roles that Winslow wrote *Good News* in an attempt to convince supporters in England that the colonists had established friendly relations with Native groups and, as a result, gained access to trade goods. Although clearly a work of diplomacy, masking as it did incidents of brutal violence against Indians as well as evidence of mutual mistrust, the work nevertheless offers a more complicated and nuanced representation of the Pilgrims’ first years in New England and of

their relationship with Native Americans than other primary documents of the period.

Slides 34 show interpretations on the stabbing of Pecksuot.

Slides 35-6 show interpretations of the return of Myles Standish to Plymouth with the head of Wituwamet.

Slide 36 contains the link and timing to the extract from The Pilgrims documentary that describes the Wessagusset Raid - Watch from 1.25.25 to 1.28.26

6. Merrymount Slides (Slides 37-38)

Slide 37 – The Maypole at Merrymount.

Slide 38 - The New English Canaan by Thomas Morton. This is the account from the Merrymount side in which Morton describes Myles Standish as “Captain Shrimp”

When student have worked through all the events they can complete Task 3 - Mayflower Films want to produce a documentary on the achievements of Myles Standish to the settlement at Plymouth.

Students that they are trying to summarise each of the events simply...stick men if necessary! And then decide on which they think are the most significant/important and highlight them.

For those who want to develop their storyboards more creatively/artistically it might be better to provide them with a separate planning sheet for their ideas and then they can produce a neat copy in their workbook.

Task 4 - Interpretations of Myles Standish (Slides 40-49)

These tasks can be done individually or through groupwork (Kagan). The challenge is to select the most accurate/best answer and to be able to justify their choice.

Embarkation of the Pilgrims Slides 40 – 42

Slide 42 shows the painting in the US Capitol Dome Rotunda

The Mayflower Compact Slides 43-44

The Wessagusset Raid

Slide 45 is a repeat of slide 36 for use with Source D

Development task for Wessagusset Raid

Write a headline for a newspaper describing the Wessagusset raid from the point of view of Plymouth Colony and also from the point of view of the Massachusetts.

Think of what facts you might select and what adjectives you might use to create your interpretation

Task 5 - Myles Standish, Military Commander (Slides 50 -53)

Slide 50 has a link to a re-enactor demonstrating the drill for the firing of a matchlock musket. This would have been one of Myles Standish's responsibilities as military commander.

Slides 51-53 show evidence of the weapons of Myles Standish.

Task 5 - Myles Standish has asked you to produce a painting of himself as military commander that also shows his greatest achievements.

Plan/Complete the painting of Myles Standish on the next page.

- Think about symbols, icons and images he might want you to include in the background to show his achievements (Consult your storyboard in Task 3)
- Colours of costume – how would he want to be seen? Simple, practical or extravagant?
- Symbolism of the weather. What was used in Painting 1 – The Embarkation
- Storm/Sunshine what did his actions bring to the colony?
- What other people might he want to include?

Task 6 – Barbara Standish – Helping the Sick (Slides 55-61)

Consider the importance of the contribution of women to the success of the colony. Summarise what women were expected to do according to Gervase Markham's description in the 'Country Farme'

Summarise around the line drawing of Barbara
***Chemist...Doctor...Gardener...MasterChef...Brewer...Textile
Worker...Designer***

Slide 55 shows an extract with a table of all the conditions women were expected to cure!

Helping the Sick task. - Identify the herbs and label the diagram
Students can use the Herb Guide if they are not visiting Astley Hall. Some answers can be found on slide 56

Task 7 – Myles Standish Pictograph

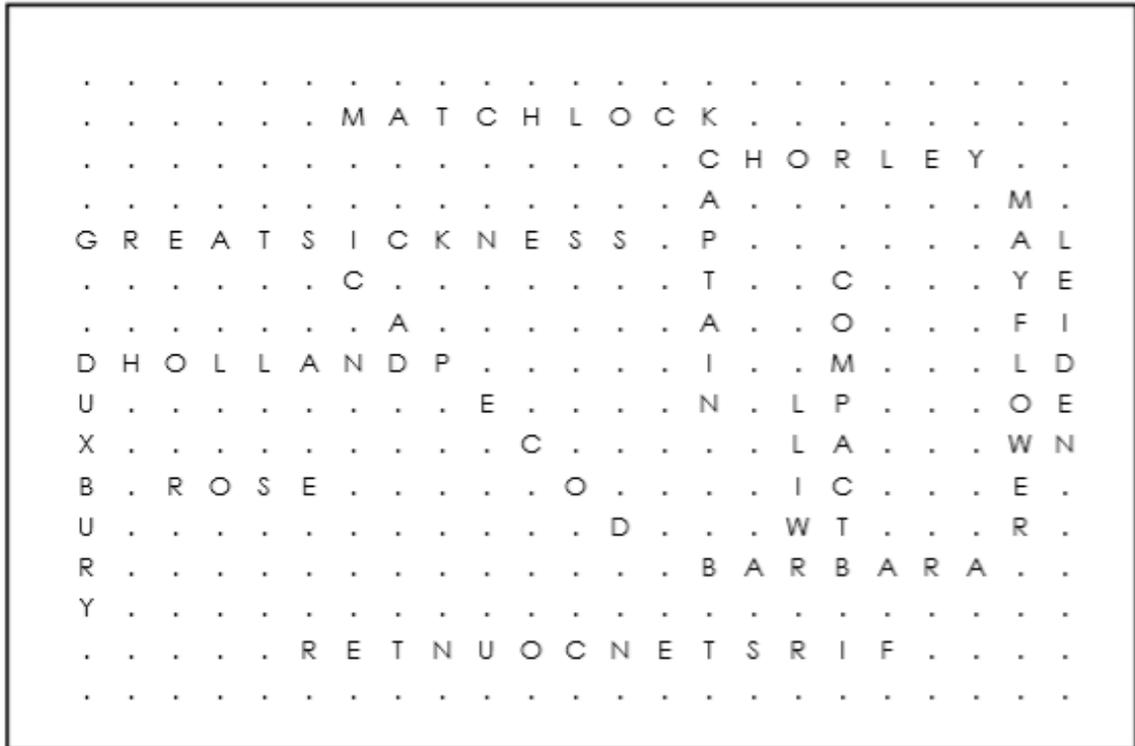
Slide 63 provides some ideas to start with. The aim is to get students to select images, symbols and icons from their study of Myles Standish and use these to represent the letters in the title. Encourage students to be as creative as possible. Not to worry if the image doesn't fully reflect the exact shape. Some students may want to print a picture that represents the letter.

Task 8 - Wordsearch

Answers are on slide 65

SOLUTION

Myles Standish 1



Word directions and start points are formatted: (Direction, X, Y)

BARBARA (E,15,13)
CAPECOD (SE,7,6)
CAPTAIN (S,15,3)
CHORLEY (E,15,3)
COMPACT (S,18,6)

DUXBURY (S,1,8)
FIRSTENCOUNTER (W,19,15)
GREATSICKNESS (E,1,5)
HOLLAND (E,2,8)
LEIDEN (S,23,5)

MATCHLOCK (E,7,2)
MAYFLOWER (S,22,4)
ROSE (E,3,11)
WILL (N,17,12)

SOLUTION

Myles Standish 2

.
. W E S S A G U S S E T .
N A R R A G A N S E T T
. . C O R B I T A N T . . . H
. T . . E O . . . S
. I . . M B T P . H
. O . . A B N E . R T
. . O . . . S . . S A U N . I A
. . T . . . A . . K M O O . M M
. . N . . . S . . E O M B . P A
. . A . . . S . . T C Y S . . W
. . U . . . A K R C . . U
. . Q . . . M R O . . T
. . S . . . M A S S A C H U S E T T S I
. M . . . W
. T O U S K C E P E D A S I L A P .

Word directions and start points are formatted: (Direction, X, Y)

(N,)	NARRAGANSETT (N,23,15)	SQUANTO (E,3,2)
CORBITANT (E,6,1)	NEMASKET (E,14,5)	WESSAGUSSET (N,20,14)
HOBBAMOCK (W,12,3)	PALISADE (E,13,3)	WITUWAMAT (W,10,8)
MASSACHUSETTS (E,7,14)	PECKSUOT (S,22,1)	
MASSASOIT (W,12,11)	PENOBSCOT (E,11,4)	
MERRYMOUNT (W,12,5)	SHRIMP (W,8,10)	