



Our neighbours, the English, laid out a great deal of money at the outset on the settlements they made; they threw great numbers of people into them; so that now there are computed to be in them fifty thousand men capable of bearing arms; it is a wonder to see their country now; one finds all sorts of things there, the same as in

Europe, and for half the price. They build numbers of ships, of all sorts and sizes; they work iron mines, they have beautiful cities; they have stagecoaches and mail from one to the other; they have carriages like those in France; those who laid out money there, are now getting good returns from it; that country is not different from this; what has been done there could be done here.

Source:

This passage is a description of the thirteen colonies of New England. It is taken from the journal of Pierre Boucher, who came to Canada from France in 1635, and became Governor of Trois-Rivières and the seigneurial founder of Boucherville in Québec. His journal, *Histoire véritable et naturelle des moeurs et productions du pays de la Nouvelle-France*, was published in 1664. This extract from the English version is from Edward Louis Montizambe, *Canada in the 17th Century, From the French of Pierre Boucher*. Montreal, 1883 and is reprinted in *Who Speaks for Canada?* (Morton and Weinfeld, 1998).

After reading this passage, discuss the following questions with a partner.

1. Is this a primary source or a secondary source? Explain your answer.
2. How would it be possible to tell if this description is true or not?
3. Boucher expresses personal opinions in his journal. List two *opinions* you find in this text (what the writer thinks or believes).
4. How do you think Boucher feels about New England?
5. Which do you find more interesting to read: a primary source or a secondary source? Explain your answer.