

“Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God” by Jonathan Edwards

Historical Contextualization and Author’s Point of View with your Gale in Context Resources

Grade Level: 9-12

Subject/Content: U.S. History

Summary of Lesson: Students will use *Gale in Context: U.S. History*, *Gale in Context: High School*, or *Gale in Context: Middle School* to read a primary source and then place that source within the proper Historical Context and with a Perspective and Point of View.

Focus Questions: What was the First Great Awakening? What were the causes that brought about the First Great Awakening in the United States? What were some of the long-term effects of the First Great Awakening?

Resource: *Gale in Context: U.S. History*, *Gale in Context: High School*, or *Gale in Context: Middle School*

Time Frame: 30-45 minutes

Learning Expectation: Students will use their close reading skills to analyze a primary source. Students will provide proper historical context and perspective on their primary source using research skills and appropriate sources.

Assessment Types:

Informal Assessments: Students will be assessed informally through the introduction discussion and through debrief discussion through informal questioning

Formal Assessment: Students will be assessed formally through a formative assessment of questioning as they read the primary source and research the First Great Awakening.

Procedures:

Steps/Activities by the Teacher:

- Introduce the idea of Historical Context and Point of View with your students.
- Ask students why understanding Historical Context and Point of View is important to understand historical events or primary sources.
- Facilitate a class discussion on how misunderstanding of historical context and Point of View can lead to misrepresentation and misunderstanding of Primary Sources.
- Pass out or digitally distribute copies of the attached worksheet, Historical Context and Point of View with Jonathan Edwards: “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God”.
- (Optional) Send direct links to the students to the Primary Source and supplemental resources using the **Get Link** tool.
- Allow time for students to read the primary source and research the First Great Awakening, Revivals, and Evangelicalism.

- Debrief after the assignment to clear up any lasting questions over the document, the historical context of the First Great Awakening, Revivals, Evangelicalism, Jonathan Edwards, or the assignment and revisit the focus question and learning expectations of the lesson.

Sources:

Edwards, Jonathan. "Jonathan Edwards: "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God"." *Gale U.S. History Online Collection*, Gale, 2015. *Gale In Context: U.S. History*, link.gale.com/apps/doc/AYUJOE186841005/UHIC?u=[LOCATION_ID]&sid=bookmark-UHIC&xid=6dca013b. Accessed 30 Sept. 2022.

"Great Awakening." *Gale U.S. History Online Collection*, Gale, 2021. *Gale In Context: U.S. History*, link.gale.com/apps/doc/WRLCRY880958751/UHIC?u=[LOCATION_ID]&sid=bookmark-UHIC&xid=392dd99b. Accessed 30 Sept. 2022.

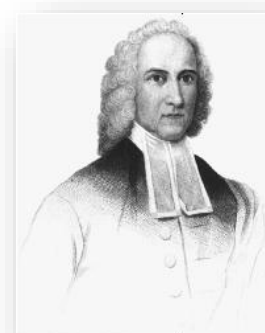
"Portrait: Jonathan Edwards." *Colonial America Reference Library*, edited by Peggy Saari and Julie L. Carnagie, vol. 3: Biographies: Volume 1, UXL, 2000. *Gale In Context: U.S. History*, link.gale.com/apps/doc/PC3425387184/UHIC?u=[LOCATION_ID]&sid=bookmark-UHIC&xid=00e43db5. Accessed 6 Feb. 2023.

Stein, Stephen J. "Edwards, Jonathan." *Encyclopedia of Religion*, edited by Lindsay Jones, 2nd ed., vol. 4, Macmillan Reference USA, 2005, pp. 2698-2701. *Gale In Context: U.S. History*, link.gale.com/apps/doc/CX3424500896/UHIC?u=[LOCATION_ID]&sid=bookmark-UHIC&xid=63381476. Accessed 17 Feb. 2023.

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Directions: Today’s activity focuses on the First Great Awakening using the example of Jonathan Edwards’s “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God”. Using either *Gale in Context: U.S. History*, *Gale in Context: High School*, or *Gale in Context: Middle School*, search for the primary source document of Sinners in the Hand of an Angry God by Jonathan Edwards using the searches below. Once you have found the document, read the Historical Context part of the article and the sourcing information, and answer the questions below before continuing.



Portrait:
Jonathan Edwards.

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Basic Search: Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God and open the Primary Source or

Advanced Search: Gale Document Number: AYUJOE186841005

1. Who was Jonathan Edwards?
2. What is the document type?
3. When was the revival movement that Edwards wrote?

Historical Context: Before diving further in the primary document, let us explore the First Great Awakening and its effects. Using your Gale in Context resource use the search below to find the article over the Great Awakening to read more about the historical situation and answer the following questions.



Basic Search: Great Awakening and Read more on the Topic page or

Advanced Search: Gale Document Number: WRLCRY880958751



Basic Search: Great Awakening and read the Reference article from *Gale Encyclopedia of U.S. History: War on The Great Awakening* or

Advanced Search: Gale Document Number: EJ3048500025



4. Name two preachers that were mentioned in the article.
5. What was the difference between “old lights” and “new lights”?
6. What were some of the long-term effects of the First Great Awakening?

Point of View: Using what you have now read about the historical context of the First Great Awakening, do an in-depth reading of the primary source you found originally. During this reading, use the author's point of view, or perspective, to find a deeper meaning and reasoning for the view he was taking. After you read, answer the following questions.



Basic Search: Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God and open the Primary Source or

Advanced Search: Gale Document Number: AYUJOE186841005

7. In the first sentence, how does Edwards portray his audience?
8. According to Edwards, what keeps you from falling into the fire?
9. What is the purpose of Edwards's description of hell and God's wrath?
10. Does he think hell is a certainty?

Extension: This sermon is often used as an example of those from the First Great Awakening. Now do some further research on revivals and the Great Awakening through the Gale database. Use the Highlights and Notes function to extend your knowledge and further research to answer:

11. How does this sermon exemplify the religious movement of the First Great Awakening?

Source:

Answer Key:

1. A Calvinist minister who was known for being an orator
2. Sermon
3. 1730s and 1740s
4. Jonathan Edwards and George Whitefield. (or in High School, Gilbert Tennent, James Davenport and George Tennent)
5. New lights supported the new evangelical approach, old lights did not.
6. Changed the religious practices of the American colonies and the relationship with the colonists and the Church of England. Church attendance multiplied, new denominations, a push for higher education and political freedom.
7. As sinners, loathsome spiders, “worthy of nothing else but to cast into the fire”, hateful.
8. God or “his hand”
9. Answers will vary, but Edwards’s point is to convince his audience to fear hell to repent.
10. No, he wants his audience to repent
11. Answers will vary.