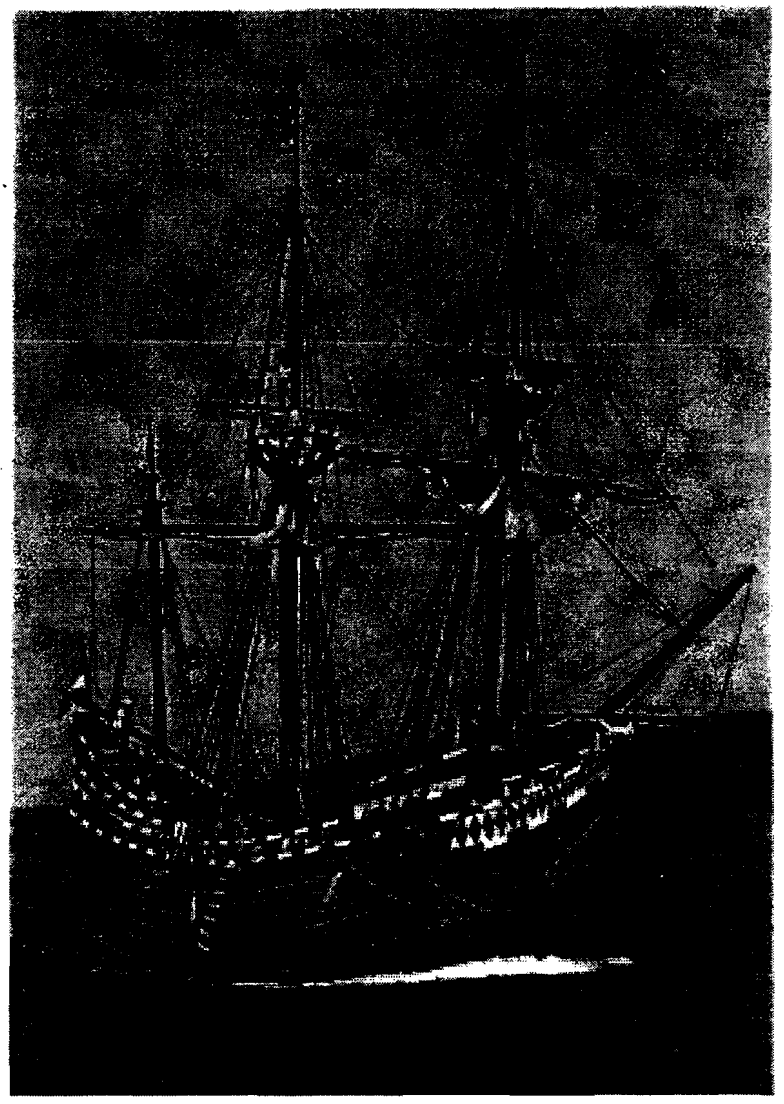
From the Old World to the New



Seventh Grade Curriculum Packet Using Primary Documents

From the Old World to the New

Using Primary Sources in the 7th Grade Classroom

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The following curricular materials were developed by

Mary F. Yencha, classroom teacher
Bethlehem Central Middle School, Delmar, NY

and

Janny Venema, Consultant
New Netherland Project

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We urge teachers to contact their local archives/historian for additional primary source materials to further acquaint students with the way historians learn history.

From the Old World to the New: Using Primary Sources in the 7th Grade Classroom

This set of lessons has two goals. First, the grant money from the Local Government Records Management, Division of the State Archives, was to be used to make primary sources available and usable in the seventh grade classroom. We want to make teachers and students aware of the fact that, when it comes to colonial history, sources often are in the language of the colonizing fatherland - in this case, Dutch. Translations of the original sources are used in these lesson series. Besides being aware of the fact that a translation always is a first interpretation, the user should also realize that much information can be read between the lines. Furthermore, the use of an English-Dutch and Dutch-English dictionary is strongly recommended.

A second goal is to bring this 17th-century society and its inhabitants closer to the students so that they are more able to understand and identify with these people. Between 1624 and 1664 the Dutch established a society in which various features of the Dutch Republic are easy to recognize. This culture was the basis for parts of the Middle-Atlantic colonies of New York, New Jersey and Delaware. The persistance of Dutch culture lasted, in many places, well into the 18th and early 19th centuries.

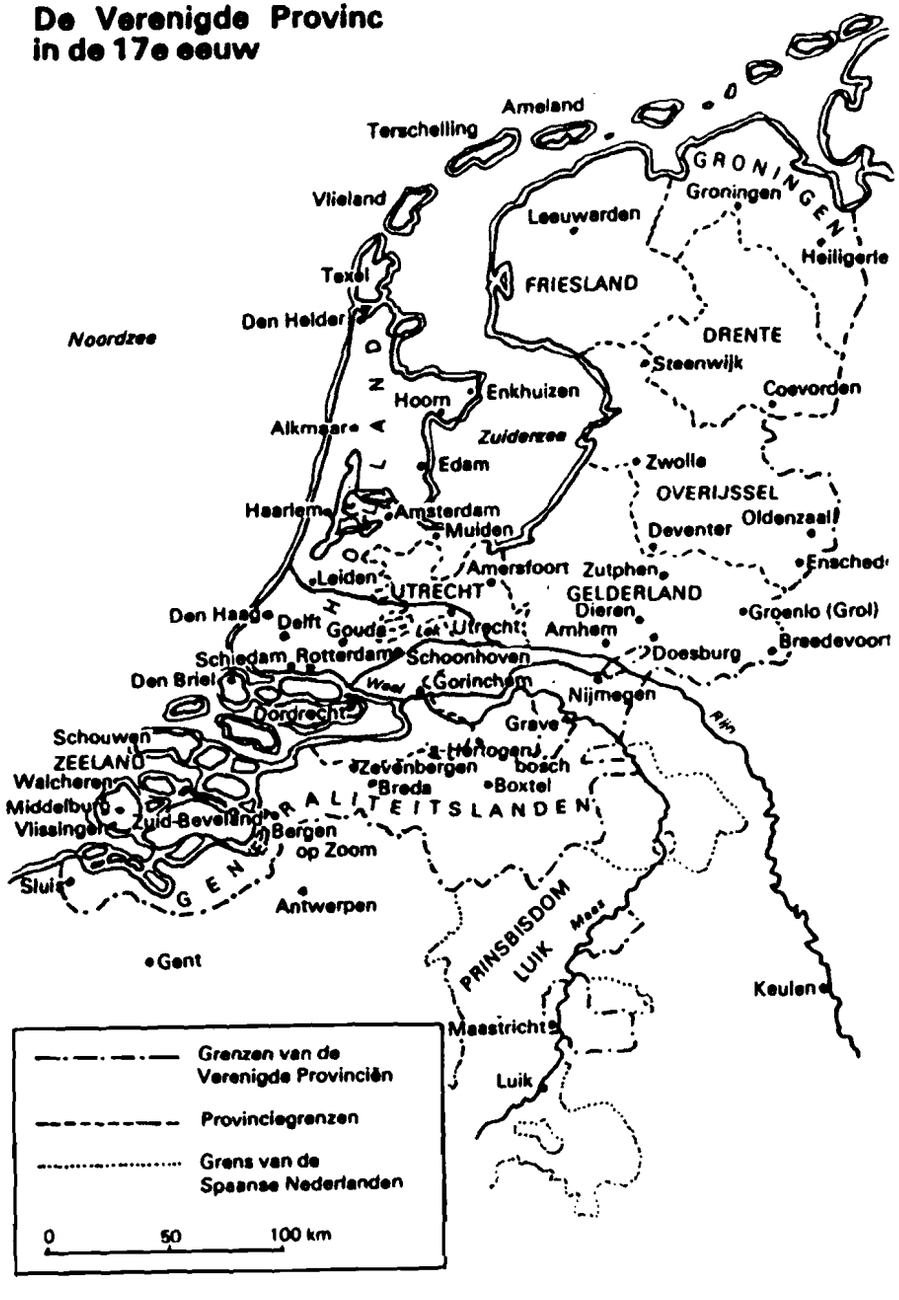
Through the use of primary sources, students will discover the many unique aspects of Dutch culture and society in the New World. They will be able to see the everyday life of the Dutch as they quarreled, slandered, cared for each other, went about their many jobs in order to survive, and who brought along, in addition to the cultural baggage of their home country, such things as architecture, clothing, and eating customs. They had their own educational system and they were guided by the Dutch Reformed Church and the Roman-Dutch law.

The students not only read and analyse the various documents, but are at the same time presented with the beginning of a story about Teunis, a boy their own age. By reading this story, and working on creative writing assignments in English classes, in order to complete Teunis' story, they will be actively involved in this society. We hope that the students' remaining picture of the 17th century Dutch colony will become a vivid and interesting image to the students as well as their teachers.

Mary F. Yencha
Janny Venema

Unit I
Life in the Dutch Republic

De Verenigde Provinc
in de 17e eeuw



Unit Objectives

1. To present primary source materials so that they can be used as the basis for a story.
2. To enable students to identify with people in the Netherlands in the seventeenth century.
3. To provide material that will allow students to practice reading documents and distill information.

Objectives	Activities	Resources
1. Students will have a better understanding of the Netherlands in the seventeenth century. 2. Students will identify with a boy in the seventeenth century Amsterdam.	1. Students read *Teunis in the Dutch Republic.* 2. Students discuss story. a. Use paintings of seventeenth century Amsterdam scenes to make lists of what Teunis could have seen. b. Role play between characters in the story. 3. Students read *The Dutch in the Golden Century*, and complete assignments. a. Students could do library research on some of the famous people listed and present their research to the class. (This is a possibility of cooperative assignment with art teacher.) b. Using map of the Netherlands locate: 1) Area of Golden Century. 2) Areas where Eighty years War was fought. c. Discuss the "polder" system of creating the Netherlands.	1. Story *Teunis in the Dutch Republic.* 2. Text *The Dutch in the Golden Centur y* 3. Map of the Netherlands (Milliken Publishing Co. is a possible source.) 4. Copies and/or books of seventeenth century paintings and drawings. Some art books: *Masters of seventeenth Century Dutch Genre Painting*, Philadelphia Museum of Art, 1984. *The Golden Age: Dutch Painters of the seventeenth Century*, Bob Haak (Harry N. Abrams, Inc., Publishers, New York, 1984). *Jan Steen*, (London, John Lane the Bodley Head Limited, first published in 1927). *Bruegel; the Paintings*, (complete edition by F. Grossman, London Phaidon Press, 1955, 1966). *Images of a Golden Past: Dutch Genre Painting of the 17th Century* (Abbeville Press Publishers, New York, 1984). Adriaen vander Venne (children's games) Rien Poortvliet, *Daily Life in Holland in the Year 1566*

Teunis in the Dutch Republic

The sun was shining and the air was filled with spring, but Teunis did not notice much of it. With his head down, he wandered through the narrow streets of the city, until he was at the harbor. All the time the harbor drew him like a magnet, as if it were calling him. His thoughts went back to earlier that morning: Master Jan had been in such a bad mood. Everything Teunis did was wrong, according to him: the fire Teunis had built was wrong; he did not hold the hammer well in his hand... "You will never become a good blacksmith!" Master Jan had growled at him, "you, and your dreams about the sea you're always talking about! Drown, that is what 'll happen to you. You 'll drown, just like your father did. You better pay attention and learn how to keep a good fire and how to handle the hammer! Then at least you know that you will have an honest and decent living in the future!"

Growling and muttering Master Jan continued his work. And Teunis? Teunis' thoughts had made a long trip: instead of a hammer and a anvil, he saw wild waves, bright colors and palm trees from faraway countries. Countries about which his father had told him so much. Strange people with colors on their faces, dancing to the beat of drums... Unknown animals and birds with brilliant feathers... But nobody wanted a fourteen year old boy working on their ship: "Ha ha, you, little boy? You better come back when you are sixteen!" was the usual answer to his begging for work on one of the big ships in the harbor. Even on the whalers they did not want him. Oh, and now he still had to work for two years with this old grump! The old grump had noticed that Teunis was dreaming again, and hollered, outraged: "Look what you have done, you forgot the bellows, you rascal! The fire is out!" Holding the hammer high up in the air he slowly approached the boy. "I will teach you how to work!" But Teunis had jumped aside, and ran out of the smithy, into the fresh spring day. And there he was, run away from Master Jan for the umpteenth time, wandering again in the harbor... "You darned boy! I'll talk to your mother and we will break the contract!! I can get better apprentices than you!" were the last words he had heard Master Jan call.

Teunis' head was lowered and he did not notice how brilliantly the gold weathervane on skipper Kees' house glared in the sunshine, and how pretty the step gables were, and that Mrs Vink had put outside the first geraniums again... What would his mother say, now that Master Jan was going to talk with her? All Teunis could think of was her worried face, which had gained so many wrinkles and her hair that had turned grey in the last four months... Would she cry? He had seen her a few times with tears in her eyes, but she always tried to hide that from her children.

About half a year ago his father had died because of the war against the British. The captain had personally come to their house later, and told how brave his father had been and how he had given his own life, in order to save somebody else. First there was all the sorrow and the grief, but now that he, his mother and his younger sister and brother had become used to the idea, another reality became more and more apparent, and that was the reality of money. There had to be food on the table, and clothes were needed. Before, he had never even thought about that; there was always plenty. But now... how things had changed! And now she would be so disapointed in him; Teunis, her oldest son, who had promised to help her and to do his best to learn a good trade...

In the Dutch Republic many people became wealthy, some even very wealthy. The ships of the country wandered throughout the seven seas. They fetched grain and wood around the Baltic sea; wine and salt around the Mediterranean. In the far East spices were obtained, in China, silk and in Africa, slaves. Trade was the most important source of the prosperity of the country. Traders like Teunis' father provided a large part of Europe with all sorts of products. In the area around the Zaan a prosperous industrial area grew. There was nice clean water and in this flat country the wind made sure that the mills of the sawmills were almost constantly turning. Many traders became wealthier and wealthier. They ate well, bought beautiful clothes, had paintings made and had beautiful houses built for them. Of course that meant work for many other people: bakers, brewers, tailors, masons, carpenters... Also the farmers in Holland, Zeeland and Utrecht got the advantages from this growing wealth: the city people were willing to pay a good price for their products.

But not everybody was fortunate. The widow of a drowned sailor still had to find a way of taking care of her children, and an unemployed carpenter still had to figure out how to feed his children. When people became poor all of a sudden, they had to rely on the charity of the wealthy, the town government or the church.

It seemed to Teunis that that was what was going to happen to his family. They were far from poor, but they also were not very wealthy. They ate well, dressed well, and he, and his brother and sister had a good education. They were apprenticed and went to evening school where they learned how to read and write and calculate. Teunis would soon have started helping his father in trade, but suddenly all plans fell through. The war with England had made him scared...

He realised that he was the oldest of the children, and that he had to do something, because the money dissapeared quickly. They lived the same way, only father did not come back with a salary... Yesterday his mother and he had had a long talk. He had never before seen her cry...

"Hey, you there! Get out of the way, or help us!" A couple of large men rudely woke Teunis out of his dreams, and before he was even aware of it he found himself pushing some big barrels, and carrying some large chests. The men certainly did not waste any time or effort! Sweat poured off his face after just a few minutes, but he did not mind it a bit. He actually enjoyed it! And he helped; all afternoon he was carrying, pushing, rolling, running from the warehouse to the dock and he even went aboard the ship a few times. Before he knew it, it started growing dark, and he realised that he should go home. His mother would not know where he was, and become worried. He said goodbye to the men, and went home.

Later, in bed that night, he could not sleep. Master Jan had talked with his mother, and they had agreed that after tomorrow Teunis would have one more chance to work in the smithy. Mother had not cried, but she had looked so sad and so worried... Teunis tossed and turned. He was worried and felt sorry and yet... he had so much enjoyed working with those men. The work he did not mind the least bit. It actually made him feel as if he were important. He had helped getting the work done, and when the men hollered across the dock, he answered them, as if he were one of them, busy getting freight aboard the ship. Oh, if he were only sixteen! When Teunis finally fell asleep, he dreamt about a new phase in his life.

The next morning he got up early, had breakfast with his mother, brother and sister and told them that he was going to the dock again. His mother saw his eyes: all excited, and smiled, sadly.

The men were there. He did not even have to say one word, they welcomed him as if he were a friend. Again, Teunis worked all day. Without any protest, without complaints he did work that sometimes was almost too heavy for a boy his age. Toward the end of the afternoon, Cornelis, one of the men, put his hand on his shoulder and looked at him: "Here boy, you deserve a reward," and he put two guilders in Teunis' hands. Teunis looked up, not believing what he saw. But he only saw two friendly eyes and a smile. "Tell me something about yourself. Why were you sitting there, yesterday? You did not seem to be very happy." And Teunis told how his father had died, how he had seen his mother cry, and how he hated the work in the smithy with Master Jan. "But I did not work with you in order to earn money. It all happened so strange, and I was helping you, and I liked it!" "That I could see! You look a lot happier since you helped us. And besides, you are a good worker. We would not have been able to have all this done without your help. But, tell me, do you know how to read and write?" And Teunis told him about his life, about his education, and how plans had fallen through, when his father died. "Maybe I can give you something to think about. This ship: do you have any idea where it is going to?" And Cornelis told him that it would go to New Netherland, a colony called Rensselaerswijck." There are many opportunities there for boys like you. You are familiar with trade, and you can even write. You are also willing to work hard!" And Teunis listened to Cornelis telling about many people who had already gone there, hired by the patroon, and they became wealthy. "And you know from what? Not from gold, or silver or spices, but from beavers! You know Teunis, that is where the gold is; it is in the beaver!"

They still talked a while and when Teunis came home that night, his mother could see that something had changed. Something had come back on his face, an expression that had been gone since his father had died. And not only did she recognize the feature from Teunis's own face; something reminded her of her late husband's face. Of the days before he would get aboard the ship to sail out and do his business at those faraway places....

Teunis' mind was made up: he was going to find the house of the patroon, and he would tell how strong he was, and how hard he could work, and that he knew how to read and write and calculate... And Cornelis had told him, that he would help him, and tell how good a worker he was: he was the kind of person the patroon would want to be in his colony!

So Teunis went to Master Jan, the next morning, and told him about his plans: "You know, I need to talk to those people, to the skipper, to the helpers of the patroon - Master Jan, this is my big chance!! Can I take the day off without having trouble with you??" Master Jan shook his head and looked at the boy. "You little rascal; do you realize how sad this will make your mother? And how dangerous this could be for you?" But he saw the expression on Teunis' face, and he knew that his words would have no influence. "It's okay boy; you take that time; and if it does not work out you can still come back here. But...remember: that will be your last chance!" Teunis looked surprised at the old grump, and then started smiling: "Thank you Master Jan! Thank you! And I really apologize for the other day, when I ran away again! I should not have done that, but sometimes it is so difficult... and then it seems that I just have to go to the harbor! I can't help it!" "It's allright boy, you better go and use your day well. Good luck to you!"

And Teunis walked, still surprised by the old grump, out of the smithy out into the sunshine, which he did notice this time. It seemed to Teunis that this was going to be his day of good luck. The weather-vane on Skipper Kees' house reflected the sun, the step gables looked so pretty... "Good day, Mrs. Vink! Your geraniums are beautiful!" Teunis said, when he walked by the bright red geraniums. And Mrs. Vink smiled, and thought: "What a nice boy, that Teunis!"

And Teunis walked on, to the dock, and met with Cornelis, who was already waiting for him. Cornelis had made appointments with the skipper, and even with the patroon! He seemed even more excited than Teunis was: "Come on, Teunis! We have to hurry. The patroon is anxious to hire more people, but we have to meet with him, before he has already enough! I made the appointment at ten o'clock this morning!" Together they walked through the narrow streets along the canals, where business went on as usual: the maids were scrubbing the stoops, or polishing the large brass door knobs. In the meantime they were calling jokes back and forth to one another. Seagulls screamed above the canals, diving down for each piece of food their eyes spotted. Men were rolling wheelbarrows toward ships in the canals, or carried bags on their backs. They joked with each other and all seemed to enjoy this nice spring day. Bakers put their bread outside, and an important-looking man strode by, a walking stick in one hand, while he used the other hand for lifting his high black hat for all the servants: "Goodmorning Liesje, your stoop looks as clean as a mirror! Goodmorning, Marietje, you polished that door knob so well that it is almost blinding me when the sun shines on it!"

Yes, spring was in the air, and Teunis breathed every little part of it in. "Do you know the patroon, Cornelis? Is he a nice man? Does he live in a big house?" Excited he rambled on and on, asking thousands of questions. "The patroon's name is Van Rensselaer. He lives in a big house on the Keizersgracht, and he is a wealthy diamond merchant," Cornelis started, "and when you meet him you can't talk like this. He will ask you things and you will have to answer him exactly to his questions; no more. He is a very precise man, and wants to know many details about you. Make sure you are very polite, because he has a lot of influence in the city. He is one of the most powerful men in the West India Company! If he is your friend, you will have more friends." "But why do you think he would hire me? What would I have to do? Do you think he will hire me, Cornelis?" Cornelis told Teunis about this wealthy man, who was not only a diamond merchant, but who also was very interested in agriculture. "He has large landholdings in Het Gooi, and he hires people to work there. In America he also owns land, and he wants to do the same thing there as he does in Het Gooi. You see, many people went over to America for the beaver skins, but Mister van Rensselaer seems to think that they need to grow grains and to have farm animals there to support the merchants. I think he is right: if there are people there they need to eat: they need to get bread, and in order to get that they need to grow grains and to transport them. So if you think about it: a lot of people could go there, because there is a lot of work that needs to be done." Teunis understood: "Yes, and they need beer, and they need houses, and shoes, and clothes... just about everything, right Cornelis? But, Cornelis, are there no people there who could do that?" And Cornelis told Teunis about the people in America: "They are not like us, Teunis. They speak a different language, and they live in different kind of houses. They also don't have farms, like we do, and they wear different clothes. They eat different food." "What do they look like, Cornelis, and what do they eat?" But Cornelis said: "Okay

Teunis, we are almost there." While they were talking they had come at the Keizersgracht. "It is just a few houses further, number 24. Now, do as I told you and be very polite. Don't ask questions before he says you can. Now, get your stockings straight and just walk next to me." Up the high stoop they went. "Ready?" and Cornelis rang the large brass door bell.

The sound of the door bell echoed in Teunis' head, and all of a sudden he became very quiet. So this was the big moment! His heart was pounding. The door was opened by a servant, who seemed to recognize Cornelis: "Hello Cornelis, how are you? I assume you have an appointment with Mister van Rensselaer?" She nodded in a friendly way at Teunis, who stood silently next to Cornelis. "Why don't you come in and wait in the hallway. I will let him know that you are here." They stood there waiting in the hall. Amazed Teunis looked around. Wow, this was a wealthy merchant! He himself lived in a narrow and long house at the Prinsengracht, but compared to this... This hallway was almost as wide as their whole house! Impressed he looked at the large paintings on the wall, the standing clock in a corner, a beautiful inlaid wooden chest with drawers, the marble floor. Cornelis laughed: "Okay boy; just be yourself, but at all times: be polite!" Teunis shrugged his shoulders, as if he were collecting all the courage he could find.

The door opened, and the servant girl told them to follow her to Mister van Rensselaer's study. When they walked in he sat there, in a large chair, behind a large desk, and looked sharply at the boy: "So, you are Teunis and you want to go to my colony in America?" "Yes Mister van Rensselaer." "Do you think you can do heavy work?" "Oh yes sir, I have worked with Master Jan in his smithy, and Master Jan... he makes you work sir! Real hard!" "And have you been on a ship before?" "Yes sir, my father worked on *De Meeuw* and took me on the ship many times!" "Well, well; why don't you both sit down and tell me something about yourself." Teunis looked at Cornelis, who nodded at him, encouragingly. "Tell Mister van Rensselaer what you told me, Teunis!"

And Teunis told how his father always was so excited about going to different countries, and how he had drowned; how Teunis then worked with Master Jan; but how he hated to work there; and how the harbor always seemed to call him. "I think I have heard of your father's death. Wasn't he Pieter Davidsen, who sacrificed his life for an eighteen-year-old boy when the English attacked their ship? A very brave man, this man!" Despite the sadness about his father's death Teunis glowed with pride: "Yes sir, yes; he was very brave!" "Well, Teunis Pietersz, if you are as brave as your father, I think I would be glad to hire you for my colony. In the beginning you will have to work for a farmer in the colony, but if you do a good job, I will make sure that you will have chances to move up. And once in a while you can also send something back for your mother and your little brother and sister!"

Teunis was quiet. He did not know what to say. It all had happened so fast. He had been so convinced that he was too young, and now... "The ship that you helped loading, *De Eendracht*, is going over at the end of April. If you decide to go, there will be place for you. I can hire you for four years and you will be paid forty guilders in the first year, fifty in the second year, sixty in the third and seventy in the fourth year. After that you can decide what you want to do, but the first contract will be for four years. You will also receive a gratuity for the passage of twenty-five guilders and a pair of boots. You don't have to make a decision now; you first have to discuss it with your mother and your family. Let me know what you do by Tuesday next week and then we can sign the contracts, if you plan to go."

Teunis could hardly believe it: the patroon had actually offered that he could go! How could he think that he might not want to take the offer? "Oh, but I don't have to wait until..." "Well boy, that is what I want you to do. You should talk it over with your mother. Would you be interested in seeing a map of the area where Rensselaerswijck is?" The patroon unfolded a large map drawn on parchment. It was certainly almost two yards long! Actually the map consisted of two pieces, sewn together in the middle. "This is a map I had drawn from sketches by Philip Jansz van Haerlem, Albert Dieterick and Crijn Frederickse. See, this river is the North river, or the Mauritius river. This here is the fort the West India Company had built here, Fort Orange. This whole area - and he moved his hand over the black and white map - is my colony, which I named Rensselaerswijck. See, the name is on it." There was much more on the map, and Teunis read aloud that there were many deer, and turkeys and other sorts of birds, and that the river was filled with all kinds of fish. "You read very well, Teunis; that will come in handy, if you would decide to go to the colony. If you can write just as well, once in a while you could send me a report of how things are going in the colony."

The morning went by, and when Cornelis and Teunis walked down the tall stairway of the stoop of Van Rensselaer's big merchant house, the world looked different to Teunis. He still saw how beautiful Amsterdam was, but at the horizon something new had appeared: a world with Indians trading their beavers, a world with mountains, a large river and many many creeks, with deer and turkeys in abundance, with many kinds of fish and with all sorts of exotic fruits and vegetables. No, Teunis did not have to think about the offer. He knew what he had to do.

And so it happened that on April 25, 1642, Teunis stepped aboard *De Eendracht*. His mother had been sad, but she understood that this was what Teunis had to do. She realised that even though he was only fourteen years old, he knew what the decision was that would change his whole life. And the Old Grump? The Old Grump had not been very grumpy at all: he had looked a little sad, but two days before the ship would leave, he came to Teunis with a large, strong chest. "Here, I made this for you. It is a sea chest, so now you can put your belongings in it and keep them safe."

At eight in the morning the ropes were loosened, the gangway was pulled in, and the ship separated itself from the dock. Among all the waving and goodbye-calling people, Teunis, through a mist of tears, only saw three figures, which became smaller and smaller. He waved one more last time until he could not see them anymore. The ship would first go to the island of Texel, and then, if the weather would be good: they were off! Off to the New World!

Possibilities for some questions and assignments with the Teunis' story:

1. Why did Teunis not notice much of the spring, when he went the first time to the harbor?
2. Describe what had happened to Teunis' father.
3. Who is Master Jan? Does Teunis like him? Why/why not?
4. List three things that Teunis could have seen around, while he was wandering to the harbor.

[*possibility of using paintings with seventeenth-century Amsterdam scenes to make lists of what else Teunis could possibly have seen; this could be done in combination with an art class]

1. How could many people in the Dutch Republic have become very wealthy? How did many earn their money? Can you explain how many different kinds of trades could have been influenced by this wealth?
2. Teunis was worried about money, allthough his father had had good work as a trader. The death of his father had changed Teunis' and his family's life completely. What is different between nowadays and the seventeenth century?
3. Teunis and his mother had a long talk. About what would their conversation have been? [* Possibility for a role play]
4. How was Teunis' schooling different from yours? Do you see advantages in the one or the other system?

* [Possibility for explanation of the apprenticeship-system. Could anticipate on later lessons on apprenticeships in Beverwijck.

1. What happens to Teunis on the dock?
2. What kind of work does he do? If you look at some of the drawings and paintings, and you realise that they were loading a ship to go to New Netherland: list five things [kinds of work] that Teunis and the other workmen may have done as well.

* Possibility art class and analyzing Dutch 17th-century paintings.

3. Why would Teunis' mother have looked sad?
4. Did Teunis' father like his work? Explain your answer.

* Possibility of a role play of people and activity at the side of the Amsterdam canals.

1. Cornelis tells Teunis about Van Rensselaer. What kind of man was he? What do you learn about him? List at least five things.

2. Cornelis tells also a little bit about the New World. Mention three things that are different from the way things are in Amsterdam.

3. Van Rensselaer's house was much broader than the house Teunis lived in. In Amsterdam prices of houses were dependent on the width: more or less ships could lay in the canal before the house. Perhaps show pictures of some wealthy merchants' houses at the Keizersgracht and the smaller ones at the Prinsengracht.

Also a plan of Amsterdam could be used to show the rings of canals in the city.

1. The patroon remembered Teunis' father. Was that important? Why/Why not?

2. Van Renselaer tells about Rensselaerswijck. What do you learn about this colony from his conversation with Teunis?

3. What is the offer he makes Teunis?

* [4. Possibility for a role play].

* [5. This 1632 map still exists. There are pictures of it, which could be used in a lesson, offering possibilities for a lesson on early mapping. Original in NYS Library]

* [1. Possibility of using the map of the Netherlands: the boat trip from Amsterdam to Texel. Perhaps to combine with the journals: could be a preparation for the following lessons on "The journey over"]

THE DUTCH AND THEIR GOLDEN CENTURY

The 17th century in the Netherlands is called the **Golden Century**. As we could read in Teunis's story, a lot of money was earned in that particular time period. But the seventeenth century deserves the name **Golden** not just for the money: other things happened in the small country on the North Sea at the same time. Besides trade, the arts and sciences reached unknown heights. Never before had the country had so many famous painters at the same time. You may already know the names of some of them: Rembrandt, Frans Hals, Johannes Vermeer. But there were many others, for example Jan Steen, Pieter de Hooch, Adriaen van der Venne, etc. In various museums all over the world their paintings can be admired. Over 2000 sea-going cargo ships sailed across the seas, and at a certain time the Dutch fleet was greater than the combined fleets of England, France and Scandinavia.

Also many authors became famous. Many settlers in New Netherland may have one or two books of Jacob Cats in their possession. In his works Cats tried to teach people useful and intelligent matters; many people would own two books: the Bible and Cats's *Trouringh* (which means Wedding ring). Other famous poets and authors were Joost van den Vondel, Pieter Cornelisz Hooft and Brederode. The last one made many people laugh with his humorous plays about daily life of the common people. Can you think of a reason that these authors' fame remained limited to the Netherlands and Flanders?

Several people were active in the field of science: Willem Jansz Blaeu drew maps that were of great use for the seamen. Anthonie van Leeuwenhoek discovered that one could see that a drop of water contained all kind of organisms: he made the first lenses. He also discovered red blood cells and bacteries. Christiaan Huygens designed a clock (*slingerklok*) which made that people could better read the time than ever before.

A STRANGE CASE?

This golden century was a strange case; so much wealth, power and skilled people in such a **small country**. And this country was even **at war** for a large part of the century. The rebellion against the Spanish king had started in 1568 and lasted until 1648 (the so called 80-year war). But even after 1648 it was not always peace... The British, jealous

of the prosperity in the Republic, forced the Dutch into a number of seawars (1652-54; 1665-67/1672-74). Besides, in the Netherlands things were **organized very differently** from those in their neighboring countries.

A SMALL COUNTRY

A width of about 100, and a length of 200 hundred miles; and in 1625 a population of around one-and-a-half million. In reality the golden century took place in an even smaller area than what you see on a map. The eastern part of the country did not play an important role in it. Except in some cities and towns, people were not very wealthy in the country side. Also Brabant and Limburg did not really count: these areas were conquered from the Spaniards and they were treated as conquered territory. Besides: people there were Roman Catholic and were not allowed to work for the state. The Dutch Reformed Church had these privileges.

The real area where the Golden Century took place was in the West, between the cities of Alkmaar, Utrecht and Middelburg. Cities such as Amsterdam, Haarlem, Leiden, Delft, Dordrecht and Gouda were part of it. These were the places where the painters, poets, scientists and the wealthy traders lived. The cities were important; not the countryside which was, in order to protect the cities, flooded at several occasions in the struggle against the Spaniards.

A TIME OF WAR

A golden century in a country at war - that would be impossible in our time. But a war in the seventeenth century was very different from a 20th century war. Soldiers could roam through cities, stealing, burning houses, etc. But for the cities in the western part of the Dutch Republic, war was most of the time far away. A large part of the war against the Spanish was fought in the provinces of Overijssel, Gelderland, Brabant and Limburg. In those areas people did suffer from the war. In the daily life of people in the western cities, it did not play such a big role as it did in the country side.

Soldiers were not from Holland; they were hired. General conscription did not exist yet. There were enough poor Swiss, Walloons, Scotts, etc. willing to risk their lives for pay. Also the officers were often foreigners: English, German, French noblemen who served in the Dutch army, for various reasons: adventure, poverty, etc. Thus the families in Holland did not have to feel the sadness about a family member fallen in the war. If, in the seventeenth century, a country wanted to have a good army, it needed money. The Dutch Republic had plenty.

At sea it was different: although foreigners worked on the Dutch ships, the majority of sailors were Dutch. The captains were often from Zeeland, Holland or Friesland.

Thus the cities in the western part of the Republic were not hurt too much by the war. The only time things became problematic was when, because of the war, the trade came to a long lasting stand still. Than there was no work, and many families suffered poverty.

THE REPUBLIC: DIFFERENT FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

In Europe, most countries were monarchies. In their struggle against the Spanish king, however, the Dutch had become a republic. Government of this republic was complicated: there were seven different states, of which Holland was the most important. It paid 58% of all taxes in the Republic.

A number of wealthy families in the towns were in charge; they were members of the *vroedschap* (literally: a council of wise fathers; a council of sages) and were also called *regenten* (regents). All Dutch towns chose their representatives in the States for their respective state (province). All towns in Holland, for instance, had representatives in the States of Holland. These representatives in the states had a *lastbrief* (a letter of instructions/guidelines) from their town at meetings of the states. In this *lastbrief* was written what they were supposed to do, but if something unexpected happened, they had to go back to the *vroedschap* of their town in order to decide what to do (this was called *ruggespraak*). This was often very time consuming.

For the States General of the Republic of the Seven United Netherlands the same procedure was applied. However complicated and time consuming this procedure may have been - in the most important decisions Holland's wish was decisive (they brought in most money). The most powerful man in the Republic was the *raadpen-*

sionaris of Holland, the judicial advisor of the States of Holland. A good one, like Johan van Oldenbarnevelt or Johan de Witt acquired as much power as the present *minister-president*, minister of finances and the minister of foreign affairs, put together. In his position of *raadpensionaris* he worked full time, only for the States of Holland.

Another full time worker was the *stadhouder*. He was a servant of the States, leader of the soldiers of a state. In theory every state could have had its own *stadhouder*, but most of the time there were only two, one for Friesland and Groningen, and the other one for the five other states. The *stadhouders* of the five states ((Maurits, Frederik Hendrik) were sons of Willem van Oranje (William of Orange, or William the Silent). The other *stadhouders* were descendants of Jan van Nassau, William's brother. The power of the *stadhouder* reached further than the command over army and fleet. The *stadhouder*'s right to appoint members of the *vroedschap* of a town dated from the time that he was a replacement for the king,. Thus he had influence in the cities, states and in the States General.

The Republic was different from other European countries: a republic instead of a monarchy. Maybe government was not democratic (if a member of a *vroedschap* died, the next one was appointed by them), but a good number of people was allowed to help making decisions. This was different than in other European countries. And this was not only in Amsterdam and Den Haag, but in Kampen, Enkhuizen, Hoorn, Middelburg, Franeker and many other Dutch towns, the same procedure was applied.

TOLERANCE

In the Dutch Republic, according to seventeenth standards, much was allowed; often much more than in other countries. Tolerance was one of the virtues of the administrators/governors of the country. Hardly any books were banned by the censors, so that book printing business was doing very well. Many books, forbidden in France, for instance, reached the Dutch presses, and were later smuggled back into France. People, persecuted in their own country, often found a haven in the Republic.

Although the Calvinist ministers probably would have liked to stop activities from other religious denominations, the "others" (for instance Roman Catholics) were in most cases allowed to do what they wanted. Only - it was not supposed to be too open. Certainly not every minister liked this tolerance; they regarded people like Descartes or Spinoza as dangerous people, who only would cause trouble (their ideas contradicted the Calvinist doctrine).

But tolerance was good for science and also for trade. Thus the wealthy *regenten* were unwilling to bother people too much with different ways of thinking too much. The many strangers, i.e. Roman Catholics or Islamics, did not have to fear. Maybe they had to be somewhat careful, but they were not persecuted.

CONCLUSION

Questions remain. Many people in the Republic became wealthy, and there are explanations. And the freedom was of course good for artists and scientist. But how could these matters all at the same time reach such heights? How in one particular time period were there so many brilliant people? Some questions remain.

NB: parts of the text were derived from *Kijk op tijd, 2* leerlingenboek.

Possibilities for questions and assignments:

1. After reading the whole text: mention three reasons why it is such a strange case, this golden century in the Dutch Republic.

2. Also look at the first page of the story about Teunis in the Dutch Republic: how did people get so wealthy in the Dutch Republic? And why was this good for many other tradesmen?

3. When was the Golden Century in the Dutch republic?

4.* Could be an assignment for pairs: Of the famous people mentioned on page 1, choose two and using the library, art books or encyclopedia, write half a page about each person for a presentation in class. If you can find another famous Dutchman from the same time period, you may also write your essay about him/her, after discussing this with your teacher.

* Another assignment could be to make a list of five seventeenth century Dutch artists and collect pictures of artworks made by them and present this in class with some information.

5. Using a map of the Netherlands:
a. Which was the area where the Golden Century mostly took place?
b. How could the countryside so easily be flooded in the struggle against the Spaniards? *[possibility to pay more attention to the dike-system in the Netherlands. Engineer Leeghwater, for example, worked on draining several *polders* in Noord-Holland. A large part of the country is below sealevel. The saying "God created the world, but the Dutch created the Netherlands" could be explained here.
c. On the map, find the areas where most of the eighty-year war was fought.

6. How could it happen that in a time of war many merchants were still able to become wealthy and prosperous?

7. what are differences in war now and war in the seventeenth century?

8. The Dutch Republic was different from other European countries. List three differences.

9. Why did so many people from Europe flee to the Dutch Republic in the seventeenth century?

10. What was an important reason that the *regenten* were tolerant?

Lesson 2

Objectives	Activities	Resources
1. Students will interpret a contract. 2. Students will be familiar with ways early settlers were prepared to go to the new world.	Have students read *Agreement of Marinus Adriaensz vander Veere with Jasper, Claes, Jan and Cornelis* (2 short documents)and answer the following questions: 1. Read both contracts and tell who the persons are that are going to work for Marinus Adriaensz vander Veere. 2. What kind of work will they have to do in the new world? 3. When are the contracts made? Why do you think there is so much time difference between Jasper's and the rest? 4. Where are they going to work? 5. How much are they going to earn? 6. They have to promise a few things before they go; can you mention three promises they have to make? 7. Which river is meant by the North River?	*Van Rensselaer Bowier Manuscripts*, pp. 179-181.

Agreement of Marinus Adriaensz van der Veere with Jasper Ferlyn van der Gouw[55]

February 17, 1631

Jaspar Ferlijn vander Gouw, living at *Middelburgh* in the Latin School street, has bound himself unto and entered into the service of *marinus Adriaenssen vander Veer,* to assist him in the planting and cultivating of tobacco or such other work as he may be ordered to do by the aforementioned *Maryn* or in the name of his patroon, no exception as to any kind of work being made, everything according to the order and regulations of the Chartered West India Company and the further conditions [of the contract] made by the said *Marinus Adriaensz* with *Kiliaen van Rensselaer* as patroon of the lands lying around Fort Orange on the North River of New Netherland, during a term of service of three years, commencing and ending as stated in the said contract. The aforesaid *Iaspar ferlyn* shall receive 11 guilders a month, to be paid annually and shall receive cash before his departure, as an advance, 40 guilders and in addition 10 stivers a day for wages from the 12th of January last to the time of his going on board. The aforesaid *jaspar ferlyn* promises in addition to willing and diligent service, honestly and faithfully and on forfeiture of all the wages to be earned by him, not to trade or acquire in other ways, any beavers, otters, or other prohibited furs, nor to allow that the same be dealt in with his knowledge by anybody but those who act on behalf of the Chartered West India Company, also on forfeiture as above, not to leave or return before his term of service has expired without express consent of the aforesaid his patroon or master, which conditions, this day underwritten, have been approved by the aforementioned *Rensselaer* and signed by him, *jasper ferlyn,* with his own hand at Amsterdam, this 17th of February 1631. Was signed in the several hands, *jaspaer ferlin, marinus Adriaens.*

[55] *V. R. B. Mss. Letter Book.* f.4.

Memorandum of similar agreements with Claes Brunsteyn van Straelsundt, Jan Tyaerts van Franicker and Cornelis Maesen van Buyrmalsen

May 27, 1631

The 27th of May 1631, these following persons have further been engaged for three years on the conditions and restrictions above written, under penalties and obligations as in the preceding contract which has been read to them.

N. B. ran away *Claes Brunsteyn van Straelsundt,* who shall receive 8 guilders a month and before his departure, as an advance, two months' wages in hand paid.

jehan Chierts van franicker, who shall receive 60 guilders a year and 12 guilders in hand paid as an advance.

In testimony of the truth they have signed this in the year and on the day above written. Was signed: the mark X of *Claes Brunsteyn, Jan Tyaerts, Cornelis maesen van Buyrmarsen,*[56] who shall receive the first year f60, the second year f70, the third year f80 and in hand paid f12 as an advance.

[56] Intended for Buyrmalsen; see p. 309. The *Vytgeef ende betalinge,* 1630–32, among the *Rensselaerswyck Mss.* has *Corñs masen van buijrmalsen,* not *Cornelis Maasen van Buren Maasen,* as printed by O'Callaghan in his translation of that account, *History of New Netherland,* 1:430.

Aug. 19, 1662, *Hendrick Cornelissz Maessen* and *Marten Cornelissz Maesen,* brothers,