

Colonial Period – Historical Documents

To further explore the Jewish immigrant experience, read some of the following documents. Choose two pieces to read and analyze with your group.

- *Jews Permitted To Stay In New Amsterdam*
- *Aaron Lopez Denied Naturalization*
- *Jews Seek Permission To Trade*
- *Rights Vary From State To State*
- *A Nation Founded On Liberty And Equality*
- *Fundraising Appeal To Newport Jews*
- *Dedication Of Newport Synagogue*
- *A Jewish Wedding In Philadelphia*
- *City Of Refuge Proclaimed*

Record the time and place each piece was written, and the type of document it is. Then, prepare a summary of the information in the piece, including specific examples and quotes. Answer the following questions for each document:

1. Who wrote the document? What was his or her point of view? How is this evident in the document?
2. Who is the intended audience? What evidence leads you to believe this?
3. What is the tone of the document? Is it telling a story, or trying to persuade someone to believe a point of view?
4. Why was this document written? Use examples to support your answer.
5. What does this document tell you about Jewish life in America during the colonial period?