

## Building Manhattan Class Discussion

These questions may be used as topics to explore historical and thematic content in *Building Manhattan*. The information provided is not intended to be grade specific. However, it will enhance your ability to create a dialogue with children about the main themes in *Building Manhattan*.

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**Question:** What materials did different groups of people build with, and how did this effect what they built? Pick two to compare and contrast.

The Lenape worshiped nature and believed the earth was sacred. Because of this they did not make permanent structures. They built with natural materials like sticks and bark that would not disturb the land.

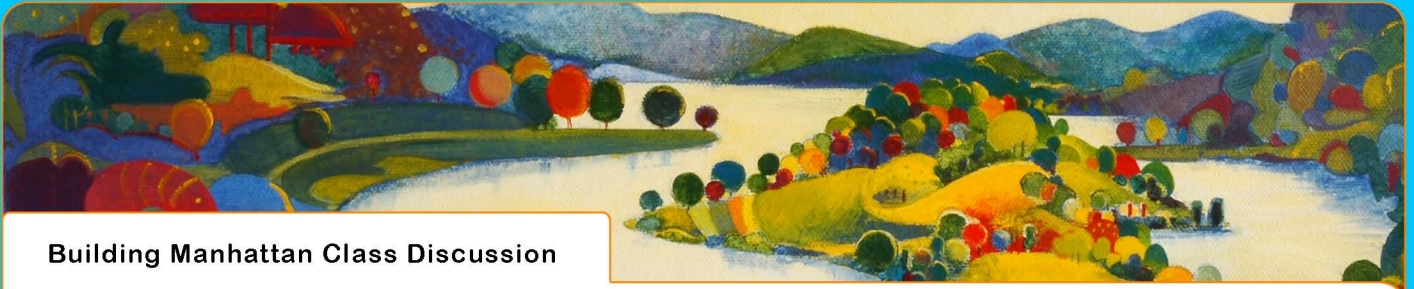
The Dutch were fur traders and explorers. They did not come to live on Manhattan permanently. They build a large fort to use as a trading post. It also protected their trade goods from other traders and native people who live on Manhattan.

When the English came to Manhattan they planned to stay and colonize the land. They paved roads and began building a more permanent city with stone buildings and local institutions like, government, schools and hospitals.

**Question:** What were some of the reasons immigrants came to Manhattan and how did their ideas change the city.

### Freedom

Many people journeyed to Manhattan seeking freedom from foreign governments, religious oppression. They believed that by coming to Manhattan they would be free to choose their own beliefs. They help change the city by making it a place full of diverse ideas that inspired many great social and political changes through out the rest of America.



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### Famine

There were not enough jobs and food in some countries to feed all the people. This caused many people to immigrate to Manhattan looking for better jobs so they could feed their families and send money back to people in the countries they had come from. This changed the city by bringing lots of labor to the many industries that helped Manhattan become prosperous. It also brought people who wanted better lives. Over time they helped to build many of the civic institutions, parks, museums and theaters the city is famous for.

### Fortune

People traveled to Manhattan hoping to make fortunes in the many new industries that were thriving in Manhattan. Some brought ideas for inventions they hoped to patent and sell. Others hoped to invest in the prospering city. Prosperity of business helped the city build new buildings, roads and bridges that brought even more opportunity to the island. It also helped the city to invest in great inventions like electricity, the subway system, and the first city health agency.

