In 1681, King Charles II awarded William Penn a charter for the North American territory that would become Pennsylvania. Penn named this colony after his father, who had served in the English Navy. Penn was a member of the Society of Friends, or Quakers, a Protestant denomination that faced persecution from more traditional Protestants, as well as others, in both England and the other colonies. As a result, freedom from persecution was a cornerstone of the government he established for the colony. Penn was the sole proprietor of the colony, and in order to turn a profit through the sale of land, he had to attract settlers. He did so through appeals to the English, Irish, and the inhabitants of the German states, such as the one excerpted below.

Since (by the good providence of God) a Country in America is fallen to my lot, I thought it not less my Duty than my honest Interest to give some publick notice of it to the World, that those of our own, or other Nations, that are inclin’d to Transport themselves or Families beyond the Seas, may find another Country added to their choice, that if they happen to like the Place, Conditions and Constitutions, (so far as the present Infancy of things will allow us any prospect) they may, if they please, fix with me in the Province hereafter describ’d....

1st. Those that go into a Foreign Plantation, their Industry there is worth more than if they stay’d at home, the Product of their Labour being in Commodities of a superiour Nature to those of this Country. For Instance; What is an improved Acre in Jamaica or Barbadoes worth to an improved Acre in England? We know ‘tis threetimes the value, and the product of it comes for England, and is usually paid for in English Growth and Manufacture. Nay, Virginia shews that an ordinary Industry in one man produces Three thousand pound weight of Tobacco and Twenty Barrels of Corn yearly: He feeds himself, and brings as much of Commodity into England besides as being return’d in the Growth and Workmanship of this Countrey, is much more than he could have spent here: Let it also be remembered, that Three thousand weight of Tobacco brings in Three thousand Two-pences by way of Custom to the King, which makes Twenty five pounds; An extraordinary profit.

2dly. More being produc’d and imported than we can spend here, we Export it to other Countries in Europe, which brings in Money, or the growth of those Countries, which is the same thing; And this is the Advantage of the English-Merchants and Seamen.

3dly. Such as could not only not marry here, but hardly live and allow themselves Cloaths, do marry there, and bestow thrice more in all Necessaries and Conveniencies (and not a little in Ornamental things too) for themselves, their Wives and Children, both as to Apparel and Household-stuff; which coming out of England, I say ‘tis impossible that England should not be a considerable Gainer.
Document Analysis

How did Penn contrast life in Pennsylvania with life in Europe?
What advantages could settlers in Pennsylvania enjoy that were unavailable in Europe?
Would you have been convinced to leave your home and travel across the Atlantic to settle in Penn’s colony? Why or why not?