

Lesson 3: The First Colonies

Vocabulary

Pilgrim a person who goes on a journey for religious reasons

Separatist a person who wanted to separate from the Church of England

persecution unfair treatment because of beliefs

Mayflower Compact a plan of government for the town of Plymouth

Puritan a person who wanted to purify, or reform, the Church of England

The Pilgrims

The **Pilgrims** traveled to North America looking for religious freedom. They left England because of **persecution**. They were treated badly because of their religious beliefs. The Pilgrims were **Separatists**. They did not want to be part of the Church of England. The Virginia Company gave the Pilgrims permission to start their settlement in Virginia. William Bradford led the Pilgrims.

The *Mayflower*

In 1620 about 100 Pilgrims left England. They sailed their ship, the *Mayflower*, across the Atlantic Ocean. They landed in New England. They decided to stay there instead of Virginia. The Pilgrims made a plan of government for their future settlement. The plan was called the **Mayflower Compact**. It said that the Pilgrims would make fair and equal laws for their colony. The Pilgrims settled in Plymouth in today's Massachusetts. The Pilgrims met a Native American named Samoset who spoke English. They began a friendship with the Wampanoag people.

A Thanksgiving Celebration

Later, the Pilgrims met another English-speaking Native American named Squanto. Squanto helped the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag make a peace treaty. He also helped the settlers. He showed them where to hunt and fish and how to grow corn. After their first harvest, the Pilgrims held a celebration of thanksgiving with the Wampanoag.

The Puritans Arrive

The **Puritans** also left England looking for religious freedom. They were persecuted because they wanted to change the Church of England. John Winthrop led the Puritans. He wanted to build a colony in New England. In this colony, the Puritans could worship as they wanted. They would teach others to live good lives by setting an example. In about 1628 the Puritans set up the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Its main town was Boston.

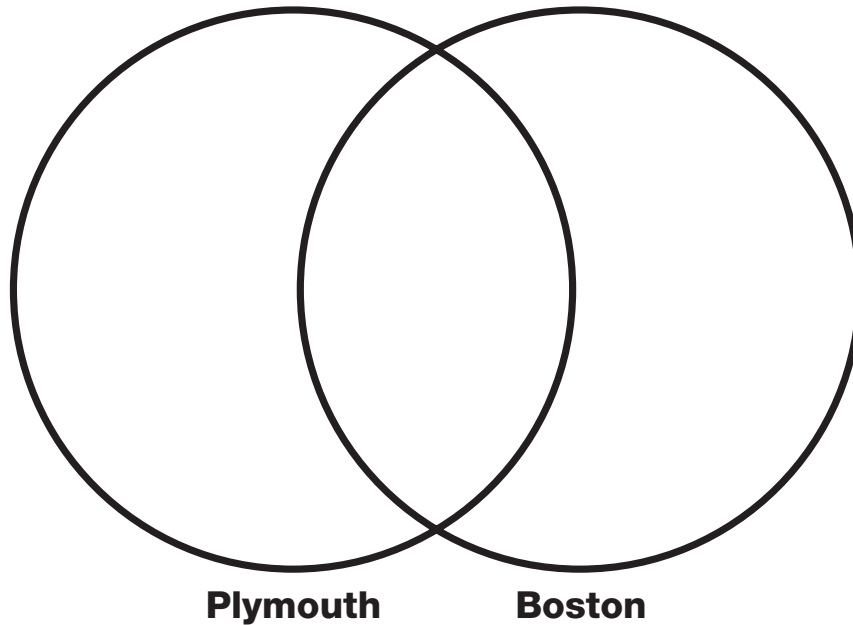
The Puritan Way of Life

Puritan settlements were carefully planned. A meetinghouse was built in the center of town. Religious services and town meetings were held in the meetinghouse. Each family was given land for a house and farm. In 1635 the Puritans built the first public school in the English colonies. They wanted children to be able to read the Bible and understand community laws.

Lesson 3: Review

1. **Compare and Contrast** Fill in the chart comparing and contrasting these details:

- Name of group and year founded
- Group’s leader
- Reason people came to colony



2. What was the main reason that the Pilgrims came to New England?

3. What was the purpose of the Mayflower Compact?

4. How did the Native Americans help the Pilgrims?

5. **Critical Thinking: Point of View** John Winthrop wrote that the Puritan colony would be like “a City upon a hill, the eyes of all people are on us.” Explain how this statement reflects the Puritan view about the colony.
