

Summary: New England Settlements

The Plymouth Colony

People called Separatists were unhappy with the Church of England. They decided to *separate* and start their own church. This was against English law. One Separatist group called Pilgrims went to the Netherlands for religious freedom. They practiced their religion freely in the Netherlands, but they wanted an entire community based on their religious beliefs. The Virginia Company of London agreed to let the Pilgrims build a community in the colony of Virginia.

In 1620, about 100 Pilgrims sailed across the Atlantic on the *Mayflower*. Bad weather blew the ship to Cape Cod, in Massachusetts. The Pilgrims built their settlement near there and named it Plymouth. The Virginia Company did not control Massachusetts, so the Pilgrims wrote a plan for their own government. They called it the Mayflower Compact. In it, the Pilgrims agreed to make laws for the good of the colony and to obey them.

Life was hard. The Pilgrims arrived in November. It was too late in the year to plant crops. They did not have enough food, and many colonists died in the winter. In the spring, a Wampanoag man named Squanto showed the Pilgrims how to plant crops, and how to hunt and fish. In the fall, the Pilgrims and Wampanoags celebrated to give thanks for the Pilgrims' first harvest. This feast is remembered during Thanksgiving.

Massachusetts Bay Colony

The Puritans were another religious group that did not agree with the Church of England. The Puritans wanted to build a community based on their religious beliefs. In 1630, the Puritans landed in Salem, Massachusetts. They decided to settle in present-day Boston. They named their colony the Massachusetts Bay Colony, after the Massachuset Indians.

The Puritans were better prepared than the Pilgrims. They arrived in June and planted crops. By the 1640s, 20,000 Puritans settled in the area. The area was called New England because so many people from England lived there.



Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

pilgrim *noun*, a person who makes a long journey for religious reasons

compact *noun*, an agreement

cape *noun*, a strip of land that stretches into a body of water



After You Read

REVIEW Why did the Pilgrims leave the Netherlands for North America? Underline the sentence that tells the answer.

REVIEW How did Squanto help the Plymouth Colony succeed? Highlight the sentence that tells what Squanto taught the Pilgrims.