



LEARN SOMETHING NEW
EACH WEEK ON OUR
WORLD OF WONDER PAGES!



The Plymouth Pilgrims didn't just wear black-and-white clothes. They wore clothes that were practical and sometimes colorful.



World of Wonder

EXPLORING THE REALMS OF HISTORY, SCIENCE, NATURE AND TECHNOLOGY
By Laurie Triefeldt

PILGRIMS

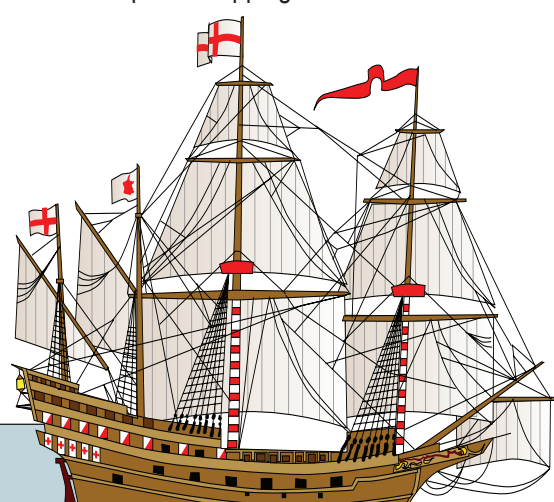
The Pilgrim colonists were a small group of English Protestants known as Puritans. Seeking religious freedom, about 100 people boarded a ship called the Mayflower and sailed for America. These Separatists reached what is now Provincetown Harbor in 1620 and, after exploring the region, decided to build their colony at what is now Plymouth, Massachusetts.

Shipping news

Originally, the Pilgrims had planned to travel on two ships, the Mayflower and the Speedwell. But the Speedwell was deemed unseaworthy, and the Mayflower sailed alone.

The Mayflower was followed by three more ships that made their way to Plymouth: the Fortune in 1621, and the Anne and the Little James in 1623.

The Mayflower was about 12 years old when it set sail for America with the Pilgrims. Before then, this now-famous merchantman ship was shipping wine.



What's in a name?

In the early 1600s, many people were unhappy with the Protestant Church of England. They thought the church was too decadent and its rituals too formal. Some wanted to separate from the church and worship in a simpler way; they became known as **Separatists**.

Because the Separatists wanted to purify the church, they were also known as **Puritans**.

While the term **Pilgrim** may have been used to describe the Plymouth colonists, they were more commonly known as **Founders** or **Forefathers**.

Before America

In the 16th and 17th centuries, it was against the law in England to belong to any church other than the Church of England. Weary of heavy fines and jail sentences, the Separatists fled to the Dutch Netherlands where they could worship freely. But it was difficult for the Puritans to adjust to life in Holland; work was scarce, and the language was a barrier. They decided the Americas would offer more opportunities. With the help of financial investors, a group of Puritan colonists readied themselves for a journey.

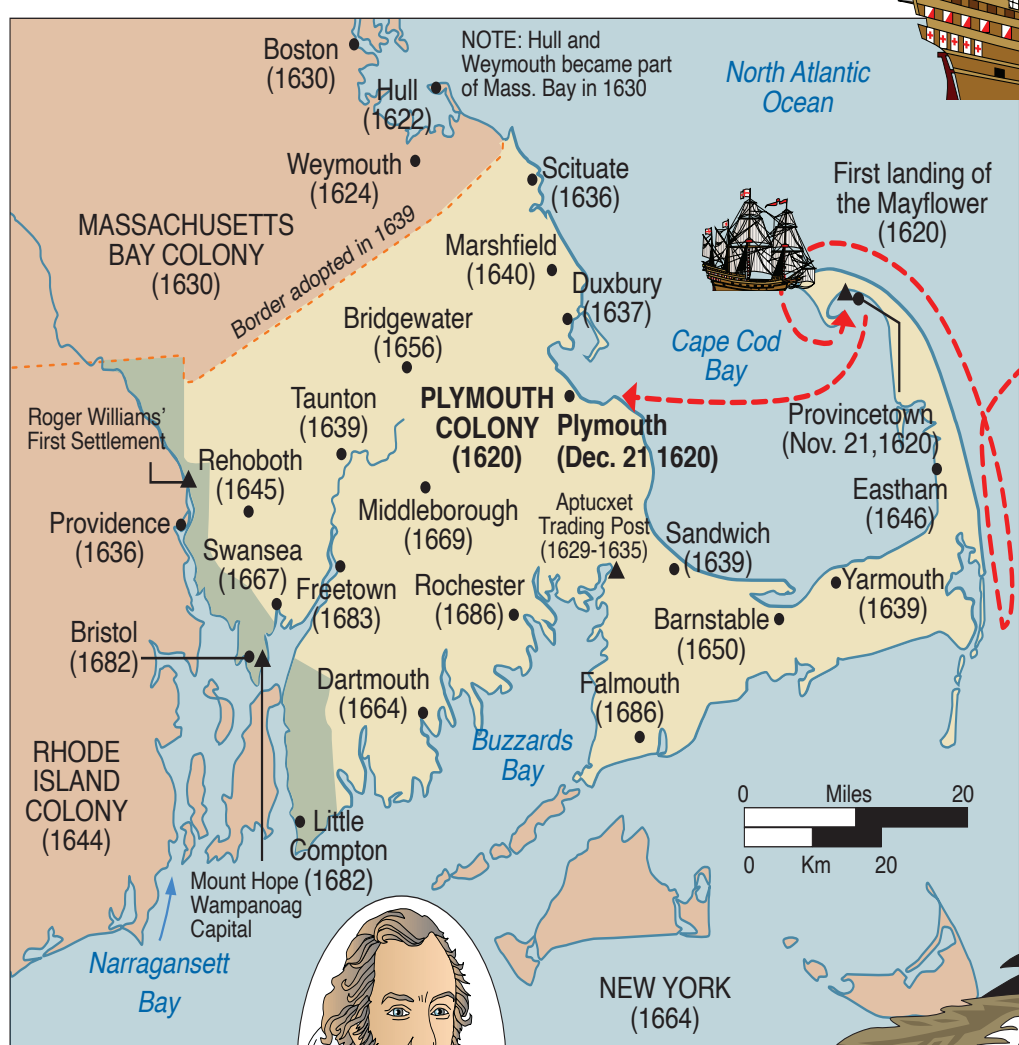
Settling in

About a third of the 102 colonists who arrived on the shores of New England were English Separatists. The rest were colonists hoping for adventure, financial gain and a new life.

It took the Mayflower 66 days to reach America. The colonists had hoped to settle in Jamestown, Virginia, or along the Hudson River in what is now New York, but the winds took them to Cape Cod instead. They landed at Provincetown on Nov. 21, 1620.

They decided to build their colony at Plymouth. But the Pilgrims were ill-prepared for the harsh winter, and their supplies were short. Weakened by scurvy and the bitter cold, many people got sick. Only 52 people survived that first year in Plymouth.

Yet, despite these hardships, the Plymouth Colony of 1620 would become the second successful English settlement in America. The first was Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607.



The **Mayflower** was manned by 30 crew members.

Native Americans

Although the Pilgrims occasionally saw native people on the shore and in the forests, they did not meet face to face until about four months after their arrival. The **Pokanoket Wampanoag** people welcomed the colonists and signed a peace treaty with them. One Wampanoag man named **Tisquantum** or **Squanto** had learned the English language when he was captured by English sailors. Tisquantum managed to make his way home to Plymouth only to find his village had been wiped out by sickness. Tisquantum was especially helpful to the Pilgrims, teaching them many of the skills they would need to survive in the New World, including how to plant corn.



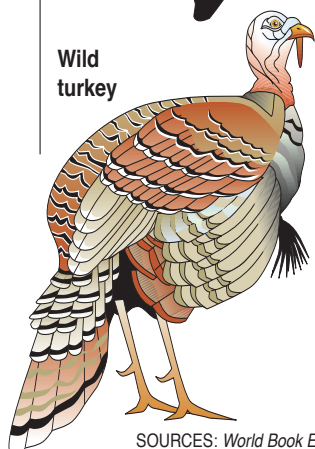
John Smith
1580-1631

The area settled by the Pilgrims had been named Plimouth by **John Smith** on his 1614 mapping expedition.



The colonists were well-armed with muskets, pistols and knives.

Wild turkey



SOURCES: *World Book Encyclopedia*, World Book Inc.; <http://www.plymouth.org>; <http://www.history.com/>; <http://teacher.scholastic.com>; <http://www.ushistory.org>; <http://www.pilgrimhallmuseum.org>; <http://mayflowerhistory.com>

Thanksgiving

In October of 1621, the Pilgrims celebrated their first harvest with a three-day feast. In gratitude for their help, the English invited the **Wompanoag** people to join in the festivities. This famous celebration became the basis for the story of the first **Thanksgiving**.

Today, Thanksgiving is celebrated in the United States on the fourth Thursday in November. In Canada, it is celebrated on the second Monday of October.

Here to stay

As time passed, other settlements were established in New England. In 1691, Plymouth became part of the Massachusetts Bay Colony.



Pokanoket
chief
Metacom

A growing colony

Over the next few years, more and more English colonists arrived. By 1627, Plymouth Colony had grown into a stable and comfortable community of about 160 people.

Bloody King Philip's War

Over the years, as other European settlers arrived on the shores of New England, the relationship between the colonists and the native people became strained. Occasional fighting erupted, but the violence would escalate into a terrible and bloody war in 1675. Led by a chief called **Metacom**, also known as King Philip, the New England natives attacked many of the English settlements, but ultimately failed in their attempt to dislodge the settlers.

Like us on Facebook — www.facebook.com/worldofwonder2014

© 2014 Triefeldt Studios, Inc.
Distributed by Universal Uclick for UFS

LEARN ABOUT NORTH POLE IN THE NEXT INSTALLMENT OF WORLD OF WONDER

CASA GRANDE
Dispatch
Serving Pinal County For More Than A Century

Newspapers
in Education



OUR WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS IN EDUCATION
PAGE CAN BE A FUN LEARNING TOOL FOR
YOUR KIDS. CHECK BACK EACH THURSDAY
FOR A NEW, EXCITING TOPIC!

CASA GRANDE
Dispatch

TO SUBSCRIBE:
(520) 423-8685