

New England Colonies

Essential Question

Why did the Separatists and Puritans leave England and settle in North America?

Reading Guide

Content Vocabulary

- dissent (p. 65)
- Puritan (p. 65)
- Separatist (p. 65)
- Pilgrim (p. 65)
- Mayflower Compact (p. 66)
- Fundamental Orders of Connecticut (p. 68)

Academic Vocabulary

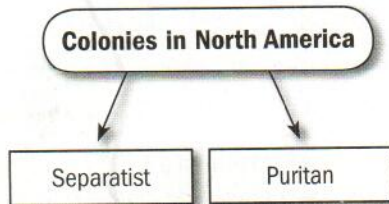
policy (p. 68)

Key People and Events

- William Bradford (p. 66)
- Squanto (p. 66)
- John Winthrop (p. 67)
- Roger Williams (p. 68)

Reading Strategy

Taking Notes As you read, use a diagram like the one below to list the colonies that the Separatists and Puritans formed in North America.

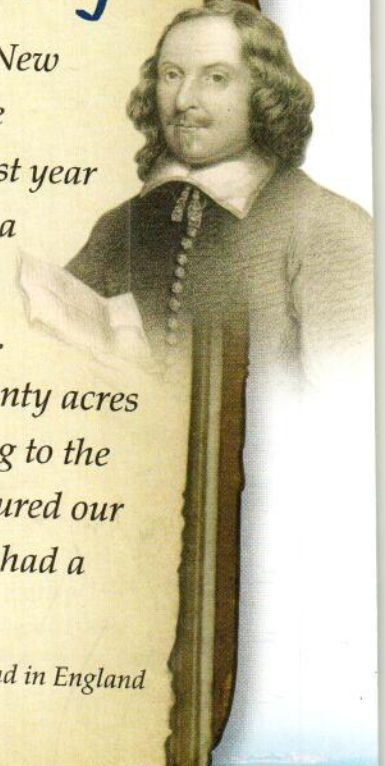


American Diary

Edward Winslow, a settler in New England, was thankful that the Pilgrims had survived their first year in America. Winslow wrote to a friend in England, "We have built seven-dwelling houses. . . .

We set the last spring some twenty acres of Indian corn . . . and according to the manner of the Indians, we manured our ground. . . . God be praised, we had a good increase of Indian corn."

—from Pilgrim Edward Winslow to a friend in England



The Pilgrims built their colony, Plymouth, along Cape Cod Bay in what is today Massachusetts.

Religious Freedom

Main Idea To practice their religion more freely, a group of Separatists established the Plymouth colony in North America.

History and You Have you and a friend ever disagreed so much on an issue that you considered ending your friendship? Read about the reason why the Pilgrims settled in Plymouth.

Unlike the Jamestown settlers, the next wave of colonists arrived in search of religious freedom. England had been a Protestant country since 1534, when King Henry VIII broke away from the Roman Catholic Church and formed the Anglican Church. Not everyone in England was happy with the new church, however. Many people **dissented**; that is, they disagreed with the beliefs or practices of the Anglicans. English Catholics, for example, still considered the pope the head of the church. They were often persecuted, or treated harshly, for that reason.

Some Protestants wanted to change, or reform, the Anglican Church. Others wanted to break away from it altogether. The Protestants who wanted to reform the Anglican Church were called **Puritans**. Those who

wanted to leave and set up their own churches were known as **Separatists**.

The Separatists were persecuted in England, and some fled to the Netherlands. Though they found religious freedom there, the Separatists had difficulty finding work. They also worried that their children were losing their religious values and their English way of life.

The Pilgrims' Journey

Some Separatists in the Netherlands made an arrangement with the Virginia Company. The Separatists could settle in Virginia and practice their religion freely. In return they would give the company a share of any profits they made.

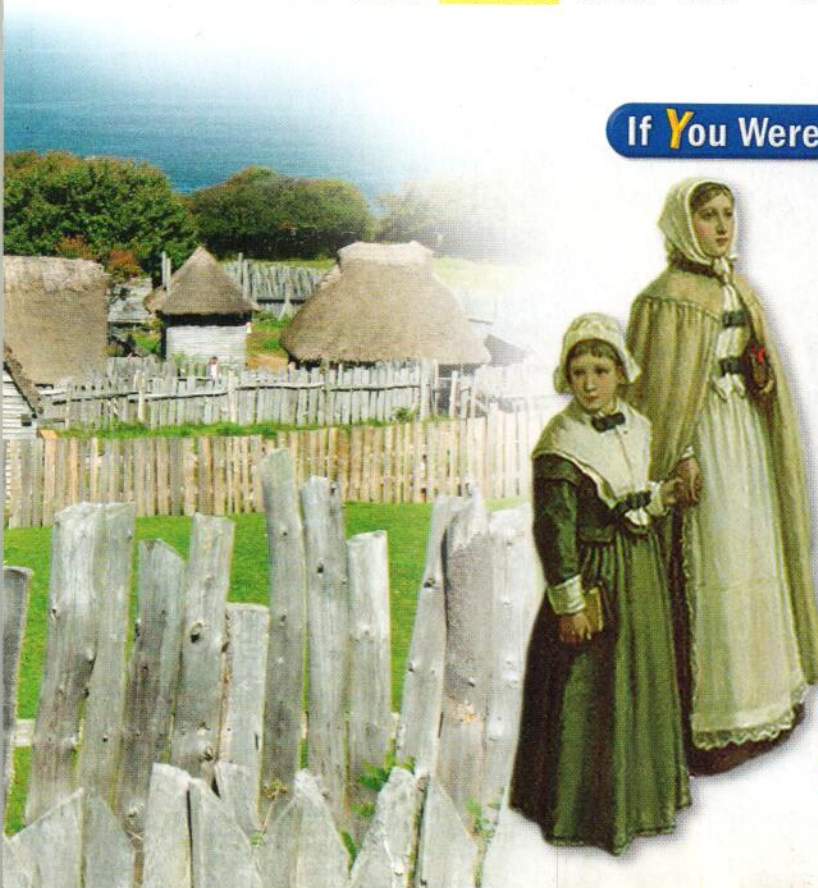
The Separatists considered themselves **Pilgrims** because their journey had a religious purpose. Only 35 of the 102 passengers who boarded the *Mayflower* in September 1620 were Pilgrims. The others were called "strangers." They were common people—servants, craftspeople, and poor farmers—who hoped to find a better life in America. Because Pilgrim beliefs shaped life in the Plymouth colony, however, all the early settlers are usually called Pilgrims.

If You Were There A Teenage Pilgrim Girl

Creating a Home As a teenage Pilgrim girl, you help your mother cook, keep house, do laundry, and raise the younger children. When the men and boys eat their meals, you stand quietly behind the table. At a church gathering, you cannot talk, and you must keep your head covered with a bonnet when in public. You are taught to read, but not to write. Your clothes are usually a full skirt, an apron, and an upper garment with long sleeves—much like your mother wears.

Critical Thinking

Making Connections How does the life of a Pilgrim teenager compare to your life today?



The Mayflower Compact

The *Mayflower's* passengers planned to settle in the Virginia colony. The first land they sighted was Cape Cod, well north of their target. It was November, and winter was fast approaching. The colonists decided to drop anchor in Cape Cod Bay. They went ashore on a cold, bleak day in December at a place called Plymouth. **William Bradford**, their leader and historian, reported that "all things stared upon them with a weather-beaten face."

Plymouth was outside the territory of the Virginia Company and its laws. Before going ashore, the Pilgrims drew up a formal document, the **Mayflower Compact**. The compact pledged their loyalty to England. It also declared their intention of forming "a civil body politic, for our better ordering and preservation." The signers also promised to obey the laws passed "for the general good of the colony." The Mayflower Compact was a

necessary step in the development of representative government in the new American colonies.

Help From the Native Americans

During their first winter in America, almost half the Pilgrims died of malnutrition, disease, and cold. In the spring, two Native Americans, **Squanto** and Samoset, befriended the colonists.

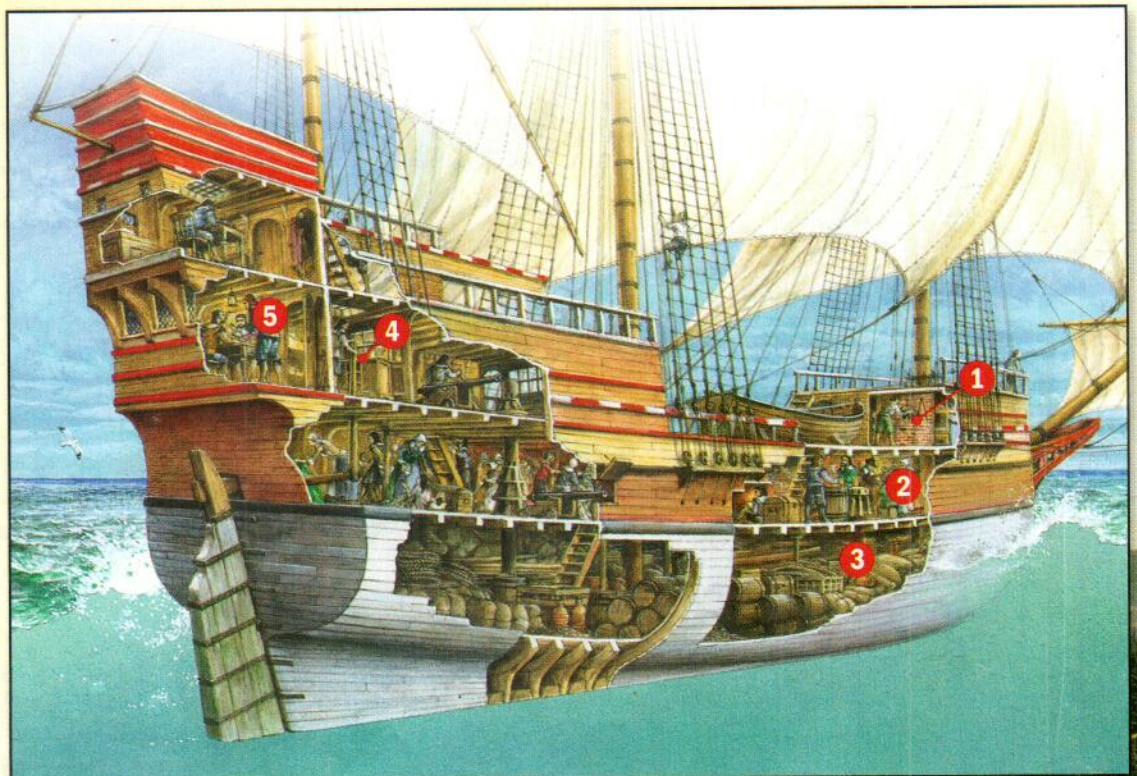
Squanto and Samoset showed the Pilgrims how to grow corn, beans, and pumpkins and where to hunt and fish. Without their help, the Pilgrims might not have survived. Squanto and Samoset also helped the Pilgrims make peace with the Wampanoag people who lived in the area. Massasoit, a Wampanoag leader, signed a treaty with the Pilgrims in March 1621. The two groups lived in harmony.

 **Reading Check** **Analyzing** What was the significance of the Mayflower Compact?

The Mayflower

The Mayflower

In September 1620, 102 passengers set off on the *Mayflower* on the journey across the Atlantic. The 2,750-mile trip took more than two months. In early November, the *Mayflower* reached the shores of America.



New Settlements

Main Idea To escape religious persecution in England, thousands of Puritans migrated to North America and set up new colonies.

History and You How would you react if someone set up camp in your backyard? Read about the conflict between Native Americans and the settlers in New England.

In 1625 Charles I became the king of England. Charles objected to the Puritans' calls for reform in the Anglican Church. Persecution of Puritans within the country increased again. As a result, some Puritans wanted to leave England.

In 1629 a group of Puritans formed the Massachusetts Bay Company. They received a royal charter to establish a colony north of Plymouth. This was the Puritans' chance to create a new society in America—a society based on the Bible.

The company chose **John Winthrop** to be the colony's governor. In 1630 Winthrop led about 900 men, women, and children to Massachusetts Bay. Most of them settled in a place they called Boston.

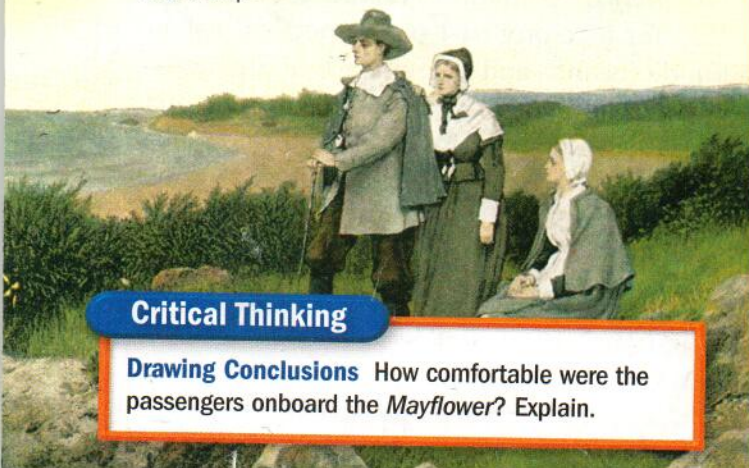
Growth and Government

During the 1630s, more than 15,000 Puritans journeyed to Massachusetts to escape religious persecution and economic hard times in England. This movement of people became known as the Great Migration.

At first John Winthrop and his assistants made the colony's laws. They were chosen by the General Court, which was made up of the colony's stockholders. In 1634 settlers demanded a larger role, or part, in the government. The General Court became an elected assembly. Adult male church members were allowed to vote for the governor and for their town's representatives to the General Court. In later years they also had to own property to vote.

Mayflower Key

- 1 Most of the crew slept in the tiny cabins in the **forecastle**, which also served as the ship's kitchen.
- 2 The *Mayflower* was a supply ship. It was not built to carry passengers. **Tween decks** was where the passengers of the *Mayflower* slept and kept their belongings.
- 3 The **main hold** was the main cargo area. It held most of the ship's stores of food, supplies, and tools.
- 4 The **helmsman** moved a lever called the **whipstaff**, which moved the rudder and steered the ship.
- 5 The **great cabin** was the quarters for the commander of the ship.



Critical Thinking

Drawing Conclusions How comfortable were the passengers onboard the *Mayflower*? Explain.

The New England Colonies

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC



YOU DECIDE

Should government be based on religion?

John Winthrop, a founder of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, believed that the colony should be governed on religious principles. Others, such as Roger Williams, disagreed and were banished from Massachusetts.



YES

JOHN WINTHROP

It is yourselves who have called us to this office, and, being called by you, we have our authority from God. . . . If you stand for your natural corrupt liberties . . . you will not endure the least weight of authority . . . but if you will be satisfied to enjoy such civil and lawful liberties, such as Christ allows you, then will you quietly and cheerfully submit unto that authority which is set over you . . . for your good.

—from “‘Little Speech’ on Liberty”

ROGER WILLIAMS

I . . . only propose this case; There goes many a ship to sea, with many hundred souls in one ship, [which] is a true picture of a commonwealth. . . . It hath fallen out some times, that both Papists [Catholics] and Protestants, Jews and Turks, may be embarked in one ship; upon which supposal, I affirm . . . that none of the Papists, Protestants, Jews, or Turks, be forced to come to the ship’s prayers or worship, or compelled from their own particular prayers or worship.

—from a letter to the town of Providence

NO

DBQ Document-Based Questions

1. **Evaluating** How might Winthrop view people who held different religious views?
2. **Analyzing** Why might Williams have used the image of a ship at sea to make his case for religious freedom?

The Puritans came to America to put their religious beliefs into practice. They had little toleration for different beliefs, however. They criticized or persecuted people of other faiths. This lack of toleration led people to form new colonies in neighboring areas.

Connecticut and Rhode Island

The fertile Connecticut River valley, south of Massachusetts, was better for farming than was the stony soil around Boston. In the 1630s colonists began to settle in this area.

One such colonist, Massachusetts minister Thomas Hooker, grew dissatisfied with the way that Winthrop and other Puritan leaders ran the Massachusetts colony. In 1636 Hooker led his congregation through the wilderness to Connecticut where he founded the town of Hartford. Three years later Hartford and two other towns, Windsor and Wethersfield, formed a colony. They adopted a plan of government called the **Fundamental Orders of Connecticut**. This was the first written constitution in America. It described the organization of representative government in detail.

Good land drew colonists to Connecticut, but Rhode Island was settled by a minister named **Roger Williams** and other colonists who were forced out of Massachusetts. Williams felt that people should not be persecuted for their religious practices and that government should not force people to worship in a certain way. Williams also believed it was wrong for settlers to take land away from the Native Americans.

His ideas caused Massachusetts leaders to banish him in 1635. Williams took refuge with the Narraganset people. They later sold him land, where he founded the town of Providence. Williams received a charter in 1644 for a colony east of Connecticut called Rhode Island and Providence Plantations. With its **policy**—plan of action—of religious toleration, Rhode Island became a safe place for dissenters. It was the first place in America where people of all faiths could worship freely.

Others followed Williams's example, including John Wheelwright, who, in 1638, led a group of dissidents from Massachusetts to the north. They founded the town of Exeter in New Hampshire. Other Puritans settled Hampton the same year. New Hampshire became an independent colony in 1679.

Conflict With Native Americans

Native Americans traded furs for settlers' goods such as iron pots, blankets, and guns. In Virginia the colonists encountered the many tribes of the Powhatan confederacy. In New England the settlers met the Wampanoags, Narragansets, and other groups.

Conflicts arose, however. Usually settlers moved onto Native American lands without permission or payment. Throughout the colonial period, English settlers and Native Americans competed fiercely for the land.

In 1636 war broke out. Two traders were killed in Pequot territory, and Massachusetts sent troops to punish the Pequot. A Pequot attack then killed nine people in Connecticut. In May 1637, troops from Connecticut burned the main Pequot village, killing hundreds.

History ONLINE

Student Web Activity Visit glencoe.com and complete the Chapter 3 Web Activity about King Philip's War.

In 1675 New England went to war against the Wampanoag people and their allies. Metacomet, the Wampanoag chief, was known to settlers as King Philip. He wanted to stop the settlers from moving onto Native American lands. Metacomet tried to form a federation of local peoples, and many New England groups joined with him. The war began after settlers executed three Wampanoags for murder. Metacomet's forces then attacked towns across the region, killing hundreds of people.

The settlers and their Native American allies fought back. King Philip's War, as the conflict was called, ended in defeat for the Wampanoag and their allies. The war destroyed the power of the Native Americans in New England. The colonists were now free to expand their settlements.

Reading Check Identifying Which colony let people of all faiths worship freely?

Section 2 Review

History ONLINE

Study Central™ To review this section, go to glencoe.com.

Vocabulary

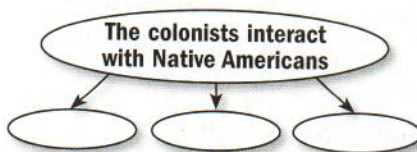
- Use each of these terms in a sentence that will help explain its meaning: *dissent, Puritan, Separatist, Pilgrim, Mayflower Compact, Fundamental Orders of Connecticut, policy.*

Main Ideas

- Explaining** Why did the Pilgrims settle in Cape Cod instead of Virginia?
- Discussing** What was the significance of King Philip's War?

Critical Thinking

- Comparing** What did the Mayflower Compact and the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut have in common?
- Determining Cause and Effect** Use a diagram like the one below to describe the ways in which interactions with Native Americans helped Plymouth colony survive.



- Creative Writing** Create a song that the Pilgrims might have sung as they crossed the Atlantic on the *Mayflower*. Write the lyrics from what you know about why the Pilgrims sailed to North America.

Answer the Essential Question

- Why did the Separatists and Puritans leave England and settle in North America?

America's LITERATURE

Meet the Author

Elizabeth George Speare (1908–1994) based her novel *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* on events in Wethersfield, Connecticut, her home for 20 years. Speare's research into the town's history resulted in the diverse and rich characters at the center of this tale.

Building Background

Elizabeth George Speare used her native New England as the backdrop for many novels. In *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*, Kit leaves her home in Barbados to live with her aunt and uncle in Connecticut. There she befriends a Quaker woman accused of practicing witchcraft. Many authors use plot as the basis of their stories; however, the characters drive the plot in this tale. As you read this excerpt, pay attention to how one character responds to another.

Vocabulary

fatigue tiredness

consternation fear

hysterical very emotional

consorting keeping company

slander speak ill of



THE WITCH OF BLACKBIRD POND

Elizabeth George Speare

Kit busied herself to prepare a meal which none of them could eat. With fingers so heavy from **fatigue** and fear that she could scarcely force them to move, she cleared the table and put away the untouched food. She wondered if ever again she would escape from the sound of that dreadful breathing. Her own

lungs ached with every sighing breath that Mercy drew.

Then without warning a new fear came rushing in upon her. From without the house there was an approaching sound of stamping feet and murmuring voices, gathering volume in the roadway outside. There was a crashing knock on the outer door. The three women's eyes met in **consternation**. Matthew

Wood reached the door in one stride and flung it open.

"How dare you?" he demanded in low-voiced anger. "Know you not there is illness here?"

"Aye, we know right enough," a voice replied.

"There's illness everywhere. We need your help to put a stop to it."

"What do you want?"

"We want you to come along with us. We're going for the witch." . . .

The voices sounded **hysterical**. "We should have run her out long ago."

"Time and again she's been seen **consorting** with the devil down in that meadow!"

"Now she's put a curse on our children. God knows how many more will be dead before morning!" . . .

"You'd better come with us, Matthew. Your own daughter's like to die. You can't deny it."

"I'll have naught to do with it," said Matthew firmly. "I'll hold with no witch hunt."

"You'd better hold with it!" the woman's voice shrilled suddenly. "You'd better look to the witch in your own household!"

"Ask that high and mighty niece of yours where she spends her time!" another woman shouted from the darkness. "Ask her what she knows about your Mercy's sickness!"

The weariness dropped suddenly from Matthew Wood. With his shoulders thrown back he seemed to tower in the doorway.

"Begone from my house!" he roared, his caution drowned in anger. "How dare you speak the

name of a good, God-fearing girl? Any man who **slanders** one of my family has me to reckon with!"

There was a silence. "No harm meant," a man's voice said uneasily. "'Tis only woman's talk."

"If you won't come there's plenty more in the town who will," said another. "What are we wasting our time for?"

The voices receded down the pathway, rising again in the darkness beyond. Matthew bolted the door and turned back to the dumfounded women.

"Did they wake her?" he asked dully.

"No," sighed Rachel. "Even that could not disturb her, poor child."

For a moment, there was no sound but that tortured breathing. Kit had risen to her feet and stood clinging to the table's edge. Now the new fear that was stifling her broke from her lips in an anguished whisper.

"What will they do to her?"

Her aunt looked up in alarm. Matthew's black brows drew together darkly. "What concern is that of yours?"

"I know her!" she cried. "She's just a poor helpless old woman! Oh, please tell me! Will they harm her?"

"This is Connecticut," answered Matthew sternly. "They will abide by the law. They will bring her to trial, I suppose. If she can prove herself innocent she is safe enough."

Analyzing Literature

1. Respond

- How would you describe the tone of this passage?
- What words and phrases evoke this tone?

2. Interpret and Analyze

How do Matthew's emotions change throughout the passage?

3. Evaluate and Predict

- What can you conclude about Matthew after reading this passage?
- Based on Matthew's final comment, what action do you think the townspeople will take?