

Plymouth Colony



Separatists

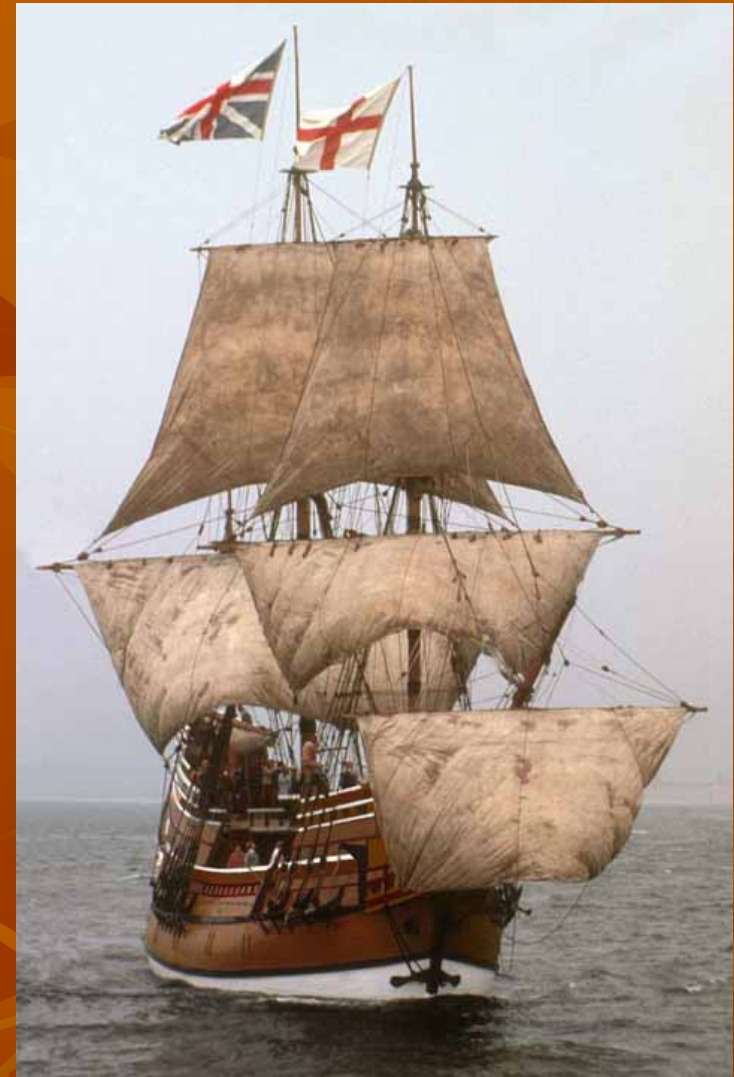
- Protestants in England were unsatisfied with the Anglican Church (Church of England)
 - Puritans – wanted to purify, or reform, the church
 - Separatists – wanted to separate from, or leave, the church
 - One group of Separatists became known as the Pilgrims

The Pilgrims

- The Pilgrims immigrated to the Netherlands
 - The Dutch were very open to religious freedom
 - Their group grew to over 500
 - The Pilgrims, however, were fearful of their children losing their English customs and being influenced by the pleasure loving Dutch
 - Decided to immigrate to America to practice their religion and educate their children the way they pleased

New Beginnings

- Joint stock company formed to fund passage to America
 - Included many non-pilgrim members
 - Only 35 of original 102 passengers were Pilgrims
 - Received charter from Virginia company to settle at the mouth of the Hudson River
 - Left England on the Mayflower on Sept 16th, 1620



Land Ho!

- The Mayflower arrived at Provincetown Harbor on Nov. 20, 1620
 - Much farther north than expected
 - Outside the Virginia Company's Charter
 - Needed to devise a system of government, order
 - Mayflower Compact
 - One of the first attempts at self-government
 - Created a foundation for republican government
 - Colonists would create a government that would form laws, ordinances, etc for the good of the colony and all would obey



Exploration



- Captain Miles Standish and William Bradford led an expedition to find suitable settlement location
 - Leave most passengers on ship
 - Many grow sick, die
 - Spend approx. one month scouting the land
 - Raid deserted Indian village
 - Discover corn, graves
 - First encounter with Natives led to shots being exchanged.
 - Decided on Plymouth Harbor

Plymouth Rock



- Pilgrims land in Plymouth Harbor on December 21, 1620
 - Rocky soil, heavily wooded
 - Build settlement next to abandoned Indian Village
 - Already cleared for farming
 - Construction begins shortly after
 - Clearing trees
 - First building was common building/meeting house
 - Log walls, grass roof
 - Each family responsible for building their own home
 - 7 homes, 4 “hospitals” built by February
 - Winter was extremely harsh
 - Nearly ½ of colonists died

Plymouth Colony



INDIAN TRAIL

Abandoned
Indian
Village

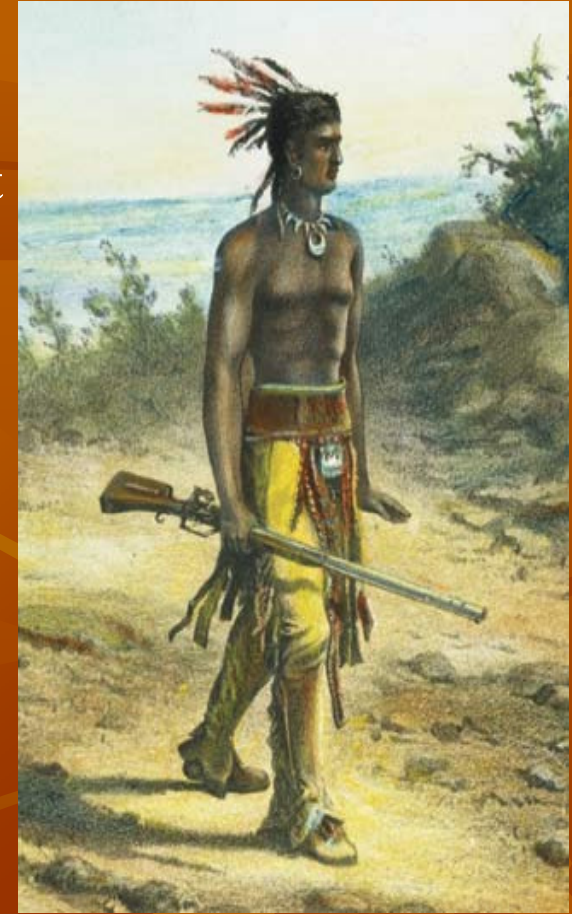
Plymouth Colony
(1620)

Plymouth Bay



Indian Encounter

- On March 16th, 1621 a Wampanoag Indian named Samoset wanders into camp and says “Welcome Englishmen!”
 - Introduces Pilgrims to Squanto & Chief Massasoit
- Squanto had been abducted by English explorers in 1605 then returned & again by fisherman 1614
 - Sold into slavery in Europe
 - Became fluent in English
 - Returned to America in 1619 with fishing party
 - His tribe (Patuxet) had died of disease while in Europe
 - Taken in by Wampanoag
 - Teaches Pilgrims survival techniques
 - Fishing – Farming – Fertilizing
- Later that month, the Pilgrims and Wampanoag form a peace treaty
 - Lasted 55 years (until 1676)



First “Thanksgiving”

- In the fall of 1621, the Pilgrims invited the Wampanoag tribe to celebrate their first successful harvest
 - 51 Pilgrims, 90 Wampanoag warriors
 - 3 days of feasting
 - Turkey, fish, duck, deer
 - Various games
 - Archery, guns, etc.



Absorption

- Other English colonists began settling the area in 1630
 - The Massachusetts Bay Colony soon became wildly successful
 - Thousands arrived to settle in area
- In 1691, Plymouth Colony was officially absorbed into the Massachusetts Bay Colony

