

Name _____ Date _____

WHO WERE THE PILGRIMS?



Many of the Pilgrims were a group of people who originally moved from England to Holland in 1608. They were called “Separatists”. They disagreed with the Church of England, and they wanted to worship as they pleased. They liked living in Holland, but they had some trouble with money, they were not allowed to be independent, and their children were learning to speak Dutch, the language of the people of Holland. Some of them decided to move to America.

On September 16th, 1620, the Separatists from Holland and another group of Separatists from England set sail to move to America. They sailed on a ship called the *Mayflower*. It was a long trip. Many people became sick, and one person died.

Finally, on November 19th, 1620, the Pilgrims saw land. They dropped anchor on November 21st, and they set up their new home in America on December 21st.

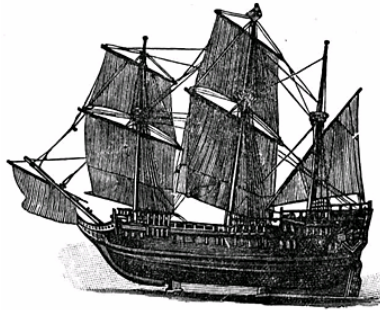
ANSWER THE QUESTIONS ABOUT *WHO WERE THE PILGRIMS?*

1. Why did the Pilgrims leave England? _____

2. How did the Pilgrims travel to America? _____

3. When did the Pilgrims first see America? _____

THE *MAYFLOWER*



The *Mayflower* was the ship that carried the Pilgrims from England to America in 1620. Not very much is known for certain about the ship. The wooden ship was built around 1609. It probably measured 110 feet long and 64 feet wide. It weighed more than 180 tons. It is believed that the *Mayflower* had two decks.

Captain Christopher Jones was in charge of the *Mayflower* during the Pilgrims' voyage to America. Some records show that he owned one-fourth of the ship.

The *Mayflower* carried 102 passengers to America on its famous voyage. The *Mayflower* made other voyages after its return to England, but as a trading ship, rather than a passenger ship. It is not known what happened to the ship after its last voyage. It was in bad condition and may have been sold for scrap wood.

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS:

1. Who was in charge of the *Mayflower* during the Pilgrim's voyage?

2. How large was the *Mayflower*? _____

3. How many passengers were on the *Mayflower*? _____

THE MAYFLOWER COMPACT



After land was sighted on November 19, 1620, a meeting was held on board the *Mayflower*. This meeting was held to agree on a set of rules all Pilgrims should follow. The Pilgrims had thought that they were going to land somewhere that had a government, but they didn't land where they had meant to land. Without a government, the Pilgrims might have started fighting with each other. They needed to get along in order to survive. It was important to have rules, and for everyone to follow the rules when the Pilgrims left the *Mayflower*.

A document, which was later called the "Mayflower Compact", was used to set up a government (under the King of England). The original Mayflower Compact doesn't exist anymore. We know about it because of the diaries that the Pilgrims kept. It has been reported that 41 men signed this agreement.

**ANSWER THE QUESTIONS ABOUT *THE MAYFLOWER COMPACT*.
WRITE *TRUE* OR *FALSE* NEXT TO EACH SENTENCE.**

1. _____ The Mayflower Compact was written in England.
2. _____ Forty-one men and women signed the Mayflower Compact.
3. _____ The Mayflower Compact was a set of rules for the Pilgrims to follow.
4. _____ The Mayflower Compact helped set up a new government with a president instead of a king.
5. _____ The Pilgrims believed that without rules, the colony would not survive.

THE FIRST YEAR



The first year that the Pilgrims lived in America was very difficult for them. It was already winter when they arrived, and the weather was bad. Homes had to be built to protect them from the cold. The Pilgrims worked hard to find building materials, such as wood. They had to build their homes with tools they had brought with them on their trip. The homes usually had only one room. The adults in the family had a bed. Children slept on bedrolls. There was an area for cooking. There was very little furniture. The floors were made of dirt.

Vegetables had to be grown in a garden. The Pilgrims arrived too late the first year to plant many vegetables, and survived mostly by eating foods they had brought with them, and by hunting deer, birds, and fish. The Pilgrims had to work very hard their first year in America. Not everyone survived that difficult time. After the difficult voyage and the harsh winter, about half of the Pilgrims died.

Name _____ Date _____

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS ABOUT *THE FIRST YEAR*:

1. Pilgrim homes were made of _____.
 - a. wood
 - b. steel
 - c. brick
 - d. dirt

2. Most homes had _____.
 - a. two floors
 - b. one room
 - c. brick floors
 - d. none of these

3. The Pilgrims had to _____.
 - a. hire people to build their homes
 - b. use the tools they brought with them
 - c. buy a house when they arrived in America
 - d. both a and c

4. Which of the following IS true?
 - a. Most Pilgrims had their food sent from London.
 - b. Women hunted for small animals.
 - c. The Pilgrims survived on meat and foods they had brought with them.
 - d. all of these

5. It was important for the Pilgrims to build homes quickly because _____.
 - a. it was very hot.
 - b. they liked building things.
 - c. they needed protection from the cold.
 - d. both a and b

6. What is the purpose of this passage?
 - a. to entertain
 - b. to persuade
 - c. to inform
 - d. none of these

Name _____ Date _____

SQUANTO



Half of the Pilgrims who had come to Plymouth were dead at the end of the first winter. The Pilgrims would probably not have survived a second winter in America without the help of the Native Americans. They were very helpful to the Pilgrims. The knowledge they shared with the Pilgrims helped them a great deal.

One Native American who helped the Pilgrims was called Tisquantum. They called him “Squanto” as a nickname. Squanto had been a member of the Patuxet tribe. He traveled to England in about 1605, and learned English. According to one report, he worked as an interpreter for sea captains. In 1614, he was working with Captain John Smith mapping the New England coast when he was kidnapped by another English captain. Squanto was taken to Spain to be sold as a slave. He managed to escape to England. He returned to America in 1619 with Captain Thomas Dermer, intending to help re-start trade with the tribes along the coastline. Sadly, while Squanto had been in England, the Patuxet tribe had been wiped out, probably by a disease called smallpox. Squanto joined a local Wampanoag tribe.

In March 1621, the Pilgrims met Squanto. He immediately helped with a peace treaty between the Wampanoag tribe and the Pilgrims.

Squanto became a friend of the Pilgrims, and lived with them at Plymouth Colony. He showed them how to plant corn, and how to find fish and hunt for food. The Pilgrims would probably have starved without his help.

Squanto died in 1622 from a fever he caught while on a trading expedition.

Name _____ Date _____

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS ABOUT *SQUANTO*

1. Who was Squanto? _____

2. Where did Squanto learn to speak English? _____

3. When did Squanto first travel to England? _____

4. Why did Squanto return to America after his first visit to England?

5. Why did Squanto return to England after working with John Smith?

6. In what ways did Squanto help the Pilgrims? _____

Name _____ Date _____

THE FIRST THANKSGIVING



In 1621, the Pilgrims had much to celebrate. They had been successful at building homes for shelter, they had raised enough crops to see them through a long winter, and they were on good terms with the Native Americans.

The Pilgrims had a big party. It was attended by the colonists and their neighbors, the Wampanoag tribe. The celebration lasted for three days. Squanto and about ninety other Native Americans attended.

There was plenty of food for all to enjoy. The Pilgrims and the Wampanoag tribe played games, ran races, marched and played drums during the celebration. The Wampanoag showed their skills with the bow and arrow. The Pilgrims demonstrated their musket skills.

This day of celebration between Pilgrims and Wampanoag is generally known now as “the first Thanksgiving.” It was not declared as a thanksgiving celebration at the time, and it was not the first such party. Nevertheless, the story of hardship, friendship, and survival is very important to many people in the United States.

In honor of this celebration, about two hundred years later, President Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation designating a national day of Thanksgiving. Americans have enjoyed this national holiday since 1863. Thanksgiving Day is celebrated in the United States on the fourth Thursday of every November.

Name _____ Date _____

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS ABOUT *THE FIRST THANKSGIVING*:

1. What did the Pilgrims have to celebrate? _____

2. Who attended the celebration in 1621? _____

3. Describe the 1621 celebration. _____

4. How did Thanksgiving become a national holiday? _____

5. When is Thanksgiving celebrated in the United States now? _____

Name _____ Date _____

ANSWER PAGE:

WHO WERE THE PILGRIMS?

1. They wanted to worship as they pleased.
2. They traveled on the *Mayflower*.
3. November 19, 1620

THE MAYFLOWER

1. Captain Christopher Jones
2. 110 ten feet long, 64 feet wide; weight 180 tons
3. 102

THE MAYFLOWER COMPACT

1. False
2. False
3. True
4. True
5. True

THE FIRST YEAR

1. a
2. b
3. b
4. c
5. c
6. c

SQUANTO

1. Squanto was a Native American, a member of the Patuxet tribe.
2. He learned English in England.
3. He first traveled to England in 1605.
4. He returned to help map the New England coastline.
5. He was kidnapped to be sold as a slave.
6. He helped with a peace treaty with the local tribe; he taught the Pilgrims to plant, hunt, and fish.

THE FIRST THANKSGIVING

1. They had survived the cold winter, built homes, had a good harvest, and were on good terms with the Native Americans.
2. The Pilgrims and about ninety Native Americans attended the celebration.
3. President Lincoln declared Thanksgiving a national holiday in 1863.
4. Answers will vary
5. It is celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November.