

# PLYMOUTH POWERPOINT

Lesson and  
Note Sheet



In 1534 King Henry VIII banned the Catholic Church in England and replaced it with the Church of England.

This made life much harder for the Catholics still living in England. Years later a group of Catholics decided to leave England and seek religious freedom in another place.

A group of them went to the Netherlands in 1607, but after years of living there they realized that it was not a good fit.



The group decided that they needed to establish their own colony where they could practice their own religion without being persecuted. They became known as the Pilgrims because, they were taking a journey for a religious purpose.



They found a group of businessmen, called the Virginia Company, to sponsor their voyage to the New World. When the colonists arrived in the New World they would have to ship lumber and furs back to England to repay their debt.



On September 6<sup>th</sup>, 1620 the group of 102 Pilgrims set sail from England in hopes of landing in Virginia.

They sailed on a ship called the Mayflower. Their trip was long and arduous. The Pilgrims spent most of their days in the dark and dusty hull of the ship.

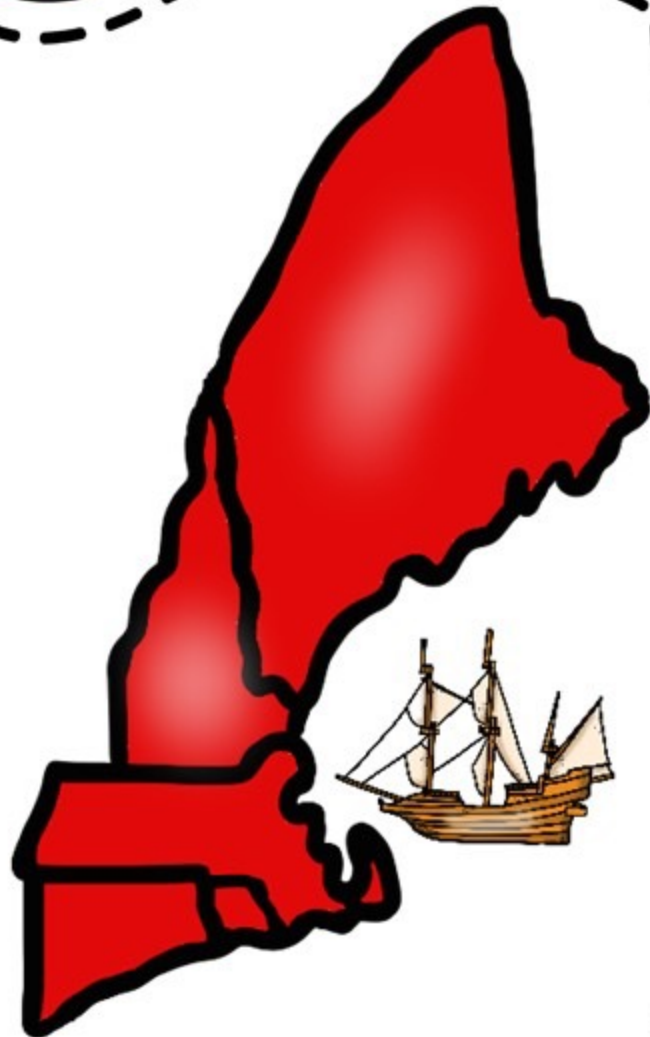
A storm arose about half way through their trip across the Atlantic Ocean. The powerful storm blew the Mayflower and her passengers off course, forcing them towards Massachusetts.

# Mayflower



The Pilgrims reached the Cape Cod area of Massachusetts on November 11<sup>th</sup>, 1620. On this date they also made the decision to sign a document called the Mayflower Compact.

In this document the Pilgrims outlined their laws and rules for the new colony, ensuring all colonists would abide by them. The agreement also contained the ideas of self government and majority rule. Each was an important piece of new found freedom for the weary Pilgrims.



The Pilgrims reached Plymouth Harbor on December 16<sup>th</sup>, 1620. They begin to build a fort, homes and their own colony.

The winter of 1620 - 1621 is very harsh and terribly hard for the Pilgrims. Of the 102 original settlers only about half of them are still alive when spring arrives in April of 1621.

The crew of the Mayflower sails the ship back to England leaving the new colonists to survive on their own.



At their darkest moment, help comes from the most unlikely allies.

Two Native American men, Samoset and Tisquantum, or Squanto as the English called him, began to teach the Pilgrims how to hunt, where to fish and what crops to plant.

The Pilgrims also began to trade with the nearby Wampanoag tribe. The Pilgrims often traded metals and cloths to the tribes in exchange for furs that they could send back to England.



The Pilgrims and Wampanoag were both benefitting from their trading arrangement and peaceful interactions.

In the fall of 1621 a celebration was had during the harvest of crops in both settlements. It became known as the First Thanksgiving.

The Pilgrims wanted to give thanks for the bountiful harvest that they had brought in after such a meager and sad year before. They also wanted to thank the Native Americans that helped them learn how to farm, fish and hunt in their new colony of Plymouth.

