

Name _____

Date _____

Pilgrims

During the early 1600's, there was an ongoing religious conflict in Europe. There was a group of people who adamantly disagreed with the Church of England and they were called "Separatists" because they wanted to separate completely from the Church of England. Those who desired this separation were often persecuted and even put to death. After deciding that the situation in England was intolerable and desiring a safe place to live and to freely worship God, men, women and children from England fled to Holland.

Though those who fled to Holland had religious freedom in Holland, their living conditions were tough. Low paying jobs caused the children to have to go to work to help out their parents. There were also concerns by the English of the way in which the Dutch lived and there was a concern by parents of the way that their children were being influenced by the Dutch culture.

Therefore, because of dire circumstances, it was decided that a group would set sail to the New World, known today as the United States of America. This group of people is who we are referring to when we talk about the Pilgrims. First, they sailed from Holland to England. In England, they boarded the Mayflower. There were 102 passengers aboard as they made their way to make a new life in America.

After enduring several storms at sea, the Pilgrims arrived two months later in the New World and settled the Plymouth Colony in 1620. But before they got off the ship, the Pilgrims wrote the Mayflower Compact which became the constitution of Plymouth Colony. After anchoring in a safe harbor, they sent out a group of men to explore the land.

By the grace of God, during their expedition they came upon a deserted area in which they found two baskets of corn. After surveying the land, the Pilgrims finally decided on an area to settle which by now was late December.

In desperate need of protection from the harsh winter, the Pilgrims immediately began to build their homes. Between the cold winter conditions and sickness, some of the Pilgrims didn't make it through their first winter. But for those who endured, the spring of 1621 brought hope and opportunity. The Pilgrims worked on garden plots and planted the corn that they had found in their first exploration.

One day, an Indian named Samoset came to visit the Pilgrims. Samoset spoke English, to the surprise of the Pilgrims. Another Indian named Squanto was also brought into friendly relations with the Pilgrims. It was Squanto who taught the Pilgrims how to use dead fish to fertilize their crops such as corn, beans and pumpkins and hunt wild game. Squanto also helped establish friendly relations between some of the Indian tribes and the Pilgrims. Eventually, this provided an opportunity for trading to take place between the two groups.

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Pilgrims (Cont'd)

In spite of all that the Pilgrims had endured, they found reasons to be thankful to God. God had given them safety on their trip overseas, He had given them corn in an unexpected way, had given them health and strength to endure, and had provided them with Indians who not only spoke their language but who helped them survive.

In their thankfulness, the Pilgrims and Indians came together and enjoyed a feast of venison, duck, turkey, wild plums, and berries. In addition to the feast, they partook in games and competitions. This time of feasting and giving thanks to God has become a tradition in the United States. Each year in November, Americans celebrate a day of thanksgiving, a remembrance and a giving of thanks for what God has done and continues to do.

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Pilgrims Questions

1. Who were the Separatists?

2. Fleeing England, where did the Separatists go?

3. Why did they flee England? _____
4. Give 1 reason why the English decided to leave Holland.

5. Wanting to leave Holland, where did they plan to go?

6. In England, the Pilgrims boarded the

7. How many passengers were on board?

8. What document did the Pilgrims write on the ship before they arrived in America?

9. What did the first group of explorers find?

10. Who were the two Indians that came and spoke to the Pilgrims?

11. What did they teach the Pilgrims?

12. In the feast of Thanksgiving, who was the Pilgrims grateful to?

13. Why do Americans celebrate Thanksgiving?

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Pilgrims Answers

1. Who were the Separatists? **people who adamantly disagreed with the Church of England**
2. Fleeing England, where did the Separatists go? **Holland**
3. Why did they flee England? **They wanted religious freedom**
4. After living in Holland for years, give 1 reason why the English decided to leave Holland. **Low paying jobs caused the children to have to go to work to help out their parents. There were also concerns by the English of the way in which the Dutch lived and there was a concern by parents of the way that their children were being influenced by the Dutch culture.**
5. Wanting to leave Holland, where did they plan to go? **The New World, America**
6. In England, the Pilgrims boarded the **Mayflower**
7. How many passengers were on board? **102**
8. What document did the Pilgrims write on the ship before they arrived in America?
Mayflower Compact
9. What did the first group of explorers find? **2 baskets of corn**
10. Who were the two Indians that came and spoke to the Pilgrims? **Samoset and Squanto**
11. What did they teach the Pilgrims? **How to use dead fish to fertilize their crops such as corn, beans and pumpkins and hunt wild game.**
12. In the feast of Thanksgiving, who was the Pilgrims grateful to? **God**
13. Why do Americans celebrate Thanksgiving? **Each year in November, Americans celebrate a day of thanksgiving, a remembrance and a giving of thanks for what God has done and continues to do.**