

**The Pilgrim Fathers**

In Plymouth, England, in 1620 one hundred people boarded the ‘Mayflower’ sailing for the New World. These people were the Pilgrim Fathers. The Pilgrim Fathers saw little chance of England becoming a country in which they wished to live. They viewed it as un-Godly and moving from a bad to worse state. The Pilgrim Fathers believed that a new start in the New World was their only chance. A lot of the discussions about where they should sail to, the journey across the Atlantic to the New World and the initial problems experienced by the Pilgrim Fathers are contained in a diary written by William Bradford.

“The place they thought of was one of those vast and unpeopled countries of America, which are fruitful and fit for living. There are only savage men, just like wild beasts. This idea led to many and different opinions. But, after many things were said, it was agreed by the major part to carry it out. Some were keen for Guiana, or some of those fertile places in those hot climates. Others were for some part of Virginia.

After they had enjoyed fair winds and weather for a time, they met cross winds and many fierce storms. With these the ship was greatly shaken, and her upper decks made very leaky. In many of these storms, winds were so fierce and the seas so high that they could not carry a scrap of sail. In one of them, a young man called John Howland, coming for some reason upon deck, was thrown into the sea. But, it pleased God that he caught hold of the topsail ropes, which hung overboard and ran out at length.”

On November 9th, 1620, the ‘Mayflower’ sighted what is now Cape Cod. Despite seeing land, the crew of the ‘Mayflower’ searched for another month to find somewhere to land. Where they finally landed was called New Plymouth. On December 25th, after finding a place where the ‘Mayflower’ could be safely anchored, the Pilgrim Fathers began to build the first house for common use. Bradford described in his diary how the “foulness” of winter affected all and that many became sick. By February 1621, Bradford claimed that 50% of the Pilgrim Fathers had died as a result of the cold weather and the inadequate housing that they had built for themselves.

A Native American called Squanto helped those Pilgrim Fathers who survived the harsh winter. He showed them how to sow maize and how to cultivate the crop. Bradford claimed that seeds brought from England were of little use in their new environment. By the summer of 1621, the Pilgrim Fathers had built houses for themselves and had gathered up a small harvest. Bradford claimed that: “They were well recovered in health and strength, and had all things in good plenty. For, as some were working in the fields, others took part in fishing. Of these, they stored many, a large amount of which every family had its share. All the summer there was of no want. And then began to arrive flocks of duck and geese.”

However, not all Native Americans were friendly. As a result, a wooden fence with watchtowers surrounded the homes that had been built and the gates in the fence were locked at night. By 1622 the Pilgrim Fathers had built a fort to protect themselves. It also served as a meeting place to discuss issues of government within the new colony. Over the next few years, as life for Puritans became more uncomfortable in England, more and more made the journey across the Atlantic. By 1630, their numbers were such that the Puritans were able to establish the Massachusetts Bay Company and establish Boston, which was to grow as a major port. Despite the problems of 1620, the Puritans founded colonies that thrived and their success depended on fishing, shipbuilding, trade and farming.

Source (Adapted): <http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/The-Pilgrim-Fathers.htm>

**Annotations :**

<b>initial (adj.)</b>	anfänglich	<b>claim (v.)</b>	behaupten
<b>experience (v.)</b>	erfahren, erleben	<b>seed (n.)</b>	Saatkorn
<b>contain (v.)</b>	beinhalten	<b>gather (v.)</b>	sammeln
<b>savage (adj.)</b>	wild	<b>harvest (n.) Ernte</b>	
<b>fertile (adj.)</b>	fruchtbar	<b>recover (v.)</b>	(sich) erholen
<b>Guiana (n.)</b>	territory in West Africa	<b>plenty (n.)</b>	Vielzahl

<b>fierce (adj.)</b>	heftig, wild	<b>store (v.)</b>	lagern
<b>rope (n.)</b>	Seil, Tau	<b>want (n.)</b>	Mangel
<b>sight (n.)</b>	sichten	<b>flock (n.)</b>	Schar
<b>despite (prep.)</b>	trotz	<b>however (adv.)</b>	aber, jedoch
<b>anchor (v.)</b>	ankern	<b>result (n.) Ergebnis</b>	
<b>inadequate (adj.)</b>	unzureichend	<b>issue (n.)</b>	Angelegenheit
<b>sow, sowed, sown (v.)</b>	säen	<b>establish (v.)</b>	gründen, einrichten
<b>cultivate (v.)</b>	anbauen, ziehen	<b>thrive (v.)</b>	gedeihen, blühen

### The Puritans, Text I

The term "Puritan" first began as a taunt used by traditional Anglicans [i.e. members of the established Church of England] to those who criticized or wished to "purify" the Church of England. Although the word is often used loosely, "Puritan" refers to two groups: "separating" Puritans, such as the Plymouth colonists, who believed that the Church of England was corrupt and that true Christians must separate themselves from it; and non-separating Puritans, such as the colonists who settled the Massachusetts Bay Colony, who believed in reform but not separation. Most Massachusetts colonists were non-separating Puritans who wished to reform the established church, largely Congregationalists who believed in forming churches through voluntary compacts. The idea of compacts or covenants was central to the Puritans' idea of social, political, and religious organizations.

Source (adapted): <http://public.wsu.edu/~campbelld/amlit/purdef.htm>

#### Annotations :

<b>taunt (n.)</b>	Verhöhnung	<b>refer to (v.)</b>	sich beziehen auf
<b>established (adj.)</b>	offiziell	<b>separate (v.)</b>	trennen
<b>purify (v.)</b>	reinigen	<b>voluntary (adj.)</b>	freiwillig
<b>loose (adj.)</b>	lose, ungebunden	<b>compact (n.)</b>	Vertrag

### The Puritans, Text II

About 1563 AD, some people in England decided that they wanted to follow a way of life that they thought would be more according to what the Christian God wanted. They called themselves "the godly", but other people called them "Puritans."

If they lived this way, Puritan people thought it would help them get into Heaven. Mainly these people wanted to live quiet, simple lives, spending a lot of their time praying, reading the Bible (which had just been translated into English), and listening to sermons. Puritans wore plain clothes and lived in plain houses. They went to church a lot (all day on Sundays and often on other days too). They thought that God wanted them to work very hard and be very serious. Puritans did not have parties. They did not listen to music, or dance. They did not celebrate holidays, not even Christmas or Easter.

Like other people who had different religious ideas from their neighbors, the Puritans got into trouble in England. King Charles I had some Puritans killed. So some of the Puritans decided to leave England and start a new town in North America. In 1630 AD, the first Puritans came to Massachusetts to start a colony there. These Puritans were mostly richer and more educated than the Pilgrims who had come to North America on the Mayflower in 1620 and who shared similar ideas as the Puritans. They established schools and colleges, including Harvard College. The poet Anne Bradstreet and the midwife Anne Hutchinson, for example, were among these educated Puritans.

Source (adapted) : <http://www.historyforkids.org/learn/northamerica/after1500/religion/puritans.htm>

#### Annotations :

<b>accord (v.)</b>	übereinstimmen	<b>college (n.)</b>	Universität
<b>pray (v.)</b>	beten	<b>poet (n.)</b>	Dichter(in)
<b>plain (adj.)</b>	einfach	<b>midwife (n.)</b>	Hebamme
<b>similar (adj.)</b>	gleich	<b>educate (v.)</b>	erziehen, bilden