

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

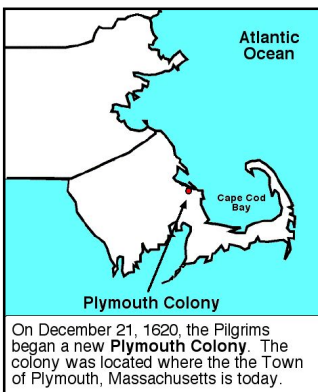
Notes/Reading: Let's get to know the Pilgrims of Plymouth, Massachusetts!

Pilgrim = someone who makes a journey for a religious purpose.

Thirteen years after Jamestown was established, another group of English settlers arrived in what is today Massachusetts. They called themselves Pilgrims. Pilgrims were **Separatists** – a religious group that did not agree with the official Church of England and wanted to “separate” from it. They were persecuted for their religion in England. They made an agreement with the Virginia Company to settle in North America. The company would supply the supplies and a ship, and the Pilgrims were supposed to send the company furs and crops for seven years.

The Pilgrims' leader was **William Bradford**. The group set sail on the *Mayflower* on September 6, 1620. Unlike the Jamestown settlers, the Pilgrims were NOT all men. Instead, they traveled to America with their whole families. Not all of the passengers on the *Mayflower* were Pilgrims. About half were “Strangers” with no connection to the Pilgrims.

Check for understanding: Why would they want to bring their whole families? What does this tell you about their reasons for going to the New World?



The Pilgrims and other passengers had planned to sail to the mouth of the Hudson River (where New York City is today). *This is north of Jamestown, Virginia* But the ship arrived near Cape Cod (present-day Massachusetts) on November 11, 1620. The captain decided to stay in Cape Cod rather than sail south through dangerous coastal waters. This almost caused a mutiny among the Strangers! Because they were so far from other English settlements, the settlers decided to create an agreement called the **Mayflower Compact**. The document was needed in order to maintain a level of law and order while they were away from home. The *Mayflower Compact* was not a constitution or a system of government; it was simply a social contract, or agreement, similar to classroom rules. It established a **base for self-government** (just like in Virginia with the House of Burgesses) because in it the

settlers all agreed to abide by “just and equal laws” created by their chosen leaders.

The Pilgrims chose the site of their settlement, called New Plymouth, and on December 25, 1620, they started building. They were short of food, and they survived partly by stealing dried corn that they found in a concealed storage bin that belonged to local Native Americans. Settlers struggled through the winter, and by spring nearly half of them had died.



The Pilgrims were helped to survive by a local Native American tribe, the Wampanoags. A Native American named Samoset walked into the settlement as the English were beginning to plant a crop of corn. He spoke a little English, and he returned with another, more fluent speaker, Squanto. Squanto had been kidnapped and sold into slavery in Spain in 1614. When he returned to New England in 1619, his village had been abandoned. Squanto showed the English settlers how to use Native American farming techniques and helped negotiate a treaty between the English and Wampanoag chief,

Massasoit, in 1621. Massasoit saw friendship with the English partly as a way to get trade goods from the English to gain bargaining power among other local Indian peoples.

Summary Question: So far, what SIMILARITIES and DIFFERENCES do you notice between the Plymouth colonists and the Jamestown colonists?

Note: Information on this handout quoted and adapted from: HISD curriculum materials and Lombard, Anne and Richard Middleton. *Colonial America: A History to 1763*. Malden, Massachusetts: John Wiley & Sons, 2007. Print.

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Homework: Comparing Early Settlements: Jamestown and Plymouth

Directions:

1. Fill in all the blanks in the chart below by using notes from class.
2. On the back, answer the question in a well-developed paragraph.

	Jamestown	Plymouth
Year founded:		
Location / Environment / climate affects economies and societies:		Plymouth, Massachusetts; thin rocky soil = not good for big-time farming, turn to cutting timber, shipbuilding, trade
Type / number of settlers:		35 Pilgrims, 102 total settlers, men and women
Reason for settlement?		
Hardships:		
Relations with Natives:		
Names to know (important people):		
Slavery:		Slavery existed in all 13 colonies, but was used more heavily in the Southern colonies.
Basis for Representative Government:		
Miscellaneous: (anything else)	Tobacco saved it	