# Table of Contents

Who Were the Pilgrims? .................................. 5  
Be a Pilgrim ............................................. 6  
Who Else Went with Them? ............................... 7  
What Was the *Mayflower* Like? ....................... 8  
Life Aboard the *Mayflower* ............................. 9  
How Did The Men Occupy Themselves? .............. 10  
What Did the Women Do All Day? .................... 11  
How Did the Children Spend Their Days? .......... 12  
What Did the Crew Do? ................................ 13  
What Kind of Food Did They Eat? ................... 14  
What Kind of Clothes Did They Wear? .............. 15  
How Did They Keep Clean?/Was Everyone Friends? 17  
Land Ahead!/The Mayflower Compact ................. 18  
Meet the Leaders of the Pilgrims .................... 19  
At Last—On Land! ..................................... 20  
New Friends in the New World ......................... 21  
Massasoit and the Pilgrims Sign a Treaty ........... 22  
Squanto, the Pilgrims’ Best Friend .................... 23  
Life in Plymouth/Men ................................. 24  
Women .................................................. 25  
Children ............................................... 26  
What Were the Pilgrims’ Homes Like? ............... 27  
The Pilgrims Celebrate Their Harvest ............... 28  
Have a Thanksgiving Feast ............................ 29  
Thanksgiving Feast Costumes/Plymouth Prospers .. 30  
Additional Activities ................................ 31  
Bibliography ............................................ 32
Dear Teacher or Parent,

Almost 400 years ago a small group of ordinary people simply wanted the right to worship as they pleased. To gain that right, they had to leave their homeland, many of their friends and family members and most of their possessions behind. They endured the discomforts of a 66-day ocean voyage in a crowded ship over a stormy sea. Reaching land, they struggled through the hardships of a harsh winter and the deaths of half their group. Then, with the help of some friendly natives and a lot of hard work and determination on their own part, they tamed the harsh wilderness and established their own colony. It was a colony where they could not only worship as they pleased but could own their own land and choose their own leaders. It was the first English colony of its kind in America.

This hands-on investigation begins in England in 1620 and takes you on a journey across the Atlantic to the New World. It tells you how and why the Pilgrims landed near Cape Cod and built the colony of Plymouth.

Children will experience the difficult voyage on the Mayflower. They will learn how the Pilgrims dressed, what foods they ate and how they lived aboard ship. They will experience the pride of self-government as they write their own version of the Mayflower Compact. Then they will leave the ship to live on land. As they begin to build their colony, they will meet the friendly natives and learn the value of sharing the land and its resources and of coexisting peacefully.

Live through the very beginning of our American freedoms. Then join in giving thanks for these brave people and their courageous undertaking.

Sincerely,

Elaine Hansen Cleary

Elaine Hansen Cleary
Who Were the Pilgrims?

Almost 400 years ago a small group of farmers lived in the little village of Scrooby, England. A king ruled that country then. His name was King James, and he was also head of the Church of England. This king had very strong beliefs about how to worship God. He said all his subjects must worship his way, too.

Most Englishmen obeyed the king. However, the people of Scrooby had different ideas. They thought people should be free to worship any way they wished, and they wished to worship in a simpler way. The king refused to allow this. So the group decided to leave the king’s church.

They formed their own religious group. They elected their own leaders and worshiped in homes or barns.

Why Did They Leave England?

This made the king very angry. He punished the group in the most terrible ways. He raised their taxes. He told others to insult them. He arrested them for the smallest offense. He put them in prison. He even threatened to kill them. The little group feared for their lives. They decided they must leave England. But where could they go?

Where Did They Go?

Holland was not far away, across the English Channel. People there could worship whatever way they pleased. So, the Pilgrims went there. That was in 1608.

A Pilgrim is someone who makes a long journey for a religious purpose. That’s why we call this group “Pilgrims.”

The Dutch people were nice to them, but the Pilgrims could not find good jobs. After a while their children started acting like their carefree Dutch friends. They decided it was time to move on.

Where Did They Decide to Go Next?

Some of them had heard stories of a whole new world across the Atlantic Ocean. It was called Virginia. Some Englishmen had started a colony there called Jamestown. In Virginia the Pilgrims would be far away from King James. They could live there and worship as they chose.

First, though, the group returned to England. There other friends and family members joined them.

The journey to the strange new wilderness would be long and dangerous. Some men did not take their wives. They were afraid the voyage would be too hard on them. Others left their children behind. They thought they would not be able to survive the trip. In the end, only 19 men, 11 women and 14 children made up the Pilgrim group.
Be a Pilgrim

While you read about the *Mayflower* Pilgrims, it will seem more real if you pretend you are a Pilgrim yourself.

Choose a Name

What identifies you best? Your name, of course. Some of the Pilgrims’ names are ones we still have. Others are different. Children were often named for traits their parents hoped they would have. Others were named for special places or events.

From the list below, choose a name for yourself. Use it when you write letters or journal entries. Use that name in class. (Remember, more than one person can have the same name.)

Male Names

Love, Wrestling, Oceanus, Resolve, Peregrine, Fear, Thomas, Matthew, John, Isaac, Peter, Bartholomew, Francis, William, Samuel, Richard, Stephen, Giles, Joseph, Henry, George, Gilbert, Roger, Oliver.

Female Names

Hope, Faith, Patience, Charity, Desire, Constance, Humility, Remember, Mary, Elinor, Elizabeth, Damaris, Priscilla, Susanna, Dorothy, Bridget, Penelope.

These names were found in Pilgrim records. You might make up others yourself.

Use Pilgrim Words

Four hundred years ago the Pilgrims used some words that sound strange to us.

Pilgrim Words

- espied
- parley
- anon
- breeches
- victuals
- draught
- forced eggs
- cow cumbers
- whortleberries
- pumptions
- sallats
- pipkins

Our Words

- noticed
- talk with
- after a while
- men’s pants
- food
- one swallow
- scrambled eggs
- cucumbers
- blueberries
- pumpkins
- salads
- pots and pans

Others are printed in italics throughout this book. Use them whenever you can.

Spell and Write Differently

Names were often spelled in more than one way. *Plymouth* was also spelled *Plimoth*. Captain Standish’s first name was either *Miles* or *Myles*. Spell your own name differently.

Ways of writing some letters were different, too.

Often the letter *s* looked like *f*. *Soon* would look like *foon*, and *answer* would be *anfwer*. *J* looked like *l*—*Journal* was *Iournal*. Our *v* looked like *u*—*arrive* was *arriue*. The *th* sound was written *y*. A sign for *The Mill* would look like *Ye Mill*. Try using these letters in the words you write.

Constance… I called but thou didn’t anfwer!

I was behind yemill,
writing in my Journal, Peregrine.
Who Else Went with Them?

The Pilgrims were mostly farmers. They knew they would need people with other skills with them. These people would be needed to build homes, and to make barrels and utensils. They would have to hunt animals and tan hides. They would have to help defend the new settlement.

The group finally sailed on September 6, 1620. One hundred twenty passengers and about 25 crew members crowded on board. There were hens, goats, two dogs and a cat as well.

The name of the ship was the *Mayflower*. (That was also the name of a flower that grew in the fields in England.) The Pilgrims boarding it were very excited. They were also very scared.

Discuss Moving to a New Place

What are some reasons people move?  
Has anyone here ever moved to a new place?  
Why did you move?  
Were any friends or relatives left behind?  
How did you feel when you had to leave them?  
Which of your friends do you miss?  
What did you want to know about the new place before you moved there?  
Were you afraid of anything?

You Are a Reporter

Interview passengers boarding the *Mayflower*.

Here are some questions you might ask:

- Why are you leaving England?
- Where are you going?
- How many family members are going with you? Is anyone staying here in England?
- This ship looks pretty old. Are you afraid to sail on it?
- Have you ever been on an ocean voyage?
- What are you bringing with you?

Make up other questions of your own.

How Long the Journey Will Take

It took 66 days to sail from Scrooby to Cape Cod. Draw a big bulletin board map of the Atlantic Ocean showing England to the east and America to the west. Mark Scrooby and Cape Cod. Make a small paper *Mayflower* and move it \( \frac{1}{66} \) of the way across the ocean each day. Easy measurement would be a 66" ocean, moving the ship 1" each day. Remind students that because of storms and varying wind speeds, the ship really didn’t move the same distance each day. Look at a calendar. Note what a long time 66 days really is!
What Was the Mayflower Like?

The *Mayflower* was an old sailing ship. It had been built to carry cargo, not passengers. It had sailed the seas as a merchant ship for many years. The ship measured 90 feet long and 25 feet wide. That was a fairly large ship back then. Three sets of sails swelled from its three masts.

The *Mayflower* had two decks and a cargo hold. The captain lived at one end of the upper deck. The crew lived at the other. There was also a small *galley*, or kitchen. The cook prepared meals for the crew there. The upper deck also had pens for the livestock and an open area. Families of the important passengers had living spaces there, too.

The lower level, or *hold*, was where supplies were stored. There were barrels of dried meat, vegetables, flour and biscuits. There were still more barrels full of water and beer. Each family had one box in which to put their possessions. These boxes were also stored on the lower deck.

The rest of the passengers lived on the middle deck, called ’tween (between) *decks*. A *shallop*, or small boat used for landings, was also housed there. It was damp, dark and crowded. Some of the men had to sleep in the shallop.

Water leaked into the ship’s bottom. Its quarters were damp, too. The wood creaked. Rats scurried around the decks. However, the *Mayflower* smelled better than most ships. As a cargo ship it had carried wine for many years. Some of that wine had leaked out of the barrels onto the floor. It made the floor smell clean and sweet. This covered up the smell of dirt and garbage that most ships had.

The *Mayflower* was too crowded. It lacked many conveniences. It was not at all like the homes the Pilgrims had left behind. The *Mayflower* had difficult living conditions, but it also had hope for a better life for its passengers.

Imagine Living on the Mayflower

What would it be like to live on the *Mayflower*? How crowded would you be? To find out, go out on the playground. Chalk out an area 90' long and 25' wide. Block out an area 30' long and put 25 crew members there. Now block out an area 60' long and put 102 passengers in that area. Sit down on the hard “floor.” Do you have much room? Now lie down on it. Is it comfortable? Could you sleep well there?

Find a room with very dim light and no clocks. Spend the morning in it. Play guessing games, visit quietly or sing songs. Guess when it is time to eat lunch. Are you correct? How hard was it to tell time?

What would it have been like to live under these conditions for 66 days? What would you have minded the most? The least?
Life Aboard the Mayflower

The Pilgrims were sad to be leaving so many friends and family members. They were afraid of the long ocean voyage ahead of them. Nevertheless, they bravely boarded the *Mayflower*. They were determined to make the best of whatever conditions they would have to face. And what conditions they were!

Some of the leading families shared a large cabin. All the other passengers lived in the small area between the top deck and the cargo hold. It was very crowded. They spent most of their days there. They slept there at night. Their beds were lumpy straw mattresses or the hard wooden floor. Sunlight never reached this deck, so it was always quite dark. The air that reached there was damp and cold.

Calm Weather and Seasickness

The first few days of their voyage, the weather was fair. The sea was calm, and the ship made good progress. The Pilgrims, however, were not used to the roll of a ship. Most became violently seasick. The fresh air on the open deck might have helped them feel better. The crew, though, did not want them there. They said the passengers would get in the way of their work. There was a ship’s doctor on board, but he had nothing to cure seasickness. Some of the Pilgrims felt ill for the entire journey!

Storm!

The calm weather did not last long. A few days out there was a terrible storm. High waves smashed against the *Mayflower’s* hull. The wind blew so hard the sails had to be lowered. Passengers were tossed against one another. Rain and waves splashed water on the decks. Cold water leaked down between the decks.

Then there was a frightening noise. One of the ship’s main beams had cracked! The frightened passengers huddled in their quarters. They were afraid the ship would sink and they would drown.

But the *Mayflower* rode out the storm. The Pilgrims had brought a big screw with them for house building. It was used to repair the cracked beam. The sails were raised, and the ship sailed on. The soaked and freezing passengers settled in for the rest of their journey.

Storms followed them most of the way across the Atlantic.
How Did the Men Occupy Themselves?

Back in England most of the men had been farmers. They were used to working long, hard hours in the fields. Some of the others had worked at trades in the towns. They could not do any of this on the Mayflower, of course.

The crew took care of sailing the ship. They did not like the passengers to get in their way. On calm days the men were allowed to walk on the deck. This gave them a little exercise. The rest of their time was spent in their living area. To pass the time they could read, or they might play board games. One game was chess. Another was called Nine Men’s Morris.

The men also met to talk about the journey. They no doubt discussed plans for their new home. What kind of houses would they have? How would they grow food? What rules would they have? What would the weather be like?

Lots of Prayer Services

A great deal of the Pilgrims’ time was spent at prayer services. Every day the men, women and children met to pray and sing psalms. One of the things they often prayed about was that they would reach land safely! On Sunday the services lasted all day.

Only men were allowed to speak at these services. Women and children had to sit very quietly. The only things they were allowed to do were pray and sing.

You Are a Reporter

Interview the men after a month at sea.

Ask questions like:

- Are you still glad you left England?
- Do you feel safe on this old ship?
- How is the food on the ship?
- Are there problems with other passengers?
- How soon do you expect to reach land?
- What is the first thing you plan to do on land?
- What supplies have you brought to use?
- What will you do if you meet Indians?

Play Nine Men’s Morris

Make a big copy of the board below. Two players need nine playing pieces each. (Use beans, stones or pennies.)

Take turns putting one piece at a time where the lines meet. Try to get three pieces in a row, keeping the other player from doing the same. When you do, take one of the other player’s pieces off the board. When all pieces are on the board, move them by sliding them to empty places where the lines meet. Keep trying to get three in a row so you can take the other’s piece. When you have only three pieces left on the board, you may move to an empty space. When one player has only two pieces left, the game is over.

Play Chess

If you don’t know how to play chess, play checkers.
What Did the Women Do All Day?

The women were used to working in the homes and gardens. But on the *Mayflower* there was not much they could do.

They had to take care of their children, of course. This was harder than ever on the ship. The children were used to being very active. Now they had to spend most of their time quietly in their crowded quarters. Mothers had been allowed to bring cradles on board. They comforted their babies by rocking them. They helped older children pass the time, too. They told them stories and made up quiet games.

It was always women’s work to get meals ready. That was no different on the *Mayflower*. When the sea was calm, they prepared warm meals. They fixed rice, peas, porridge or oatmeal, as well as warm salted meat or fish. Most of the time, though, there were storms. Water leaked down to their quarters. It was impossible to have a fire to cook over. Then they had to serve their families cold food. All the meals were very simple and did not taste very good.

There was no set time to eat or sleep. It was so dark where they lived that people slept whenever they felt like it. They ate pretty much whenever they were hungry.

Caring for the family’s clothes took much time on land. However, on the ocean it was very cold and damp. People wore all the clothes they had just to keep warm. And they wore them every day. The clothes got very dirty and sometimes ripped. They could be sewed, but washing them was another story. The only water they had was ocean salt water. Getting clothes clean just had to wait until they landed.

A baby was born during the voyage. The ship’s doctor did not deliver babies. Some of the other women helped the mother give birth. The baby’s father named him Oceanus. (Can you guess why?)

The women also spent time visiting. They talked about their children. They discussed what they were afraid of on this voyage. They told what they hoped for in the new colony. In that time, women were expected to obey their husbands. So, they never questioned the men’s decision to go to the New World. Among themselves, though, they agreed on one thing: No one ever wanted to sail again!

Begin a Diary
Write about daily life on the *Mayflower*. Include your fears and feelings.

Write a Letter
Compose a letter to a friend or family member back in England. Tell him or her what it is like to live on a ship instead of on land.

Make Up a Story
Create a story to tell your children.

Invent a Game
Invent a quiet game for your children.

Mix Salt and Water
Make a mixture of salt and water. Wash a dirty T-shirt in it. Did it get clean? How did it feel when it dried?
How Did the Children Spend Their Days?

In the 1600s children spent more time helping their parents than they did playing. But on the *Mayflower* there was not much to help with. They spent most of their time in their quarters. There was not much room, and the light was very dim.

There were 30 children on board. Only 11 of them were girls. The older girls helped care for the younger children. They might rock the babies or mend torn clothes. They helped get meals ready, too.

The *Mayflower* children could not run around or play active games. When they could go on the upper deck, they were only allowed to walk. They could watch the sailors if they did not get in the way. There were two dogs and a cat on board. They might play with them, but they could not chase them. Mostly the children sat and talked with one another or told stories.

There were no children’s books either. Those who could read well might borrow a book from one of the leaders. Or they could read the Bible. Most families had Bibles. They could sing, too, but only psalms, songs from the Bible.

There were a few quiet games they liked to play. “I Spy” was one of their favorites. Some of the younger children played with marbles. Others had hand puppets they had brought with them. Older children made up riddles or played word games.

A few boys got into mischief and had to be punished. Most children behaved very well—as they were expected to do.

*Mayflower* children got up early and went to bed early. Each day must have passed very slowly!

Play “I Spy”

One person secretly picks out an object all can see. He or she gives the others one clue, such as, “I spy something tall” (or “red” or “rough,” etc.). Others try to guess what it is by asking “yes or no” questions. Whoever guesses correctly chooses the next “I Spy” object.

Write New Words to a Song

To the tune of “On Top of Old Smokey,” write a song and sing it:

“We are on the *Mayflower*, been sailing for days. We can’t run around here, and no games to play.”

Write a second verse to this song.

Make up words to other songs you know.

Play Cat’s Cradle

All you need is string. Learn to play Cat’s Cradle from someone who knows how.

Invent a Mind Game

The children had no toys with them. Think of some games that do not need toys. Examples: Name things that are blue. Name animals with four legs. Name things that fly. Act out something without speaking and have others guess what it is. Make up other games of your own.

Make Up a Riddle

Write your own riddle.
What Did the Crew Do?

Passengers may have had little to do on the *Mayflower*. The crew, though, was very busy keeping the ship afloat and on course.

Some crew members had special jobs.
- The *captain* was in charge of the ship and everyone on it. His orders were always obeyed.
- The *ship’s master* kept track of the speed and distance the ship traveled. He wrote this in a book called a logbook every day.
- The *ship’s surgeon* had nothing for seasickness, but he could cure fevers and repair broken bones.
- The job of the *quartermaster* was to store supplies safely and to guard them.
- A *cooper* made sure all storage barrels stayed in good shape and did not split apart or leak.
- A *carpenter* made needed repairs to anything made of wood.
- A *boatswain* was in charge of keeping the crew busy. He also disciplined those who misbehaved.
- There was a *cook* just for the crew.
- And once land was sighted, the *pilot* steered the ship safely to shore.
- Other crew members worked where they were told. The ship never stopped except when there was a storm. So *seamen* kept watch for four hours at a time at night and day. Some helped with sails and rigging. If a sail ripped, they sewed or patched it. Crew members also cleaned the deck and helped with supplies.

To find their way out on the ocean, officers used the sun and the *Pole Star* (or North Star). Mathematical (arithmetic) tables and instruments called the *cross-staff* and *astrolabe* helped them. The also had a *compass* to use. Crew members wore loose-fitting clothes so they could move around easily. They also wore good woolen hats.

The crew had very little spare time. Torn pants or shirts hard to be sewed. Sometimes they sang jolly songs or told each other stories. Some of the stories were true. Some were made up. They also played games like chess.

All the crew had sailed before so they did not get seasick. They knew what to do, so they were not afraid of storms. Their main goal was to get the passengers safely to where they were headed. They worked very hard to do this.

**Discussion**

If you were a crew member, would you be an officer or a seaman? What would you do?

**Make Up a Story**

Write a story about a sea adventure.

**Use a Compass**

Find north, east, south and west using a compass.

**Star Search**

Go outside with an adult on a clear night. Locate the North Star. (It’s easier to locate if you find the Big Dipper first.)

**Shadow Watching**

Stand in the sun. When you have no shadow you can tell it’s the noon hour. (Use standard time.) Watch your shadow grow as the day gets longer.

**Make a Sundial**

Put a straight stick in the ground to make a sundial. Mark the shadow at different times.
What Kind of Food Did They Eat?

Each family on the *Mayflower* had to prepare its own meals. Meals were very simple. They had brought food supplies with them. Only foods that would not spoil easily could be kept on the ship. Meat and fish were salted. Raisins and prunes were dried. So were peas and beans. There was some oatmeal and rice, too, as well as cheese and butter. But the main food was something called *hardtack*. It was a hard, dry biscuit that had very little taste.

Milk spoils easily, so there was no milk on the ship. There were barrels of water stored on the hold, but it did not stay fresh enough to drink. It could be used only for cooking and for the animals. What did not spoil was beer. That is what all the passengers drank. Even the children drank it, except for the infants, who drank their mothers’ milk.

How Did They Prepare Their Meals?

When the weather was good, they ate warm meals. The food had to be cooked over a small charcoal fire that burned in a metal pan. The pan was set on a bed of sand. The passengers were not allowed to cook on the wooden deck. The fire had to be made on the wooden floor in their living space. This was very dangerous. Smoke from the fire filled that area.

Most of the time, however, stormy weather made it unsafe to build such fires.

Passengers had to be content with cold food. The usual cold meal was salted beef and hardtack. No one liked it, but everyone ate it. Everyone, that is, except those who were too seasick to eat anything.

What Did the Crew Eat?

There was a cook who fixed meals just for the crew. They ate the same foods as the passengers. They got as tired of hardtack and salted meat as everyone else did.

Discussion

When you have an upset stomach, do you feel like eating? Do you have much energy? If this lasts for a week or so, do you lose weight? Many of the passengers had bad upset stomachs for the entire voyage. None of them died, but what else might have happened to them?

Eat Like a Pilgrim

Eat a lunch of stale bread, dried meat (such as beef jerky) and club soda or root beer every day for a week. Did you get tired of it? Think of eating that same meal for both lunch and dinner every day for almost 10 weeks!

A Meal Mayflower-Style

Ask an adult to do this with you. You will need a pile of sand, an old metal pan, charcoal briquettes, an iron po and some dried rice (not instant). Put the pan on the sand and make a fire with the charcoal. How long did it take the water to boil? Put in the rice and let it boil until it is soft. How long did you wait before you could eat?
What Kind of Clothes Did They Wear?

Everyone’s clothes were very heavy. They were made of scratchy wool, rough linen or leather. All clothes were plain, not fancy.

Men’s Clothes

Every man wore a shirt, pants, socks and shoes. The shirt was made of linen. It was much longer and looser than shirts today. He wore the same shirt all day. Then he slept in it at night. His pants, called breeches, were not long. They were fastened just below the knee. He wore high woolen stockings and plain leather shoes.

He had two other pieces of clothing. One was a doublet. It was a padded jacket with long sleeves. It was made of either cloth or leather and opened down the front. The other was a jerkin. That was a sleeveless jacket made of leather or cloth. It was open at the neck. Men’s hats were of many styles. The most common one was called a bread loaf. It looked just like a round loaf of bread that was high in the middle.

Most pictures show Pilgrims dressed in black, with large silver buckles on their belts, shoes and hats. They did have dark clothes, but they wore them only for church services or serious events. They had no buckles at all. They were not rich enough to buy them.
Women’s Clothes

Just like the man, the woman also wore a long shirt all the time. It was called a *shift*. The sleeves of the shift were either sewed or tied on. Over the shift she wore petticoats, or layered skirts. Another skirt went over them. On top she wore a long gown or a fitted jacket. Both of these were tied in the back with laces. A long apron was worn on top of all these layers. It kept her clothes from getting dirty.

A woman’s hair was always pulled back. It was covered by a *biggin*, or *coif*. This was a close-fitting cap. (Women were not allowed to wear their hair loose.) Her shoes and stockings were just like the man’s.

Children’s Clothes

Until they were about seven years old, boys and girls dressed alike—in what we would call “girls’ clothes”! They wore shifts, or shirts, which they kept on both day and night. Over this they wore long dresses that were tied in the back. The biggins, or caps, on their heads were tied under the chin. Children’s shoes and stockings were like the adults’.

When a boy turned seven years old, he got to wear clothes like his father’s. In her teens, a girl dressed exactly like her mother. Children’s clothes were usually blue.

Servants wore blue, also. Adults’ clothes were usually red, blue, purple, yellow or olive green. When it was very cold, everyone wore coats or capes.
How Did They Keep Clean?

They really did not keep clean!

There was no running water to bathe in. Even if there had been, the Pilgrims would not have used it. People in that time did not take showers or baths. They thought washing the whole body with soap and water was unhealthy. They did wash their hands and faces. On the _Mayflower_ this had to be done with salt water from the ocean. Salt water got them clean, but it left their skin feeling very sticky.

There were no bathrooms on the _Mayflower_ either. There were no toilets like we have. Instead they used big pots called _chamber pots_. These were kept in the living area and had to be emptied into the sea.

The passengers did not have many clothes with them. There was not room enough on the ship to store them. Most people did not own many clothes anyhow. Besides, it was so cold that they wore all their clothes all the time.

A lot of their food was eaten with their fingers. This was a messy way to eat. They had big napkins, but a lot of food still got spilled on their clothes. They kept the same clothes on at night. They did not even take them off to sleep.

There was no way to launder clothes on the ship. Each day they got dirtier. By the end of the trip, everyone’s clothes were very, very dirty. The clothes smelled very, very bad. So did their blankets.

Their hair got dirty, too. Almost everyone got head lice. Their scalps itched!

There were many ways to get dirty. There were not many ways to get clean. The people smelled bad. So did their rooms. They got so used to the smell, no one really noticed it. That is just the way it was back then.

Was Everyone Friends?

Some people were friends. Others were not. To begin with, people were too crowded together. Some became ill, and their illnesses spread to others. They were all cold. Most were afraid of drowning. And the bad food made them feel even worse. All this made it harder for people to be nice to one another.

The Pilgrims prayed very much. They sang very loudly. The crew said they made too much noise. They called the Pilgrims _Glib-glabbety_. That meant people who talked too much. The Pilgrims did not like the rough way the crew behaved. They did not like their bad language either.

The people complained about one another. But they all had one thing in common. They all wanted to reach the New World safely. Because of this, they learned to live together. They learned to cooperate, even if they did not agree with one another.
Land Ahead!

The Mayflower had been sailing for many weeks. The Pilgrims were tired from the long voyage. They were afraid they would drown before they reached land.

Then, in early November, they saw small bits of wood floating in the water. The sea itself turned a different color. These were signs the shore must be near. And it was!

On November 9th they saw a shoreline. They had been sailing for 66 days. They had traveled thousands of miles. How glad they were to see land!

The Pilgrims had expected to land in Virginia. There was an English settlement there already. Instead they had reached Cape Cod, in what is now the state of Massachusetts. There were no buildings. There were no people to welcome them. Instead they saw only a sandy shore with a few bushes and scrawny trees.

Most of the people wanted to leave the ship right away to start their new settlement. But an argument broke out. Who would make the laws for the new settlement? Would they all be forced to obey them? Some wanted to leave the group and go off on their own.

The Mayflower Compact

The Pilgrim leaders knew it would be safer if they all stayed together. The men gathered in the largest cabin. They wrote down all their ideas. Then they discussed them. They wrote down the rules they all agreed on. These rules were fair for all. The people would elect their own leaders and make their own laws.

All the men signed the agreement. It came to be called the Mayflower Compact. Compact is another word for an agreement. For the first time in America, men were allowed to make their own laws. That was very important.

Write Your Own Compact

Talk about why it’s important to have rules for the classroom or the cafeteria or the playground. Choose a group of students to be leaders. They will each write down ideas for one of these places. Next they will talk about their ideas. They will write down five or six they all agree on. Do they include rules for safety as well as order? Make sure they include rules for all the classmates, not just a few. Ask everyone who agrees with these rules to sign his or her name to the paper. These will become the compact for the classroom. Some rules might begin with:

We, the students of ________, have written these rules for the good of all our class.

We promise to help one another by ___________.

We promise to never harm one another by ______.

We promise to protect one another from ________.

We promise to talk about any problems and make new rules together.

We sign our names below to show we will obey all of these rules.
Meet the Leaders of the Pilgrims

All of the Pilgrims’ leaders had been born and had grown up in England. They had all left there because they wanted to worship in their own way.

John Carver was the Pilgrims’ first governor. He was in charge of the group on board the Mayflower. It was his idea to write the Mayflower Compact. After that, he was elected to be the first governor of Plymouth. He met with Chief Massasoit to write a treaty of peace between the Pilgrims and the natives. Everyone loved and respected him.

When Governor Carver died suddenly that first spring, William Bradford was elected to take his place. He was governor of Plymouth for many years. He was the one who announced the first Thanksgiving celebration. He was a good and fair leader. The governor kept a journal and wrote about the happenings in Plymouth. That is how we know so much about the Pilgrims’ first years there.

William Brewster was the only one of the leaders who had a good education. He had even gone to college. No regular minister went with the Pilgrims. So he became the religious leader of the group. He was called Elder Brewster. He lead the church services both on the Mayflower and in Plymouth.

The Pilgrims were not trained fighters. They knew they would need someone to protect them. They hired Miles Standish to go with them. Captain Standish was a soldier. That was his job. He had been in the army in England. The captain was in charge of defending the Pilgrims and their settlement in case of an attack. He trained the men to help him. He also helped in dealings with the natives. Years later he became the governor’s assistant.

The people of Plymouth respected these men. They were thankful for their leadership. Above all, they were proud that they had been able to choose their leaders themselves.
At Last—On Land!

The *Mayflower* had sailed into a safe harbor. There were no people to welcome them. There were no buildings for shelter. They would have to build homes before they could live there.

On November 11th a small group of men went ashore. They came back with good reports of the area. Over the next few days, more went. The women were happy they could wash all the dirty clothes. Some of the men repaired the shallop, the small boat they had brought with them. Another group went exploring. This group brought back some seed corn they had found buried on a hillside.

After a month of exploring, they reached what is now Plymouth. It had a small cove deep enough for large ships. They would have plenty of water from the many freshwater streams. Good sand and gravel there could be used to make clay pots. The forest nearby would supply them with plenty of trees for lumber. Some land had been cleared earlier, and they could tell corn had been grown there. They decided this was the best place to settle.

It was December when the men started to build. First they would make a big common house in which to store goods and to have meetings. Then would come small homes. By now, though, it was winter. There was snow on the ground. To get ashore the men had to wade through the icy water. Cold winds and sleet made their clothes freeze on them. They were chilled to the bone, and there was no way to get warm. All of them got sick. Some days only three or four men were able to work. It was slow going.

While the men worked on land, the women and children had to live on the *Mayflower*. That winter a second baby was born on the ship. He was named Peregrine, which means “wanderer.”

It was very cold, and there was not a lot of good food. Many of the Pilgrims and crew got very sick. The few who did stay well were kept busy caring for all of the sick ones.

By the end of March they were finally ready to move onto the land. By then over half of them had died! Those who did survive bravely began their new lives in the New World. They knew there was hard work ahead, but they were determined to do it.

The *Mayflower* left in April to sail back to England. The captain said anyone who wanted to could go back with him. Not one Pilgrim left Plymouth!
New Friends in the New World

The first people the Pilgrims met in the New World were Native Americans.

The very first was Samoset. One day he walked into their village by himself. To their surprise he greeted them in English! He told them his name was Samoset. He was the sachem, or chief, of the Abnaki tribe and was visiting another chief, whose name was Massasoit.

Samoset had learned a little English from some fishermen where he lived. From him the Pilgrims learned there had been an Indian village on the spot where Plymouth was now. The Patuxet tribe used to live there, but a terrible sickness had killed them all.

Samoset returned several times, bringing other natives with him. The natives were always hungry, so the Pilgrims always fed them. In return, the natives sang and danced for the Pilgrims. Samoset introduced the Pilgrims to Massasoit. He was the great chief of the Wampanoag, a nearby tribe. Samoset also brought Squanto to their village.

Squanto was from the Patuxet tribe. He had learned English from some traders. He had gone back to England with them and had lived there for several years. When Squanto returned, he learned his tribe had all died. Massasoit then invited him to live with the Wampanoag.

Squanto helped the Pilgrims in many ways. To begin with, he helped them write a treaty, or agreement, with Massasoit. The Wampanoag lived close by, so it was important to have them as friends, not as enemies.

Discussion

Samoset came from the southern part of what is now our state of Maine. Massasoit’s village was near Cape Cod in what is now Massachusetts. He would have traveled either over land by foot or on rivers or the ocean in a canoe. Look at the old map below. How do you think he might have traveled? How many days do you think it would take?

Now look at current map of that area. If you were traveling that distance today, what route might you follow? What transportation would you use? How long would it take?
Massasoit and the Pilgrims
Sign a Treaty

There were a great many natives living near Plymouth. There were not very many Pilgrims living in the village. The Pilgrims knew it was important to be friends with the natives. Otherwise they would not be able to live there.

With Squanto’s help, Massasoit and Plymouth’s Governor Carver met together. First they ate and drank. Then they sat down to talk. How could the two groups live together in peace?

They talked about many things. They knew whatever they decided had to be fair to both Pilgrims and natives. Together, they made a peace treaty. It said:

• No native should harm a Pilgrim. If he did, he would be punished.
• No Pilgrim should harm a native. If he did, he would be punished.
• Neither group would steal from the other again. The natives would return tools they had taken. The Pilgrims would pay the natives for the seed corn they had used.
• Whenever they came together for a meeting or a visit, there would be no weapons. The Pilgrims would leave their guns behind. The natives would not carry their bows and arrows.
• If one group was attacked by others, they would come to each other’s aid.

It was a fair treaty. Both the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag agreed to it. Massasoit was a good friend to the Pilgrims for the rest of his life. There was peace between the Wampanoag and the Pilgrims until Massasoit’s death 50 years later.

Discussion

The Pilgrims and the Wampanoag lived in very different ways.

• Clothes were different. You know what the Pilgrims wore. They got the woolen and linen cloth for their clothes from England. The natives used materials around them. Their clothes were made mostly from animal skins and fur pelts. Find pictures of the two kinds of clothing. Which was more practical? Which would you have liked to wear?

• Although Squanto taught the Pilgrims about many foods, their meals were very different, too. The Pilgrims had meals in the morning, at noon and in the evening. The natives ate one meal a day, but it was a big one. Usually it was a stew made in an open pot over a fire. It was shared by all. What was not eaten was kept there all day for anyone who was hungry or for any visitor. Which would you like?

• The natives had been living on this land for thousands of years. They had their own customs and laws. The Pilgrims brought with them their English customs. What did each group have to do to learn to get along together?
Squanto, the Pilgrims’ Best Friend

Squanto lived with the Pilgrims at Plymouth for the rest of his life. He was truly their best friend. He showed them so many things:

• when it was time to plant corn
• how to plant four kernels of corn together in a little hill
• how to fertilize the soil by putting dead fish in each hill of corn
• how to cook corn
• how to build warm houses by using wattle and daub on the walls
• where the herring swam and how to catch them
• when to hunt deer, wild turkey and other small animals
• where wild plants and herbs grew
• how to use herbs to make their food taste better
• how to find eels in river mud and how to catch them with their hands
• how to fish through ice in the wintertime
• how to get sweet sap from maple trees

Squanto also helped the Pilgrims in their dealings with the natives. He:

• helped them make friends
• guided them when they went on expeditions, or trips
• advised them when they traded with the natives for beaver pelts
• was the pilot on the shallop when they explored along the coast

Without Squanto the Plymouth colony would probably not have survived its first year.

Grow Corn

Corn was one of the Pilgrims’ most important foods. Find a sunny place where you may plant a small garden. Get some seed corn. Plant six hills the way Squanto taught the Pilgrims:

1. Dig six small holes about 1’ apart from one another.
2. Instead of dead fish, mix some fertilizer with the soil.
3. Put four corn kernels in each hole.
4. Cover the kernels with soil, shaping it like a little hill.
5. Water the soil.
6. When the corn starts to grow, pull any weeds that grow there.

Now, plant six more hills of corn. Use all the same steps as you did for the first six hills except step 2. Do not fertilize the corn. Watch the two rows. Which grows taller and healthier? Did the fertilizer make a difference?

Corn could be made into corn bread, corn pudding and cornmeal mush.

Corn was valuable for more than food. Corn shucks were used to stuff mattresses and woven into mats. They could also be used to make dolls. Corn cobs could be fed to the pigs or dried and used as fuel to burn in fires. Think of some other ways to use corn.
Life in Plymouth

Living in Plymouth was a lot better than living on the Mayflower. As the weather got warmer, the Pilgrims got healthier. They were able to work again, and they worked hard.

Men

Most of the men had been farmers in England. They were farmers in Plymouth, too. There were no animals to pull plows. The men had to clear the land by hand. It took a long time and was back-breaking work. They planted corn, peas, barley, squash, pumpkins and wheat. In the fall they harvested the crops.

Men had other jobs to do, too. It was their job to bring home meat to eat. They hunted deer and wild turkeys. They caught fish in the streams and lakes. They caught eels in the mud and clams along the seashore.

More homes had to be built. Fences had to be made. The men chopped down trees and split them to make boards for houses. Those who were carpenters made the frames for the houses. Then everyone helped finish them. Men sometimes had to repair roofs and walls and chimneys. They made a big fence to go all around the village. They also made simple furniture.

Each man had to make sure everyone in his family behaved. If anyone did not behave, the father would be punished. He also had to make sure they went to church services. If they did not, he would be punished for that, too.

Men made the laws for the colony. They went to meetings and elected their leaders.

Making sure their village was safe was important, too. Captain Miles Standish led drills. He taught the men how to fire muskets, or guns. Every man had to attend those drills. If he did not, he would be punished.

The man was the head of his family. He was expected to protect them and provide for his wife and children. They were expected to obey him.

Discussion

• If you had been a farmer all your life, discuss what new skills you would have to learn to live in Plymouth. What would be the hardest? What might you enjoy the most?

• The tools the men used had been brought from England. Among them were spades, shovels, hatchets, axes, hammers, saws, augers and chisels. Do we still use these tools today? Visit a hardware store. Ask a clerk to show them to you and tell you what each is used for.

• Visit a lumberyard. If possible, see how boards are split today. The Pilgrims split boards by hand. How much harder was it to do that?

• Do you know any adults who go fishing? If so, ask them to visit your class and tell about it.
Women

Women also worked from sunrise to sunset. They looked after their children. They kept their homes clean.

Preparing meals took a great deal of their time. They ground corn or wheat for flour. Then they made bread in the village’s outdoor oven. They gathered vegetables from the garden. They picked fruit from the vines and bushes. The food that was not eaten was preserved for the winter. Fruits were dried or pickled in vinegar. Pumpkins, corn and onions were hung on the wall and dried. Fish were gutted and packed in salt. Meat was smoked over the fire. Herbs were used to make medicines and to season food.

The only clothes the Pilgrims had were the ones they brought from England. They were always in need of sewing. “New” clothes were made from old ones. New breeches could be made from an old skirt. Caps and skirts could be embroidered, or sewed, with pretty designs. New sleeves could be sewed onto an old shift.

A woman’s Sunday clothes were gray. The rest of the time she wore bright colors. If she wanted “new” clothes, she would dye her old ones a different color. Dyes were made from leaves and flowers of plants. Favorite colors were red, yellow, blue, purple and green.

Woman had hours and hours of hard work. They got very tired, but no one complained.

Cook Pumpkin Dishes

Get a ripe pumpkin. Cut it open and scoop out the seeds. Ask an adult to help you peel off the hard skin. Cut the pulp (the rest of it) into small pieces. In a recipe book find out how to use it to make pumpkin pudding.

Stitches

Learn some of the stitches the women used to decorate their clothes.

Cross-Stitch

Cross-stitches look like rows of Xs. Get a 6" square piece of heavy paper. Draw a row of Xs 1" high across it with a pencil.

Number them like this:

Thread a needle with three strands of embroidery floss. Come up at #1 and go down at #2, up on #3 and down on #4; come up at #5 and down at #6. To go back, come up at #7 and go down at #8 (now you have a cross-stitch!), come up at #9 and down at #10, up on #11 and down on #12. Make three rows like this on a piece of cloth.

Running Stitch

Running stitches look like when you walk heel-to-toe across the sand. Get another 6" square of heavy paper. Draw a straight line across it. Put a dot every 1/2" inch. Number the dots from 1 to 7:

1._.2._.3._.4._.5._.6._.7._.8._.9._.10.

Thread a needle with three strands of embroidery thread. Come up at #1 and down at #3, up at #2 and down at #4, up at #3 and down at #5, up at #4 and down at #6, up at #5 and down at #7. Keep going this way until you have reached #10. Make three rows like this on the same piece of cloth.
Children

Pilgrim children did not go to school. When there was time, adults who knew how to read taught the children. Otherwise, children learned from their parents. They learned how to do all the things their parents did.

Fathers showed their sons how to fish. They taught them to hunt animals for food. Boys watched their fathers build homes. They learned how to make wooden pegs, how to thatch roofs, and how to carve spoons and bowls from wood.

Boys had to watch the cornfields. Their job was to keep birds and small animals away. They also had to:
- weed the garden
- carry water back from the village spring
- bring in wood for the fireplace
- feed the chickens

Together with the girls, they:
- shucked the corn and scraped off the kernels
- turned the spit while meat cooked on it
- gathered pine needles or corn husks or feathers to stuff mattress bags
- gathered the long grass that was used to make thatch
gathered clams from the mud

They did not have much free time. When they did, they liked to play outdoor games. Footraces were a favorite. Others were hide-and-seek, blindman’s bluff and tug-of-war.

Girls learned from their mothers. One of their main jobs was to watch the smaller children. They were taught how to:
- cook meat and vegetables
- serve meals
- wash clothes
- make and sew clothes
- do embroidery (make fancy stitches)
- pick berries
- plant and take care of the garden
- know which herbs made medicines
- grind corn and barley
- sift flour through cloth
- measure flour in their hands
- knead dough to make bread
- bake in outdoor ovens
- knit stockings

Girls did not have much free time either. When they did, they liked to visit with their friends, play with their dolls, make up stories or play cat’s cradle.

Play Stool Ball

You need a small stool and a ball. (Back then balls were made of leather stuffed with feathers.) Form two teams, A and B, and stand far apart. Team A throws the ball to team B. If B catches the ball, they throw it back to A. If B does not catch the ball or if they drop it, they throw the ball at the stool. If the ball hits the stool, A gets 1 point. If it misses, A gets 2 points. For the next turn, B throws the ball to A, and the steps repeat themselves. Play goes on as long as you want.
What Were the Pilgrims’ Homes Like?

The houses the Pilgrims built were made of wooden boards. The walls were covered with wattle and daub. (Wattle are thin twigs that are woven together. Daub is plaster made from clay, sand, manure, straw and water.) The roofs were thatched. (Thatch is made from bunches of long reeds or grasses tied together.)

Some floors were made of wood. Most floors were hard, packed dirt or clay. Inside the homes it was quite dark. There was no glass for the small window openings. Instead, openings were covered with cloth or paper that had been rubbed with oil or fat.

Inside there was a fireplace. It was so big it covered most of one wall. It was the home’s only source of heat and light. It was also the place where all food was cooked.

The first years there was very little furniture inside. Most people did not even have beds. They slept on the floor on mattresses. Tables were usually boards set on top of barrels. They were taken apart when they were not being used. Chairs were crates or barrels.

Some houses had lofts, or an upper level. These covered part of the first floor. They were used for sleeping and storage. People climbed ladders to reach them.

The Pilgrims were proud of these homes. They were very happy to have them.

Make a Pilgrim Home

Materials Needed
square tissue box for the frame
small twigs for the wattle
clay, sand, straw and water for the daub (or substitute thick school paste)
piece of cardboard for the roof base
craft sticks for the roof frame
bunches of long grass or straw tied together for the thatch
wax paper for the windows

Directions
1. Cut out the box’s bottom for the floor.
2. Cut out two very small windows.
3. Cover the windows with wax paper.
4. Cut an L shape for the door to open.
5. Draw a fireplace on one inside wall.
6. Weave the sticks to make four pieces the sizes of the sides of the tissue box.
7. Glue these to the outer sides of the box.
8. Make daub mixing the materials above, or use paste.
9. Cover the wattle with daub.
10. Fold a piece of cardboard to make a peaked roof, and attach it to the walls.
11. Glue craft sticks to the roof to resemble the roof’s wood frame.
12. Tie small bunches of straw together.
13. Glue them to the craft sticks for thatch.
14. Make a chimney for the roof with a small square of wattle and daub.
15. Set the house on a smooth mud floor.
The Pilgrims Celebrate Their Harvest

The Pilgrims' first summer was a good one. There was no illness. The natives were their friends. Days were warm and sunny, and there was some rain. The crops the Pilgrims had planted had grown very well.

There was plenty of food. No one went hungry. By October all of the crops had been harvested. The Pilgrims were very happy. They decided to have a big feast to celebrate.

They also wanted to thank the natives who had helped them so much. Squanto and Chief Massasoit were invited and told to bring others with them. The Pilgrims expected a small group to show up. Imagine their surprise when the chief showed up with 90 others! The natives also brought five deer to add to the feast.

Some of the men went fishing. They brought back lobsters, oysters, bass and cod. Others went hunting for deer, ducks, geese and wild turkeys. From the gardens came squash, carrots, corn, cabbage, beans, turnips and pumpkins. The women cooked. They baked bread and made beer. They fixed the vegetables. There were meat pies and stews. There were probably berries and nuts, too.

The Pilgrims thanked God for the good harvest. They said prayers and sang hymns. The natives thanked the Great Spirit in their own way. They chanted and did special dances.

Everyone had such a good time that the celebration lasted for three whole days. The women were kept busy cooking and serving food. The men and boys played games and had contests.

We call this celebration the “First Thanksgiving.”

*Note to Teachers

The natives had many feasts. One they always had was to celebrate good harvests. Harvest feasts were common in England, too. The 1621 feast in Plymouth was probably held in early October. It was both a celebration for those who had lived through that first awful winter and a time to thank God for the bountiful harvest. However, Thanksgiving feasts were not held annually from then on. From time to time throughout our country’s history, our leaders would set aside a special day for giving thanks. Some of the Pilgrim leaders may have done this. George Washington did so after the Battle of Saratoga in 1777. It was not until 1863 that Thanksgiving became a national holiday. Abraham Lincoln declared it to be the last Thursday in November. He probably chose November because that was when the Pilgrims first landed at Cape Cod. In 1939 President Franklin Roosevelt set the date as the third Thursday of that month, but in 1941 Congress moved it back to the fourth Thursday. That is when we celebrate it still. Thanksgiving has become one of our biggest national holidays.
Have a Thanksgiving Feast

The crops the Pilgrims planted were ready to be harvested in late September or early October. That is probably when they had the feast we call the First Thanksgiving. Today we celebrate it in November. Either time is a good one to celebrate it in school.

Who Should Attend?

William Bradford, William Brewster, John Carver and Miles Standish were four of the 53 Pilgrims at the Plymouth feast. From early records we believe there were 30 men, 10 women, six boys and four girls under 13 years old, as well as three babies. Squanto, Massasoit, Hobbamuck (another chief) and Quadequina (Massasoit’s brother) were among the 90 natives who were there. That makes five Pilgrims for every nine natives. In your class celebration, try to come close to that ratio.

How Should You Dress?

Make costumes simple. Natives can wear vests made from brown grocery bags. Fringe the bottoms by cutting slits about 2” deep all around. A 2” strip of brown construction paper with a feather attached makes a good headband. They might also wear beads. Pilgrim men and boys can wear sweatshirts turned inside-out with belts around their waists. Long pants can be tucked into high socks. If possible, wear dark shoes. Pilgrim women and girls can wear blouses tucked into long skirts and vests if they have them. An apron can be made from a pillowcase tied around the waist. They should wear high socks and shoes. For their heads, coifs can be made from round white coffee filters.

Note to Teachers

Native Americans really did not wear vests. In warm weather they wore no tops at all. When it was cold, they wore deerskin tunics, fringed at the bottom and sometimes decorated with feathers and shells. The vest is a substitute young children can make easily, using brown grocery bags to simulate leather. Eagle feathers were worn in the headdresses only of those who had been awarded them for doing great deeds.

What Foods Shall We Have?

Ask parents to help prepare the food. It will be a little different from the feasts we have today. Here are some of the things the Pilgrims ate: turkey, codfish, peas, squash, beans, carrots, cheese, corn bread, wild berries (such as blueberries, raspberries, strawberries), grapes, plums, walnuts and pumpkin pudding sweetened with maple syrup.

Wild turkeys were small and were not cooked with stuffing. The meat and vegetables were served together in a stew. Potatoes were not grown yet. Corn was not the kind you can eat on the cob or pop, the kernels were taken off the cob and boiled. Cranberries were too sour, as they did not have sugar. The only apples were sour crab apples. Fruits were dried to preserve them. And there was no milk to drink. You might substitute root beer for their beer.

The men sat at long tables made from wooden boards set on barrels. The women served the food. Children stood at meals.
Thanksgiving Feast
Costumes

Native’s Vest

Materials Needed
large brown paper grocery bag*
sissors
crayons, markers or paint

*The bag will look more authentic and be easier to work with if you crush and crumple it until the paper is soft.

Directions
1. Keep the bag folded in half.
2. Cut a circle for the neck.
3. Cut two armholes.
4. Slit bag up the front.
5. Decorate with symbols or designs.
6. Some may wish to fringe the edges at the bottom and up the front.

Woman’s Coif

Materials Needed
coffee filter

Plymouth Prospers

The second winter in Plymouth was much better than the first. A ship brought some new settlers and some pigs. The settlers brought no supplies of their own, but they were good workers. Plymouth needed them.

Other ships arrived. They brought sheep and cattle. They also brought things the Pilgrims could not make themselves. They were glad to get much-needed shoes, clothes, tools and guns. Sugar, cheese and spices were also very welcome. In addition, the ships brought cloth, beads, knives and small trinkets. These were used for trade with the natives.

The ships carried products from Plymouth back to England. They included lumber, corn and salted fish. These helped pay for the supplies the Pilgrims needed from England.

By spring 1622 the Pilgrims were stronger. Their colony had grown. Plymouth was on its way to becoming a success as a colony.

The Pilgrims played an important part in the history of our country. They had freedom to worship. They elected their own leaders. They believed everyone had the right to be educated. These rights are all part of our United States government.

The Pilgrims are a symbol of determination and courage and hard work. We read about them and admire them still today.
Create a Postcard

Write a postcard to a friend in England. Use a 3” x 5” or 5” x 7” index card. On one side draw a picture of something in Plymouth. Ideas: a house, crops growing in a field, the seashore. On the other side, address it to a make-believe friend and write about the picture or about Plymouth.

Make a Poster

Plymouth needed more people living there. Choose one good point about Plymouth. Use that on a poster to make others want to move there.

Design a Travel Brochure

Fold an 8½” x 11” sheet of paper into thirds. On the front write *Come to Plymouth!* and draw a picture. There will be five inside sections. 1) A short history of Plymouth. 2) The good things about the area: good soil, kinds of trees, animals, berries, harbor, scenery, others. 3) Freedoms: right to worship, right to elect leaders, right to own land. For the very back fold, think up a slogan.

Example: “Plymouth, the place to be free!” Write in large print. Illustrate each section.

Like to Visit Plymouth?

Would you like to visit the Pilgrims’ Plymouth? Well, you can! The original Plymouth has been re-created in Plymouth, Massachusetts. Streets and buildings are just as they were. People wear Pilgrim clothes and use the old way of talking. They tell you a lot about life back then. The *Mayflower II* can be seen in the harbor there, too. If you cannot go in person, you can visit it on the internet. Search for “Plimoth Plantation” or “Plymouth Pilgrims.”

Additional Activities

The Native Americans told a story about the “Three Sisters”—corn, bean and squash. These crops were happy and grew better when they were together. Corn was tall and graceful, bean liked to curl around the corn and squash stayed at their feet to protect them. Plant these seeds together and watch how they grow.

Dyeing Cloth

Find berries or brightly colored flowers. Ask an adult to help you boil them in water. The water will become colored. Use it to dye an old piece of clothing.

Note: Cotton takes dye better than synthetic fibers like Dacron or nylon. (Paper can be dyed also.)

Read About Animals

Read about animals that live in eastern Massachusetts. If possible, visit a nature center to see some. Find videos about them. Which were used for food? Which were used for their pelts/clothing?

What Kinds of Trees Grew?

Find out what kinds of trees grew in that area. If they grow in your area, take a nature walk to see them. If not, find books about trees in your library. Make a chart of what their wood was used for.

Available Foods to the Pilgrims

List foods available to the Pilgrims. Visit local markets to see if they are still available. Are they fresh? If not, how are they packaged? Prepare as many as you can and have a “tasting feast.”

Materials at Hand

Pilgrims had to make use of materials at hand—wild plants, animals, sand, stone and clay. Which ones did they use for food? Clothing? Shelter? Tools? Games and toys? Make a collage showing these.
Craftsperson Visit

Invite a craftsperson to school and ask him or her to demonstrate wood carving or pottery making.

A Chest Full

Fill a chest. Draw a big storage chest like the Pilgrims took on the Mayflower. “Fill” it with pictures of items a Pilgrim might have taken. Include tools and cooking implements.

Make a Dictionary

Make a dictionary of all the words that appear in italics in this book. Add other words you think are important to understand. You might want to illustrate some of them.

A Poem of Thanks

Write a poem about being thankful. Practice it as a choral reading to be done on Thanksgiving.

Rules Posters

Children had to learn to be helpful, obey their parents, sit silently at services, respect all adults, not waste time, and think of others. Make posters stating these rules. Hang them up in the classroom.

Create a Plymouth Newspaper

Make a newspaper for Plymouth. Give it a name. Assign reporters, proofreaders and artists to draw pictures or find computer graphics. Some headlines might be: Good Corn Crop Harvested, Governor Carver Declares Feast, Ship Arrives from England, Goodman Gordon Punished for Not Attending Service, Captain Standish Drills Men. There could be a poll of what citizens like best in Plymouth or what Plymouth needs or an interview with a man who has just built a new house. Make up others. Include a weather report. If the newspaper is done on a computer, remember to use an old-style font.

Bibliography

Books


A Journey to the New World: The Diary of Remember Patience Whipple, Mayflower 1620 by Kathryn Lasky, Scholastic, 1996. (Ages 9-12)


On the Mayflower: Voyage of the Ship’s Apprentice and a Passenger Girl by Kate Waters, Scholastic, 1999.


Web Sites

Try searching for Mayflower ship or Pilgrims and Plymouth on Google, or plimothplantation on AOL.

http://www.plimoth.org/museum

http://teacher.scholastic.com/thanksgiving/mayflower

http://members.aol.com/calebj

http://pilgrims.net/plimothplantation