

## The Mayflower Compact

Plymouth was outside the territory of the Virginia Company and its laws. While they were still onboard ship, the Pilgrims signed a document they called the Mayflower Compact. This document set up an organized, orderly government. Each signer promised to obey the laws passed “for the general good of the colony.” The Mayflower Compact was a key step in the development of representative, democratic government in America.

## Native American Help

During their first winter in America, almost half the Pilgrims died. Illness, hunger, and cold took a terrible toll. In the spring, however, two Native Americans, Squanto and Samoset, befriended the colonists. They taught the Pilgrims to grow corn, beans, and pumpkins and showed the colonists where to hunt and fish. Without their help, the Pilgrims might not have survived.

Squanto and Samoset also helped the Pilgrims make peace with the Wampanoag people who lived in the area. For a time, the two groups lived together in harmony. In the fall of 1621, the Pilgrims included their new Wampanoag friends in a feast of thanksgiving.

### PROGRESS CHECK

**Analyzing** What was the significance of the Mayflower Compact?

## New Colonies

**GUIDING QUESTION** *What role did religion play in founding the various colonies?*

In 1629 a group of Puritans formed the Massachusetts Bay Company. They received a royal charter to establish a colony north of Plymouth. The company chose John Winthrop to be the colony’s governor. In 1630 Winthrop led about 900 men, women, and children to Massachusetts Bay. Most of them settled in a place they called Boston.

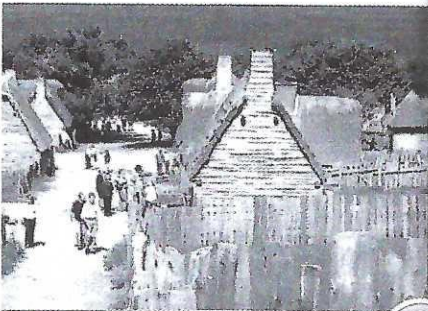
More settlers followed. During the 1630s, more than 15,000 Puritans journeyed to Massachusetts to escape religious persecution and economic hard times in England. This movement of people became known as the Great Migration.

At first Winthrop and his assistants made the colony’s laws. In 1634 settlers demanded a larger role in the government. Adult male church members were allowed to vote for the governor and for representatives to the government. Later, property ownership became a requirement for voting.

## Connections to TODAY

### Plimoth Plantation

Plimoth Plantation, shown here, is an outdoor museum and a popular tourist site. Located in present-day Plymouth, Massachusetts, it uses actors to portray life as it was in 1627.

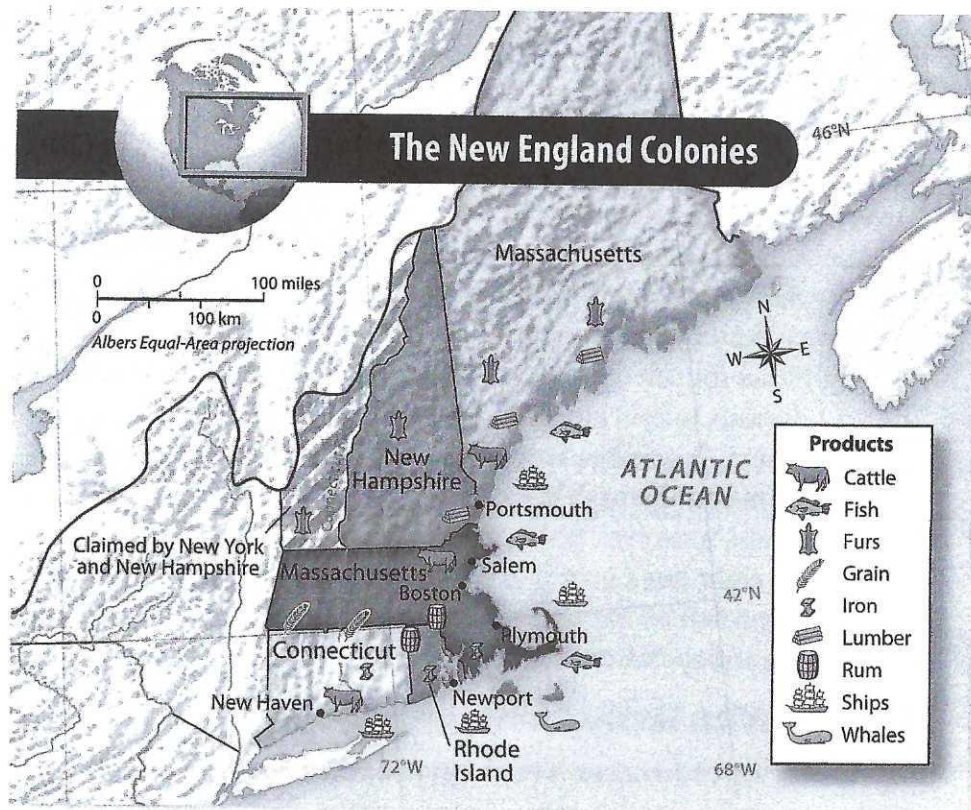


Reading **HELPDESK** 

### Reading Strategy: Sequencing

Sequencing means arranging events in the order in which they occur. Create a time line for the years 1620 to 1700, then place the events discussed in this lesson in their proper place along this line.





## GEOGRAPHY CONNECTION

English settlers formed the New England colonies.

- 1 MOVEMENT** What colonies were founded after the settling of Massachusetts?
- 2 CRITICAL THINKING**  
*Identifying* In what part of New England was farming a significant industry?

The Puritans came to America to put their religious beliefs into practice. At the same time, they themselves had little **tolerance** (TAH·luh·ruhnts) for different beliefs. They criticized or persecuted people who did not agree with their views. They strictly **enforced** their own religious rules. This lack of tolerance led people to form new colonies.

## Connecticut and Rhode Island

To the west of Boston is land we now call the Connecticut River Valley. This rich land is better for farming than the stony soil around Boston. In the 1630s colonists began to settle this area.

A leader of this movement was Massachusetts minister Thomas Hooker. He did not like how Winthrop and other Puritan leaders ran the colony. In 1636 Hooker led his congregation to the Connecticut River Valley. There he founded the town of Hartford. Other nearby towns were soon established. Three years later these towns formed a colony called Connecticut. In 1639 they adopted a plan of government called the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut. This was the first written constitution in America. The document described the organization of representative government in detail. Like the Mayflower Compact, it reflected a belief in democratic principles.

**tolerance** the ability to accept or put up with different views or behaviors

### Academic Vocabulary

**enforce** to apply a rule or law

**policy** a statement of ideals or plan of action





Anne Hutchinson held meetings in her home to discuss and give her views on religious teachings. Puritan leaders charged her with "dishonoring" the Massachusetts Bay Colony. They banished Hutchinson in 1637.

A minister named Roger Williams founded the colony of Rhode Island. Williams felt that government should not force people to worship in a certain way. He also believed it was wrong for settlers to take land away from the Native Americans. Forced by Massachusetts leaders to leave the colony, Williams found refuge with the Narragansett, a Native American people. They later sold him land, where Williams founded the town of Providence. With its **policy** of religious toleration, Rhode Island became a safe place for dissenters. It was the first place in America where people of all faiths could worship freely.

Others followed Williams's example. In 1638 John Wheelwright led a group of dissidents from Massachusetts to found the town of Exeter in New Hampshire. New Hampshire became an independent colony in 1679.

### Conflict With Native Americans

As settlers spread across New England, they met the Native Americans who lived there—Wampanoags, Narragansett, and other groups. Native Americans traded furs for settlers' goods, but conflicts arose. Usually settlers moved onto Native American lands without permission or payment. Throughout the colonial period, settlers and Native Americans competed fiercely for land.

In 1675 Wampanoag leader Metacomet waged war against the New England colonies. Known to settlers as King Philip, Metacomet enlisted the help of other Native American groups. King Philip's War raged for 14 months. In the end, the colonists defeated Metacomet. The war destroyed the power of the Native Americans in New England. Colonial settlement expanded.

#### **PROGRESS CHECK**

**Identifying** Which colony was first to let people of all faiths worship freely?

Bettmann/Corbis

## LESSON 2 REVIEW

### Review Vocabulary

- Examine the words below. Then write a paragraph explaining what the words have in common.  
a. dissent   b. persecute   c. tolerance

### Answer the Guiding Questions

- Explaining** Why did the Separatists and Puritans leave England and settle in North America?

- Comparing** What did the colonies of Connecticut, Rhode Island, and New Hampshire have in common?

- INFORMATIVE/EXPLANATORY** Write a paragraph describing the importance of the search for religious freedom in the settling of America. Describe the founding of at least two colonies.