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8.3 Explain the founding of the Plymouth Colony, including Separatists, William Bradford, Mayflower, Mayflower Compact and Squanto.

*When is Thanksgiving? Colonizing America - Crash Course by John Green*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o69TvQqyGdg

Welcome to MayflowerHistory.com, the Internet’s most complete and accurate website dealing with the *Mayflower* passengers and the history of the Pilgrims and early Plymouth Colony.

http://mayflowerhistory.com/pilgrim-history/
The New England Colonies

( Pictured Above: Depicting the Pilgrims as they leave Holland for new shores, "The Embarkation of the Pilgrims" can be found on the reverse of a $10,000 bill. Too bad the bill has not been printed since 1946.)

The founders of the New England colonies had an entirely different mission from the Jamestown settlers. Although economic prosperity was still a goal of the New England settlers, their true goal was spiritual. Fed up with the ceremonial Church of England, Pilgrims and Puritans sought to recreate society in the manner they believed God truly intended it to be designed.
Religious strife reached a peak in England in the 1500s. When Henry VIII broke with the Catholic Church of Rome,
spiritual life in England was turned on its ear. The new church under the king’s leadership was approved by the English Parliament, but not all the people in England were willing to accept the Church of England. At first, the battles were waged between English Catholics and the followers of the new Church — the ANGLICANS. The rule of Queen Elizabeth brought an end to bloodshed, but the battle waged on in the hearts of the English people.

The Pilgrims, called the Separatists in England because of their desire to separate from the Anglican Church, were persecuted by agents of the throne.

The PURITANS, so named for their desire to purify the Church of England, experienced the same degree of harassment.

PILGRIMS and Puritans both believed in the teachings of JOHN CALVIN. According to Calvin, neither the teachings of the Catholic nor the Anglican Churches addressed God’s will. By the end of Elizabeth’s reign, England was a nation of many different faiths.
John Winthrop was a spiritual and political leader of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. He was elected governor of the colony in 1629.

The Stuart family, who ascended to the throne after the demise of Elizabeth, made matters worse for the followers of John Calvin. King James and his son Charles supported the Church of England, but secretly admired the ceremonies of the Catholic Church. To these kings, Calvin was a heretic, a man whose soul was doomed for his religious views.

The Pilgrims, called the SEPARATISTS in England because of their desire to separate from the Anglican Church, were persecuted by agents of the throne. The Puritans, so named for their desire to purify the Church of England, experienced the same degree of harassment. By the second and third decades of the 1600s, each group decided that England was no place to put their controversial beliefs into practice.

The Mayflower and Plymouth Colony

( Pictured Above: At the time of its famous voyage, the Mayflower was roughly 12 years old and had been in the business of shipping wine. Seen here is the replica Mayflower II.)
The Pilgrims and the Puritans

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Ei0YRv57eI

Not all the English Separatists set out for the New World. The first group to leave England actually headed for the Dutch Netherlands in 1608. They became uneasy in their new land as their children started speaking Dutch and abandoning English traditions. Even worse to the Separatists, the tolerance shown to them by the Dutch was shown to many different faiths. They became disgusted with the attention paid to worldly goods, and the presence of many "unholy" faiths.

The great Separatist experiment in the Netherlands came to a quick end, as they began to look elsewhere for a purer place to build their society. Some headed for English islands in the Caribbean. Those who would be forever known to future Americans as the Pilgrims set their sights on the New World in late 1620.
Over a hundred travelers embarked on the voyage of the Mayflower in September 1620. Less than one third were Separatists. The rest were immigrants, adventurers, and speculators.

When the weather was good, the passengers could enjoy hot food cooked on deck. When there was high wind or storms, they lived on salted beef, a dried biscuit called "HARD TACK," other dried vegetables, and beer. The nearest thing to resemble a bathroom was a bucket.

Their voyage took about two months, and the passengers enjoyed a happier experience than most trans-Atlantic trips. One death was suffered and one child was born. The child was named OCEANUS after the watery depths beneath them.
The Mayflower Compact

In ye name of God Amen. We whose names are
underwriten, the loyall subjects of our dread soveraigne Lord
King James, by ye grace of God, of Great Britaine, France, &
Ireland King, defender of ye faith, &c.

Having undertaken for ye glory of God, and advancement
of ye Christian faith and honour of our king & countrey, a voyage
to plant ye first colonie in ye Northerne parts of Virginia, doe
by these presents solemnly & mutually in ye presence of God,
and one of another, covenant, & combine ourselves togetherto into
a Civill body politick; for our better ordering, & preservation
& furtherance of ye ends aforesaid; and by vertue hereof to
enact, constitute and frame such just & equall Lawes,
ordinances, Acts, constitutions & offices from time to time, as
shall be thought most meets & convenient for ye generall good of
ye colonie: unto which we promise all due submission and
obedience. In witness whereof we have hereunder subscribed our
names at Capz-Codd ye 11th of November, in ye year of ye
reigne of our soveraigne Lord King James of England, France &
Ireland ye eighteenth, and of Scotland ye fiftie fourth. Ano
Dom. 1620.

[Names of signers listed]

From the Yale School of Law, the Mayflower Compact and the signers are listed on the following document.

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/17th_century/mayflower.asp
One of the greatest twists of fate in human history occurred on that epochal voyage. The Pilgrims were originally bound for Virginia to live north of Jamestown under the same charter granted to citizens of Jamestown. Fate charted a different course. Lost at sea, they happened upon a piece of land that would become known as Cape Cod. After surveying the land, they set up camp not too far from PLYMOUTH ROCK. They feared venturing further south because winter was fast approaching.

( Pictured Above: *The 102 travelers aboard the Mayflower landed upon the shores of Plymouth in 1620. This rock still sits on those shores to commemorate the historic event.*)

The Pilgrims had an important question to answer before they set ashore. Since they were not landing within the jurisdiction of the Virginia Company, they had no CHARTER to govern them. Who would rule their society?

In the landmark MAYFLOWER COMPACT OF 1620, the Pilgrims decided that they would rule themselves, based on majority rule of the townsmen. This independent attitude set up a tradition of self-rule that would later lead to TOWN MEETINGS and elected legislatures in New England.

Like the Virginia House of Burgesses established the previous year, Plymouth colony began to lay the foundation for democracy in the American colonies.

( Pictured Above: *This map, the work of William Hubbard, depicts the expanding New England colonies as they were in 1677.*)
Where else but in the New World could such a golden opportunity be found? The land was unspoiled. Children could be raised without the corruption of old English religious ideas. The chance to create a perfect society was there for the taking. The Stuart kings saw America a means to get rid of troublemakers. Everything was falling into place.

By 1620, the seeds for a new society, quite different from the one already established at Jamestown, were planted deeply within the souls of a few brave pioneers. Their quest would form the basis of New England society.

**William Bradford and the First Thanksgiving**

[Image: William Bradford and the First Thanksgiving]

( Pictured Above: As was the custom in England, the Pilgrims celebrated their harvest with a festival. The 50 remaining colonists and roughly 90 Wampanoag tribesmen attended the "First Thanksgiving.")

The major similarity between the first Jamestown settlers and the first Plymouth settlers was great human suffering. November was too late to plant crops. Many settlers died of scurvy and malnutrition during that horrible first winter. Of the 102 original Mayflower passengers, only 44 survived. Again like in Jamestown, the kindness of the local Native Americans saved them from a frosty death.

The Pilgrims’ remarkable courage was displayed the following spring. When the Mayflower returned to Europe, not a single Pilgrim deserted Plymouth.

**The First Thanksgiving**

[Video: The First Thanksgiving]

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wFDSobNnfQs
BrainPop - The First Thanksgiving - [https://www.brainpop.com/socialstudies/culture/thanksgiving/](https://www.brainpop.com/socialstudies/culture/thanksgiving/)

BrainPop is paid for by Tullahoma City Schools for the use of TCS students and educators.

Helping Hands

( Pictured Above: Massasoit, chief of the Wampanoag tribe, signed a treaty with the Pilgrims in 1621, that was never broken. As a result, the two groups enjoyed a peaceful coexistence. )

By early 1621, the Pilgrims had built crude huts and a common house on the shores of Plymouth Bay. Soon neighboring Indians began to build relations with the Pilgrims. SQUANTO, a local Indian who had been kidnapped and taken to England nearly a decade before, served as an interpreter with the local tribes. Squanto taught the Pilgrims to fertilize the soil with dried fish remains to produce a stellar corn crop.

MASSASOIT, the chief of the nearby Wampanoags, signed a treaty of alliance with the Pilgrims in the summer. In exchange for assistance with defense against the feared Narragansett tribe, Massasoit supplemented the food supply of the Pilgrims for the first few years.
Successful colonies require successful leadership. The man to step forward in Plymouth colony was WILLIAM BRADFORD. After the first governor elected under the Mayflower Compact perished from the harsh winter, Bradford was elected governor for the next thirty years. In May of 1621, he performed the colony’s first marriage ceremony.
Under Bradford’s guidance, Plymouth suffered less hardship than their English compatriots in Virginia. Relations with the local natives remained relatively smooth in Plymouth and the food supply grew with each passing year.

By autumn of 1621, the Pilgrims had much for which to be thankful. After the harvest, Massasoit and about ninety other Indians joined the Pilgrims for the great English tradition of harvest festival. The participants celebrated for several days, dining on venison, goose, duck, turkey, fish, and of course, cornbread, the result of a bountiful corn harvest. This tradition was repeated at harvest time in the following years.

It was President Lincoln who declared Thanksgiving a national celebration in 1863. The Plymouth Pilgrims simply celebrated survival, as well as the hopes of good fortune in the years that lay ahead.

**Squanto**

*Read this article about Squanto from [www.bio.com](http://www.biography.com/people/squanto-9491327)*