

Plimoth Plantation

At Plymouth Rock in Massachusetts – the place where we think the Pilgrims landed – there is a reproduction of the Mayflower, the ship the Pilgrims sailed in. This ship, Mayflower II, was built in England, and it sailed to America in 1957. Each of the tall masts was made from three trees. But the ship looks very small, and it's difficult to see how over a hundred passengers were carried on it in the year 1620. The Pilgrims also took food and drink and things like furniture and even animals with them.

The Pilgrims are studied in school history lessons in America, and most Americans know quite a lot about them. On the Mayflower there's a list of the Pilgrims' names. Those Americans whose ancestors sailed on the Mayflower are usually very proud of the fact.

Not far from Plymouth Rock is Plimoth Plantation, a museum about life in North America when the early colonists lived there. But Plimoth Plantation is no ordinary museum. The Village in Plymouth has been built again in the same way a short distance from where it was before. The houses are just as they were in the old days. The Village has only two streets. Where they meet, there is a little fort with a cannon on each of its four sides. The whole Village is like it was in the year 1627, seven years after the Mayflower arrived here. The most realistic thing about Plimoth Plantation is that there are people who wear the kind of clothes that were worn in 1627. They also speak the English of that time. If you ask them questions about the Village, they will answer you with the kind of English that was spoken by the colonists. Even Americans can't understand very easily some of the things they say. At the village oven, a woman tells you how each family brought their bread dough, which was baked into bread.

In the first year over half of the colonists died of hunger or disease. But more people came from Europe, and the Village survived.

The settlers were helped by the people who already lived in the area, the 'Indians'. The most famous Indian was a man called Squanto, who had learned English from sailors some years before. He taught the Pilgrims what they needed to know. They had to grow food and catch fish. They shot turkeys, too.

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45 In one part of Plimoth Plantation, there are small round houses that were built by the Pilgrims. There are also modern buildings.



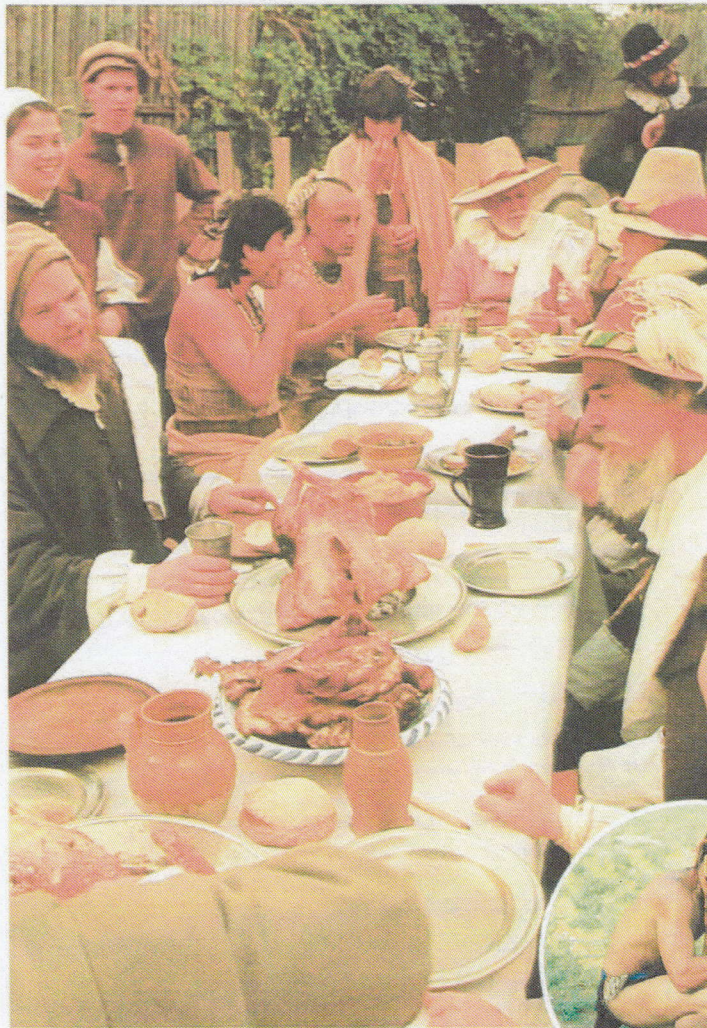
EXERCISE 6

Answer these questions.

- 1 What did the Pilgrims do in the first year?
- 2 How many people died in the first year?
- 3 What do Americans know about the Pilgrims?
- 4 What buildings are there in Plimoth Plantation?
- 5 What language do the Pilgrims speak?
- 6 Were any of the Pilgrims helped by the Indians?
- 7 How did the Pilgrims get help from the Indians?



45 In one part of Plimoth Plantation, there's an Indian Homesite. The houses the Indians lived in were small but kept them warm in winter. Most winters in Massachusetts are colder even than in Germany. The round houses were made of tree branches and mats that the Indians had woven. At the Homesite there are modern-day Indians, now called 'Native Americans', who tell you about their ancestors.



The colonists, the Pilgrims, were very religious. In 1621 they had a harvest dinner and thanked God that they were still alive. The Indians were invited because the Pilgrims wanted to thank them, too. Today Thanksgiving is a national holiday on the fourth Thursday in November. Americans usually eat turkey at Thanksgiving because eating turkey helped the Pilgrims to survive.

EXERCISE 5

Explain what these are.

- ➡ the Pilgrims
- The Pilgrims sailed to America in 1620 and established a colony at Plymouth.
- 1 Plymouth Rock
- 2 Plimoth Plantation
- 3 the Mayflower
- 4 Mayflower II
- 5 Squanto
- 6 Thanksgiving

EXERCISE 6

Answer these questions on Text 1.

- 1 What did the Pilgrims bring with them on the Mayflower?
- 2 Have most Americans heard of the Pilgrims? Why? / Why not?
- 3 What do Americans today think of the Pilgrims?
- 4 What buildings can you see today at Plimoth Plantation?
- 5 What language is spoken by the people who live in the Village today?
- 6 Were any of the Pilgrims ill after they arrived in the New World?
- 7 How did the 'Indians' keep warm in winter?

