

1. Goodbye home – Hello America



Other people wanted to find religious freedom as well, for example the Quaker. Others left their home because they had nothing to eat and lived in very poor conditions. They settled down in the east and named the colonies **after their kings and queens** King George, King Charles, Queen Victoria, Queen Mary, or **after their leaders** (William Penn, a Quaker).

The first immigrants in America were **Englishmen**. In 1620, the Puritans (also known as “the **Pilgrim Fathers**”) sailed from Plymouth in South England to North America. They emigrated because they didn’t agree with the church in England and were prosecuted. They wanted religious freedom. They landed in **Massachusetts**.

Pilgrim: Pilger; to emigrate: auswandern; to prosecute: verfolgen;

- ➔ Around the year 1700, Britain had managed to establish a colonial government in 13 colonies. These colonies are called the “13 original colonies”. As the first settlers in America were English, England regarded America as its own country.
 - ➔ Settlers had the same rights as British citizens, but women, slaves and native Americans and everyone who was not a member of the church, had no rights.
- citizen: Bürger; Natives / Native Americans: Indianer*

YOUR TURN: Read the text in the two boxes above ↑ and complete these two tasks ↓:



1. This is a text about Anne, a Puritan woman. There are some mistakes in it. Can you find and correct them?

My name is Anne. I came to the new world in 1520 because we didn’t agree with the pope in England. There we couldn’t live the way we wanted so we left. We took a ship from London to Mississippi. Now we finally have religious freedom.

2. Which colonies could have been named by the first settlers? Find them on the map and write down their names:

.....

.....

3. Tick the correct statements:

- An Apache had no rights in America.
- Women had no rights in America.
- A colonists had the same rights as an Englishman.
- America owned England.
- England thought that America was an independent country.

A hard start in the new world

“When we arrived in America, there were no houses waiting for us. It was a very hard winter and it was extremely cold. Most of us didn’t know how to build a house. We lived in little huts with leaky roofs. We also didn’t have much to eat – it was winter, and there was no supermarket to go to. We had to eat what we could find in the forest or what was left cornfields from summer. So many of us died from hunger and diseases. Thank God the Natives were good to us. One Indian, Squanto, who had been a slave for the English and spoke our language, helped us farm the land, showed us how to fish and how to grow corn. At the end of the first year, we held a "harvest feast". The feast honoured Squanto and our friends, the Wampanoag Indians. The feast was followed by three days of "thanksgiving" celebrating our luck.”
a hut: Hütte; a feast: Fest



1. What’s correct?

	true	false
The Puritans were good at building houses.		
Their first winter was hard.		
They found lots of food in the forests.		
Squanto was the Puritans’ friend.		
Squanto had been a slave and spoke English.		
Thanksgiving was a feast to celebrate the Puritans’ good luck.		

2. What does the picture show? Describe the event!



<http://virginiavignettes.org/files/2007/08/firstthanksgiving.jpg>

3. Quiz

1. Look at the picture for two minutes.
2. Write down five sentences about it and read them to your partner.
3. (s)he has to say whether they are true or not.

*e.g. There are two houses in the picture.
 - That’s wrong.*

e.g. I can see two ...

3. The friendship changed quickly ...

Which “bad things” did the white settlers do to the Native Americans?

.....

Why did Thanksgiving soon get a totally different meaning? Underline the answer in the text!

Soon the English forgot that the Indians were the ones who had helped them survive in the beginning. They took their land away or traded it for useless things. English settlers gave the Native Americans alcohol and firearms. In 1641, a raid against the members of the Pequot tribe in Connecticut was very successful, and the churches declared a day of "thanksgiving" to celebrate. During this feast, the heads of Natives were kicked through the streets of Manhattan. Many towns in New England soon held thanksgiving days to celebrate victories over the Natives.

firearms: Waffen; a raid: Überfall, tribe: Stamm; Razzia; to declare: erklären;