

## Social Studies Study Guide: Chapter 4: The Pilgrims

### Key Concepts

- The Pilgrims wanted to find a place where they could worship in their own church. In England, they needed to be a part of the King's church.
- They decided to leave England. They would go and join other English people who had settled in a place called Virginia.
- **102** Pilgrims boarded a ship called the **Mayflower**. Their trip took over two months. It was very difficult. The ocean was rough and there were icy winds and high waves. Many people got sick during the difficult trip.
- After 66 days, the Pilgrims finally saw land. But it was not Virginia. It was the sandy banks of **Cape Cod**. The Mayflower had been blow off course from a storm.
- Since they were far from England, the Pilgrims would have to govern (or make rules) for themselves. Together, they wrote a paper called the **Mayflower Compact**. It was a promise that they would work together to make good laws for their new home.
- The moment the Pilgrims signed this compact was a very important moment in our country's history. A free people had made their own plan of government. They agreed to live together under laws they would make. This is called **self-government**.
- The Pilgrims decided the best place to build their colony was a place Captain John Smith called **Plimoth** (spelt Plymouth today).
- Plimoth seemed like a good place to settle because there was a spring of fresh water nearby and a high hill that gave a clear view of any ships that might be coming. There were also cherry and plum trees that would give fruit once summer came.
- The men made a plan for the town. They built a **meetinghouse** where they could worship and discuss laws.
- The first winter was harsh. It was cold and there were no heaters to help stay warm. Many people got sick. About half of the Pilgrims got sick and died during the first winter.
- **Massasoit** the sachem (leader) of the Wampanoag people visited the Pilgrims. He said they wanted to be friends and hoped to trade with them.
- The Pilgrims and Wampanoag people signed a treaty. A **treaty** is like a promise that is written down. They promised not to harm one another and defend each other. When visiting each other, they would leave their

weapons behind. The treaty lasted **50 years** without being broken.

- The Wampanoag taught the Pilgrims how to **plant** corn, beans, and squash. They showed them better ways to **fish and hunt**. They also taught them how to **trade** with other Native Americans and sailors in the area. Without help from the Wampanoag, the Pilgrims might not have survived.
- By the end of the summer, the Pilgrims had many reasons to celebrate (enough food to eat, a successful fur trade, and sturdy houses). The people had celebrated the new harvest each year in England, but this year they were even more thankful because they had struggled so much and work so hard.
- The Pilgrims and Wampanoag people celebrated together at what we know as the “first Thanksgiving.” The food at the first Thanksgiving was very different from what you may eat today. Their meal consisted of *ducks, geese, deer, wild turkey, eel, clams, pumpkin, and corn.*

### Key Words

<b>colony</b>	A settlement in a country far away ruled by the mother country (In the 1600’s, Plimoth was one of England’s colonies)
<b>self- government</b>	A form of government in which people make the laws and agree to live by them
<b>treaty</b>	A promise that is written down
<b>cooperation</b>	The act of working together
<b>interpreter</b>	A person who explains something to people in another language
<b>trading post</b>	A place where people meet to trade goods

### Key People

<b>William Bradford</b>	The leader of the Pilgrims who was chosen to be the governor of Plimoth colony
<b>Massasoit</b>	The sachem (or leader) of the Wampanoag tribe
<b>Squanto</b>	Native America who helped the Pilgrims plant, trade, hunt, fish, and was an interpreter.

