

Pilgrims and Puritans Who Were the Pilgrims?

In 1620, a new group of English **settlers**¹ arrived in New England. Today, they are known as the Pilgrims.

The Pilgrims landed on Plymouth Rock. Plymouth Rock is near Cape Cod, Massachusetts. There, they started the Plymouth Colony. They wanted Plymouth Colony to be a place where they could practice their **beliefs**² freely.

The Pilgrims had not been free to practice their own beliefs in England. In England, the Pilgrims were known as Separatists. This is because they wanted to separate from England's **official**³ Church. However, the English king did not allow groups to separate from the Church of England.

So the Pilgrims moved to the Netherlands in 1607. Then, a few years later, they decided to go to America. In September of 1620, the Pilgrims set sail for America from Plymouth, England. They traveled on a ship called the *Mayflower*. After 66 days and 2 deaths these brave travelers arrived on the shores of Cape Cod. They decided to make Plymouth their new home.

¹ **Settlers**- people who move into a new area and are among the first to live there

² **Beliefs**- faith, religion

³ **Official**- supported by the government

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. When did the Pilgrims arrive in New England?
 - a. 1602
 - b. 1607
 - c. 1620
 - d. 1627

2. Why did the Pilgrims leave England?
 - a. They were tired of living there.
 - b. They weren't free to practice their beliefs there.
 - c. They thought the Netherlands was a more beautiful place to live.
 - d. They thought America would be more fun.

3. Where did the Pilgrims go first?
 - a. The Netherlands
 - b. The Mayflower
 - c. New England
 - d. Virginia

4. Which word best describes the Pilgrims?
 - a. Dutch
 - b. Difficult
 - c. Atheists
 - d. Courageous

5. The passage "Who Were the Pilgrims?" is mostly about
 - a. a group of Dutch people and how they practiced their religion.
 - b. why and how a group of English people moved to Massachusetts.
 - c. the first person to ever see North America.
 - d. a history of immigration to the United States of America.

6. What are two facts about the Pilgrims?

7. Why couldn't the Pilgrims practice their religious beliefs in England?

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

The Pilgrims wanted to separate from England's official church, _____, they were not allowed to.

- a. otherwise
- b. also
- c. however
- d. although

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

In 1620, a group of English settlers now called the Pilgrims arrived in New England on a ship called the Mayflower.

Who? a group of English settlers

(did) What? _____

(on) What? _____

When? _____

10. **Vocabulary Word:** beliefs: faith, religion.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: _____

Teacher Guide and Answers**Passage Reading Level:** Lexile 680**Featured Text Structure:** Descriptive – the writer explains, defines or illustrates a concept or topic**Passage Summary:** In 1620, a group of English settlers now called the Pilgrims arrived in New England on a ship called the *Mayflower*. They left England because they were not allowed to practice their religious beliefs there.

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6. What are two facts about the Pilgrims?

Suggested answer: Answers will vary but should include two facts from the passage. Sample Answer: Two facts about the Pilgrims are that they were called Separatists and that they moved to the Netherlands in 1607.

7. Why couldn't the Pilgrims practice their religious beliefs in England?

Suggested answer: The Pilgrims couldn't practice their religious beliefs in England because the English king did not allow groups to separate from the Church of England, and the Pilgrims' religion was different from the Church of England.

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

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In 1620, a group of English settlers now called the Pilgrims arrived in New England, on a ship called the Mayflower.

Who? a group of English settlers

(did) What? **arrived in New England**

(on) What? **on a ship called the Mayflower**

When? **1620**

10. **Vocabulary Word:** beliefs: faith, religion.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: answers may vary.