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**At first** the Powhatan Indians helped the settlers by sending them food. Still, these early settlers faced a challenging time. Food was scarce. Many settlers died from attacks by the Powhatan and from disease.

The winter of 1609-10 was the worse. It's now called the "Starving Time." Most of the colonists died from starvation and disease. Only about sixty colonists survived out of about 500.

The remaining settlers decided to abandon (leave) the settlement and return to England. So, in 1610, they started to sail away. But they ran into new supply ships from England with more settlers and supplies. So, they stayed. As a result, the Jamestown settlement survived and grew.

## First Marriage;

### First English Child in Jamestown

**The Second Supply ships** to Jamestown arrived in 1608. On board were the colony's first two women, including Anne Burras.

Soon after arriving in Jamestown, Burras married John Laydon. He had arrived in Jamestown a year earlier on the *Susan Constant*. Anne became the first English woman to marry in the New World. The Laydon's daughter, Virginia Laydon, was the first English child born in the colony.

**144 Days:** Time it took Jamestown settlers to sail from England to Virginia in 1607.

**9 Hours:** Time it takes to fly from England to Virginia today.

## Kids Want to Know

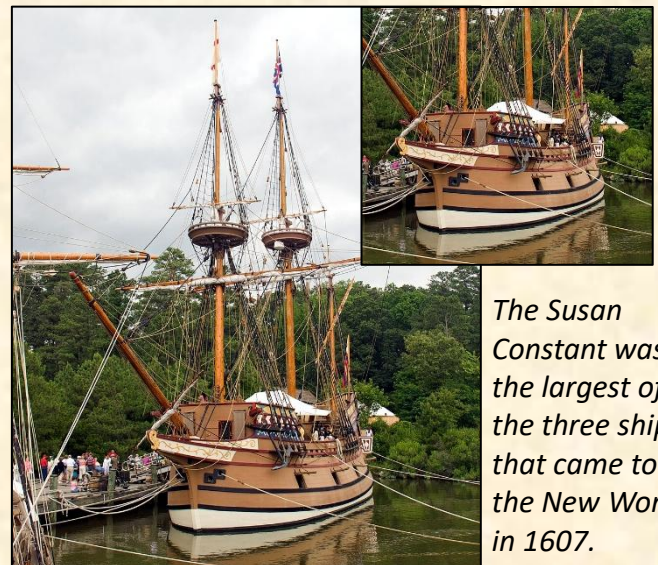


Why didn't the English fish during the "Starving Time?"

**There are at least** three reasons. First, they were very likely afraid to leave the safety of the fort for fear of being killed by the Powhatan Indians. Secondly, a long, severe drought at the time affected the number and type of fish in the river. Finally, it could be that they were just too sick and weak to do any fishing.

### The Susan Constant, the Discovery, and the Godspeed

**Three ships** brought English settlers to Jamestown in 1607. They were the *Susan Constant*, the *Discovery*, and the *Godspeed*. This is a replica (or exact copy) of the *Susan Constant*.



The *Susan Constant* was the largest of the three ships that came to the New World in 1607.

1619

The first Africans arrive, having been taken from a Portuguese slave ship.

1676

Nathaniel Bacon leads a rebellion against the British colonial governor.

1699

Jamestown suffers a bad fire. The capital of Virginia moves to Williamsburg.



**For nearly a century after the starving time, the Jamestown colony grew and prospered. Here are just some of the important events that happened during that time.**

In **1612**, a settler named John Rolfe planted a new strain of tobacco from seeds he brought from elsewhere. The people back home in England loved it. As a result, Rolfe's tobacco became an important cash crop for the settlers. It was like finding "gold" in the New World. In fact, it was called "brown gold" because it made the colony rich.



*Settlers harvesting tobacco at Jamestown.*

In **1619** the first documented Africans were brought to Virginia. They were originally captured in modern-day Angola in Africa and forced to board a Portuguese slave ship headed to Mexico. However, on its way to Mexico, the ship was attacked by the English ship, the *White Lion*. The African captives were stolen and taken to Jamestown. The governor of Jamestown gave the captain of the *White Lion* supplies of food in exchange for the Africans.

In **1619**, more than 90 single women arrived to become wives and start families—an important step if the colony was to survive.

### **"BIRTHPLACE OF DEMOCRACY"**

In **1619**, the Jamestown General Assembly met for the first time. The assembly consisted of representatives from various settlements in Virginia. Their purpose was to make laws for the colony. It was the beginning of democracy among non-Native Americans. Today, Jamestown is often called the birthplace of American democracy.

### **Quick Quiz: A Word to the Wise**

**Some words** that we use in English today are actually words from the Powhatan language. Here are four words we use in English. Which one is NOT a Powhatan word?

**Check your answer on page 38.**

**Raccoon** **Tomahawk**  
**Frisbee** **MOCCASIN**

Between **1622** and **1646** there was ongoing fighting between settlers and the Powhatans. The fighting finally ended when the Powhatan chief was murdered. Soon after, the new chief of the Powhatans signed the first treaties with the English. The treaties said that the Powhatan Indians had to follow the rules of the English king.

On September 6, 1620, an English ship known as **The Mayflower** left Plymouth, England, for the New World. It carried 102 passengers, as well as 30 to 50 crew members. The 102 passengers included 74 males and 28 females, including children and teenagers. Sixty-six days later, on November 11, 1620, the ship reached Provincetown Harbor in present-day Massachusetts.

For the next two days, the Mayflower stayed anchored in Provincetown Harbor. During this time, a group of colonists drafted and signed an agreement, called the Mayflower Compact. It listed laws for all Mayflower passengers to follow for the good of the colony. It was the first document in the New World that laid out the ideas of democracy and a democratic nation.

After several weeks at Provincetown, the Mayflower sailed a little farther north to a place they named Plymouth. It became the first permanent European settlement in New England.

## Kids Want to Know

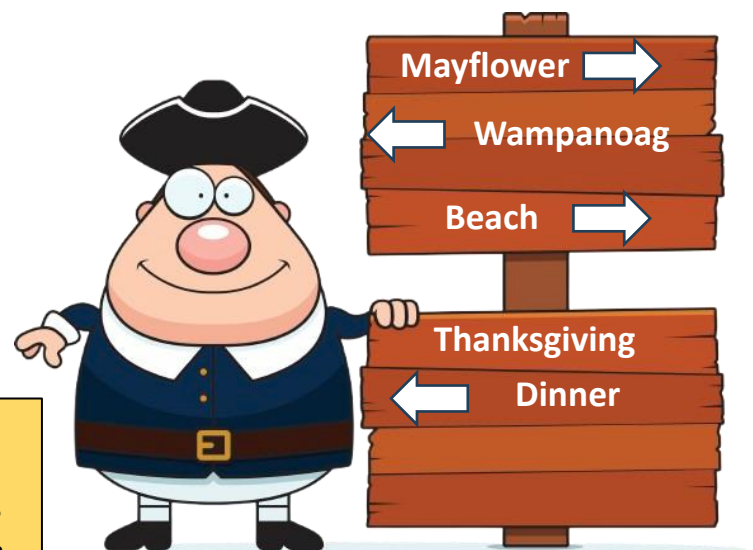


I read that the Mayflower arrived in the New World on November 11, 1620. But I also read that it arrived November 21, 1620. Which is correct?

**Actually, they are both correct.** Here's why. Back then, there were two different calendars: the Julian calendar and the Gregorian calendar. The Mayflower used the Julian calendar. It was ten days behind the Gregorian calendar. So, according to the Julian calendar, the Mayflower arrived November 11, 1620. But according to the Gregorian calendar, the Mayflower arrived ten days later on November 21, 1620.

# 66

The number of days it took the Mayflower to sail from Plymouth, England to the New World. They left England September 6, 1620, and arrived in America on November 11, 1620.



# 41

The number of adult male passengers who signed the Mayflower Compact in 1620. No women on the Mayflower were permitted to sign the compact.

**9/6/1620**

The Mayflower departs England; it arrives in the New World 66 days later.

**11/11/1620**

Settlers sign The Mayflower Compact. It establishes a democratic government.

**1621**

The Wampanoag people help the colonists learn how to plant, fish, and hunt.



# The Mayflower Passengers

The Mayflower carried 102 passengers. That 50 adult males, 19 adult women, and 33 children and teenagers. One baby boy was born during the voyage. Here are just some of passengers.

## John Carver

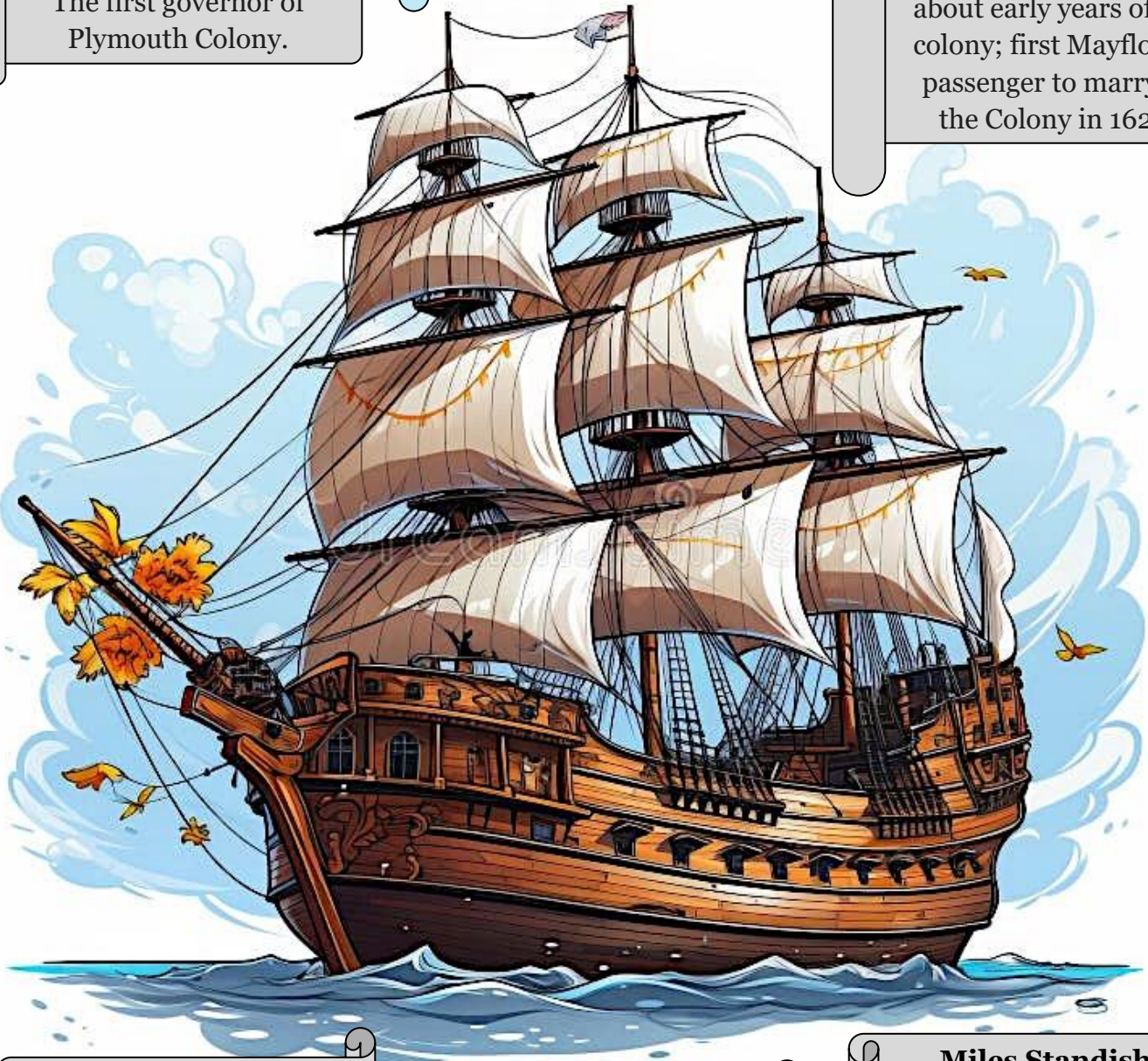
The first governor of Plymouth Colony.

## Mary Chilton, age 13

Said to be the first female to step ashore at Plymouth Rock.

## Edward Winslow

Helped establish peaceful relations with the Wampanoag; wrote about early years of the colony; first Mayflower passenger to marry in the Colony in 1621.



## Peregrine White

First known English child born to Pilgrims in America.

## Mary Allerton

Longest living and last surviving Mayflower passenger; died 1699.

## Miles Standish

Military leader signed the Mayflower Compact.

**For several weeks**, the settlers explored the Provincetown area. But then they decided to sail farther north to a place they named Plymouth. They arrived in Plymouth Harbor on December 16, 1620. They chose Plymouth because it offered a better harbor and good water supply. On December 21, 1620, many of the settlers came ashore at Plymouth with plans to build a new colony. It became the first permanent European settlement in New England.

### Mary Chilton: First English Female in Plymouth?



*An artist drawing of Mary Chilton stepping foot on Plymouth Rock.*

In December 1620, a thirteen-year-old girl named Mary Chilton stepped out of a small boat onto the shore of what is now Plymouth, Massachusetts. She had just spent more than two months on a ship called the Mayflower, crossing the Atlantic ocean from her home in England.

Today, Mary Chilton is remembered as the first English female to come ashore at Plymouth. But is the story true? No one knows for sure. Mary's ancestors first wrote down that story more than a hundred years after Mary's arrival in Plymouth.

What is known for sure is that Mary's arrival in Plymouth marked the beginning of the Plymouth Colony, the first permanent English settlement in New England.



We'll call it Plymouth after Plymouth, England, where we started this amazing journey.

### Did You Know?

**Only 37 of the 102 passengers** on the Mayflower were Puritans. They were traveling to the New World to seek religious freedom. They called themselves "separatists."

**“ For we must consider that we shall be as a city upon a hill. The eyes of all people are upon us. ”**

**--John Winthrop,**

**founder of the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1630**

**1621**

Pilgrims and Wampanoags share a feast, said to be the first Thanksgiving dinner.

**1675-78**

Native Americans defend their land and way of life during King Philip's War.

**1691**

The Plymouth Colony becomes part of the Massachusetts Bay Colony.



**That first winter at Plymouth** was very hard for the colonists. About half of the colonists died from hunger or disease.

But by spring, the Pilgrims got help from some of the Native American people who lived in the area. They were known as the Wampanoag. The Wampanoag taught the colonists how to plant crops, where to fish, and what to hunt.

In the fall 1621, the colonists and the Wampanoag celebrated a harvest festival. They celebrated with a lot of food, including turkey, corn, squash chestnuts, cranberries, and artichokes. This special dinner is now thought of as the first Thanksgiving.

### SPOTLIGHT ON: Squanto

**Born:** c. 1585 in what is today Plymouth Bay, Massachusetts

**Died:** November 30, 1622, in Chatham, Massachusetts Bay Colony.

**Known for:** Helping the Plymouth colonists (the Pilgrims) survive the first winter in America.



*A 1911 illustration of Squanto shows him teaching the colonists to plant maize.*

**Squanto** was a Native American who helped the Pilgrims survive their first winter in the New World. He taught them to plant corn and how to use dead fish to fertilize the soil.

Squanto's real name was Tisquantum. He was given the name Squanto

by William Bradford, the second governor of Plymouth Colony.

Earlier his life, he was kidnapped by explorers and sold into slavery. Later, he was taken to Europe. There, he learned to speak English. As a result, he was able serve as an interpreter for the colonists and Wampanoag. He helped the colonists negotiate a peace treaty with the Wampanoag chief, Massasoit.

Squanto most likely was at the first Thanksgiving celebration.

### Laugh Out Loud



### FUN FACT

**Nearly twice as many Native Americans attended the "First Thanksgiving" as colonists including Massasoit, the sachem (or chief) of the Wampanoag.**

### Quick Quiz: Thanksgiving Menu, 1621

The First Thanksgiving menu probably included all of the following except one. Which one?

- (a) Ducks and geese
- (b) Corn and squash
- (c) Pumpkin pie
- (d) Shellfish

(e) Check your answer on page 38.

# A Brief History of the 13 Colonies

**The European settlers came to the New World** for different reasons. Some came with the hope of getting rich. Others came for religious freedom. They wanted to practice their faith without being punished for what they believed. Still others were convicts and petty thieves. They were often sent to the colonies by the King to serve out their sentence. They were known as King's Passengers.

Here is a brief history of the founding or establishment of the original 13 colonies.



**VIRGINIA** was the first of the thirteen English colonies. It was established in 1607 and was named after Queen Elizabeth I. She was known as the "Virgin Queen" - thus Virginia.

In 1620, English Puritans, later known as Pilgrims, founded the Plymouth Colony in what would become **MASSACHUSETTS**. They came to the new world for religious freedom.



**NEW HAMPSHIRE**

was the third of the thirteen original colonies. It was founded in 1623. It was also the first colony to plant and grow potatoes.

Then, in 1626, the Dutch settlers founded a colony on what is now Manhattan in New York City. The Dutch called it New Amsterdam. But in 1664, the English took control and renamed it **NEW YORK**.



Beginning in 1632, many English Roman Catholics came to the New World and settled a new colony called **MARYLAND**.



**CONNECTICUT** was established in 1636. In 1639, it became the first colony to write a constitution. That is why Connecticut is called "The Constitution State."





**During the First Continental Congress**, delegates made a number of important decisions. They organized boycotts against British goods. They began to store weapons and train civilian military forces for possible conflict with the British. They also produced a document called the Declaration of Rights and Grievances that was sent to King George III. In general, the patriots started to plan for independence.

## The First Continental Congress At a Glance

**What:** A meeting among patriots from the colonies.

**Who:** Delegates from twelve of the thirteen colonies. (Georgia did not attend.)

**When:** September 5 to October 26, 1774.

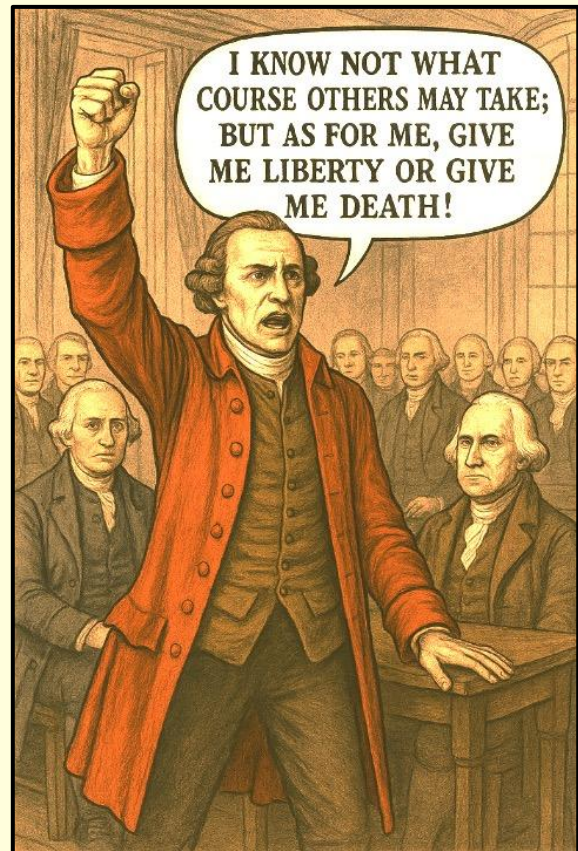
**Where:** Carpenters' Hall, Philadelphia.

**Why:** To discuss how colonists could work together to respond to the Intolerable Acts and British authority over the colonies.

**Result:** The Congress called for the colonies to boycott (or refuse to buy) British goods.

56

The number of delegates (all men) at the First Continental Congress, including George Washington, John Adams, and Patrick Henry.



*On March 23, 1775, in a speech before the second Virginia Convention, Patrick Henry expressed his anger towards British rule over the colonies by his famous declaration.*

## Two Different Points of View

**"Parliament has no right to put its hands into our pockets without our consent."** -- George Washington, 1765

**"Britain to America: 'Am I not your mother country? Is that not a sufficient [reason for] your respect and obedience?'"**

-- Author Unknown

On April 19, 1775, the **American Revolution** began. It started with two battles between British soldiers and American colonists. The first battle was in Lexington, a town near Boston. Nobody knows who fired the first shot. Perhaps a gun simply misfired. But in the end, eight colonists were dead.

The British then marched on to Concord. They wanted to seize (or take away) the colonists' weapons. But the British soldiers were stopped by the minutemen (colonists who were ready to fight in a minute's notice). Nevertheless, nearly 100 militia were killed or wounded.

These two battles marked the start of the American fight for independence.

### **"Paul Revere's Ride"**

**A Poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow**

*Listen, my children, and you shall hear  
Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere.*

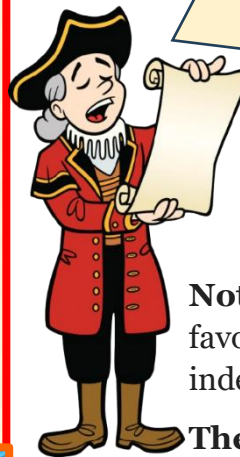
**On the night of** April 18, 1775, a Patriot named Paul Revere set out from Boston on horseback to warn colonists that the British were approaching.

Nearly one hundred years later, Revere's ride became famous in a poem by American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Longfellow's poem helped make Paul Revere's midnight ride a symbol of the struggle for American independence.



***Paul Revere's midnight ride to warn the colonists that the British were coming.***

**Hear ye, hear ye!**  
**Our most recent poll shows that the majority of colonists are fence-sitters. They're neither for nor against independence.**



### **The Patriots and the Loyalists**

**Not all of the colonists** were in favor of the revolution or even of independence.

**The Patriots**, also known as the "Whigs," were colonists who wanted independence from Great Britain. They believed that the colonies had the right to govern themselves.

**The Loyalists**, also known as the "Tories," were colonists who remained loyal to Great Britain and the king. They believed that the colonies had a duty to obey the laws of the British government.

There was also a third group of colonists who stayed neutral. They were neither in favor of nor opposed to the revolution.

**April 1775**

The first shots of the Revolutionary War are fired at Lexington and Concord.

**Nov. 1775**

The British offers freedom to any slave who is able to escape and join them.

**June 1775**

The Battle of Bunker Hill becomes the first major battle. The Patriots lose.