

Name:_____

Class:_____

Date:_____

The New England Colonies

New England began as one large colony. Two different religious groups settled it. In the year 1620, the Pilgrims came from Great Britain. The Pilgrims landed in Plymouth Bay. The Puritans arrived in 1629. The Puritans started the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

The Pilgrims had a charter promising them land in Virginia. But their ship the Mayflower, blew off course. The Pilgrims were not prepared for life in the North. They arrived just before winter. There was not enough food. Half of the colonists died that first winter.

The Puritans had a charter for land north of Plymouth. They knew how cold it would be. So, the Puritans arrived with plenty of food. They did well the first winter.

The Puritans wanted to change the Church of England. They wanted a religion that was plain and simple. They believed that all church members were equal. In the new colony, the Puritans set up their own church. It had strict rules. Everyone in Massachusetts had to follow them. Some people did not like their rules. They left Massachusetts. They began other colonies. In 1636, some people moved to the Connecticut River Valley. Roger Williams was a Puritan minister. He founded the colony of Rhode Island. By 1679, the people in New Hampshire had broken free from Massachusetts too.

Making a Living

The North was not good for farming. The soil was too rocky. The winters were cold and long. The people grew only enough food to feed themselves. So, they had to find other ways to earn money.

There were many forests. The trees there were good for building ships. There were many animals in the forests too. Fur traders caught them. Then they sold the fur. Some grew quite rich. Other men caught fish in the sea. This provided food for the colonists.

**Notes about the _____ Colonies**

Notes about the _____ Colonies	
What was life like here?	
What hardships did they face?	
What jobs did they have?	
Why did they travel to the New World?	