

Focus Activity

READ TO LEARN

Who were the Puritans?

VOCABULARY

- covenant
- tolerate

PEOPLE

- King Charles I
- John Winthrop
- Roger Williams
- Anne Hutchinson
- Thomas Hooker
- Metacomet

PLACES

- Massachusetts
- Boston
- Providence
- Rhode Island
- Portsmouth
- Connecticut
- New Hampshire
- Vermont
- Maine

The New England Colonies

Read Aloud

John Winthrop, the Puritan leader, first saw Massachusetts from the ship Arbella. "We must be knit together as one," he said. "We must rejoice together, mourn together, labor and suffer together." The year was 1630. The Puritans had arrived in North America.

THE BIG PICTURE

When the Pilgrims were first settling in Plymouth, the Puritans were growing in numbers in England. The Puritans were a group of English Protestants. They felt the Church of England followed too many practices of the Roman Catholic Church.

Like the Pilgrims, some Puritans decided to leave England to practice their religion freely. Both groups had been put in jail for their beliefs.

In 1629 a group of Puritans agreed to form the Massachusetts Bay Company if King Charles I of England would give them a charter to settle in North America. The king gave them the charter. It allowed them to settle in areas claimed by England. In 1630 the Puritans landed in an area John Smith had reached in 1614 and later named New England. The Puritans called their area Massachusetts Bay. Their settlement later became known as Massachusetts.

THE PURITANS ARRIVE

- ① Unlike the Pilgrims, the Puritans arrived in North America in great numbers. Instead of one ship, the Puritans had a fleet of 11. Instead of 100 people, there were 700 of them. They also brought supplies, a herd of cows, and about 60 horses.

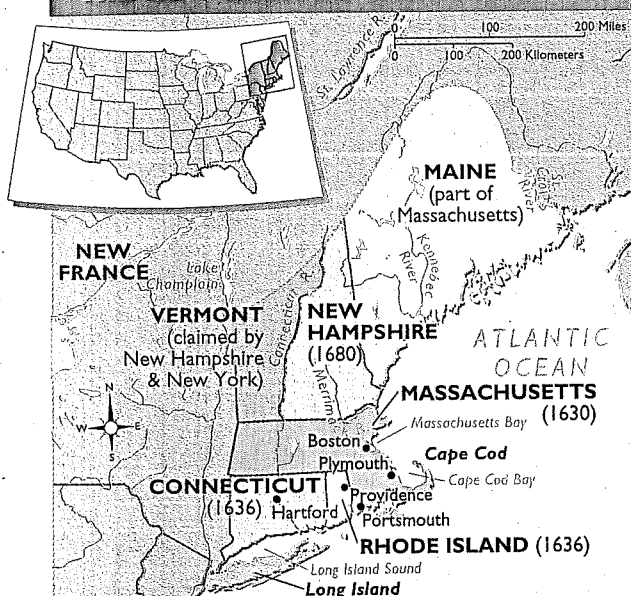
John Winthrop

- ② The leader of the Puritans was a lawyer named John Winthrop.

It was Winthrop who led them to Massachusetts Bay in 1630. The word *Massachusetts* means "at or near the great hill" in Algonkian, the language of the Native Americans who lived in the area.

- ③ The Puritans founded their colony along the Charles River. The new colony's first settlement was Boston. Find Boston on the map on this page. Winthrop was elected the first governor by Puritan men, since women were not allowed to vote.

THE NEW ENGLAND COLONIES



MAP WORK

Dates shown under or next to colonies are the years they were founded.

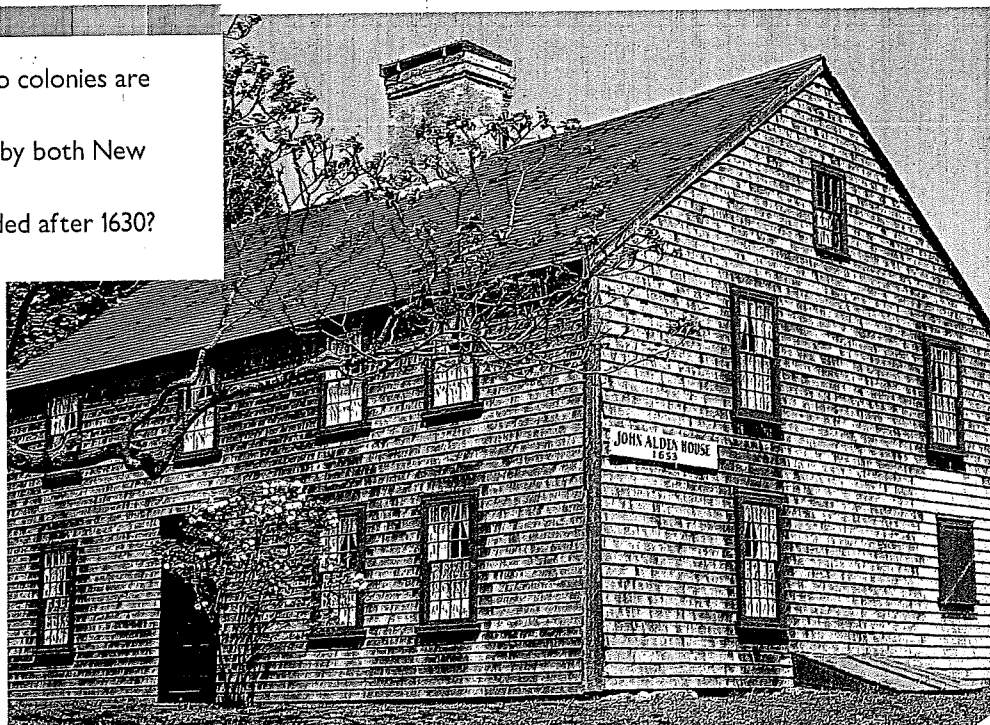
1. Which colony was claimed by both New Hampshire and New York?
2. Which colonies were founded after 1630?

The Geography of New England

- ④ At first, life in Massachusetts Bay Colony was hard. The hilly land and thin and rocky soil made farming difficult for the colonists.

Still the area had many natural resources that helped the Puritans survive. The forests supplied them with wood to make homes, fences, and tools. The Charles River and the Atlantic Ocean provided many kinds of fish for food.

This is the Duxbury, Massachusetts, home of John and Priscilla Alden. They and other New Englanders moved to Duxbury in the late 1620s.



"A CITY UPON A HILL"

- ① John Winthrop described their colony with these words from the Bible: "city upon a hill." The Massachusetts Bay Colony began with about 700 people in 1630. Ten years later, the population had grown to over 20,000. It was one of the largest populations of any European colony in North America at the time.

The Puritan Way of Life

- ② In the Puritan community, each "free man," as a male colonist was called, signed a covenant. A covenant is a special promise or agreement. In it, each free man promised that his family would live by the rules of the Puritan church.
- ③ Puritans believed that the success of their colony was a result of their belief in God and the Bible. They believed in hard work. Everyone helped build the community.
- ④ The Puritans used a plan to build their villages. Look at the diagram of a New England village in the middle 1600s on the next page. At the center was the meeting house and the village common. In earlier villages the meeting house also served as the church.

Education was important to the Puritans.

Colonial students learned to read using a hornbook, a page under clear horn.

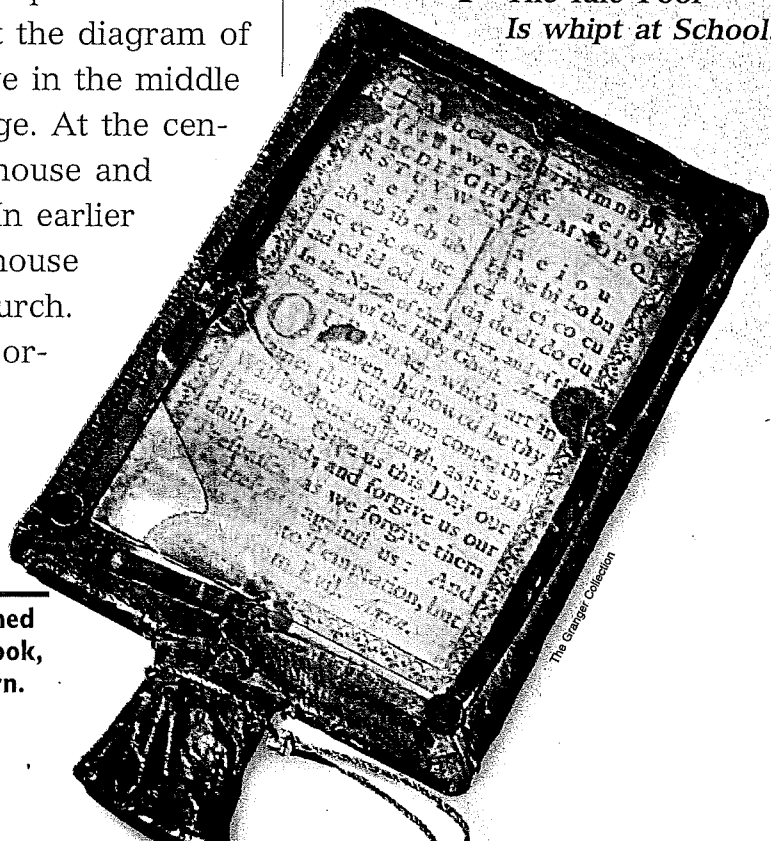
They believed that people should be able to read the Bible. Unlike in Europe, schools were free. To imagine what school was like then, read these words from a Puritan schoolbook. How does it compare to your schoolbooks?

MANY VOICES

PRIMARY SOURCE

Excerpt from
The New England Primer,
a schoolbook first published in 1689
for Puritan children.

- A** *In Adam's Fall
We Sinned All.*
- B** *Thy Life to Mend
This Book Attend.*
- C** *The Cat doth play
And after slay.*
- D** *A Dog will bite
A Thief at night.*
- E** *An Eagle's flight
Is out of sight.*
- F** *The Idle Fool
Is whipt at School.*



A New England Village, 1630-1650



NEW ENGLAND GROWS

Soon the Puritans started new colonies. Some were founded as a result of religious disagreements with Puritan leaders.

Puritans Speak Out

- ① Puritan leaders wanted everyone to share their beliefs. The minister Roger Williams disagreed. He said the colony needed to tolerate different religious beliefs. To tolerate means "to allow people to have beliefs different from your own."
- ② Anne Hutchinson also disagreed with the leaders. She believed people should pray to God rather than depend upon church teachings.
- ③ Both Williams and Hutchinson went to trial. Puritan leaders wanted

Williams to change his views.

Instead he fled Massachusetts in 1636. He founded the settlement of Providence in what then became Rhode Island. It was the first European colony in the Americas to allow freedom of religion.

- ④ After her trial, Anne Hutchinson was forced to leave Massachusetts. In 1638 she went to Rhode Island, where she started the settlement of Portsmouth.

Thomas Hooker, another Puritan minister, also left Massachusetts. Hooker believed that each church should be independent and should choose its own leaders. In 1636 he and about 100 followers founded the colony of Connecticut.

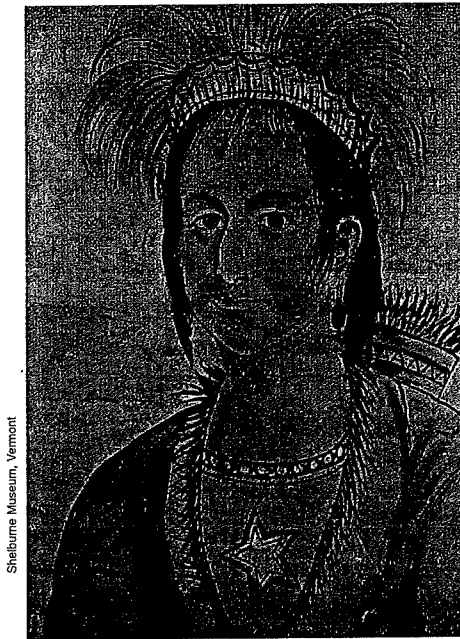
Changes for the Native Americans

- ① As the New England Colonies grew, Native Americans lost their land. At first some Native Americans helped colonists. When Roger Williams fled, for example, the Narragansett let him live on their land. In turn he paid them for land on Narragansett Bay, where he started his colony.
- ② As colonists settled more land, disagreements arose with Native Americans. In what later became the Connecticut Colony, fighting broke out between the Pequot (PEE kwaht) and the English colonists. In the Pequot War of 1637, hundreds of the Pequot and colonists were killed.



The Granger Collection

John Winthrop (above), Governor of Massachusetts, disagreed with colonists such as Anne Hutchinson (right).



Shelburne Museum, Vermont

Metacomb (above) wanted to force the colonists out of New England. He had a very different outlook on the English than his father, Massasoit, who had helped the Pilgrims.

3 After the Pequot War, fighting between colonists and Native Americans stopped for almost 40 years. During that time colonists moved to what is now New Hampshire and to what later became the colonies of Vermont and Maine.

Metacomb

By 1675 the Wampanoag leader Metacomb (met uh KAHM uht), whom the English called King Philip, was ready to fight for Wampanoag lands. Many Native Americans joined him, including the Narragansett.

King Philip's War, as the struggle was called, was fierce. Native Americans destroyed 16 towns in Massachusetts. In 1676 Metacomb was killed. His family was sold into slavery in the West Indies. His defeat ended strong Native American resistance in New England.

WHY IT MATTERS

Some Puritan ideas continue to affect our lives today. Part of our country's system of public education was modeled after Puritan schools.

✓ Reviewing Facts and Ideas

SUM IT UP

- The Puritans, with their leader John Winthrop, arrived in New England and settled Boston in 1630.
- Minister Roger Williams founded Providence, Rhode Island, in 1636. In 1638 Anne Hutchinson founded Portsmouth, also in Rhode Island. Connecticut was founded in 1636 by Thomas Hooker.
- The leader of the Wampanoag, Metacomb, led King Philip's War against the English in 1675, but lost. After that, most Native Americans no longer resisted the New England colonists.

THINK ABOUT IT

1. Why did the Puritans decide to come to North America?
2. Why were Roger Williams and Anne Hutchinson brought to trial?
3. **FOCUS** How did Puritan beliefs influence their colonies?
4. **THINKING SKILL** Compare Massasoit's and Metacomb's feelings toward the English. Why might they not have felt the same?
5. **WRITE** Suppose you lived in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Write a letter to a friend in England about your new life.