The New England Colonies

Objective: To learn how the colonies came into existence
The Pilgrims Found Plymouth Colony

- A group of Puritans called **Separatists**, separated from the Anglican Church.
- King James I responded by imprisonment of Separatist leaders.
- Several Separatists immigrated to Holland, and then America. These Separatists were known as **Pilgrims**.
- In 1620, 101 passengers set out for Virginia.
- They founded a town called Plymouth, in New England.
Surviving in New England

- A plague left only 50 settlers alive.
- **Squanto**, a Native American, taught the Pilgrims to survive and helped negotiate a peace treaty with the Wampanoag people nearby.
- The Pilgrims joined the Wampanoag for a three day feast that became known as Thanksgiving.

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The Puritans Found Massachusetts

- **John Winthrop**, an attorney, and several other wealthy Puritans became stockholders in the Massachusetts Bay Company.
- They received a charter from King Charles to create a colony in New England.
- Winthrop promoted America as a refuge for Puritans.
- By 1643, an estimated 20,000 settlers arrived in Massachusetts. This was known as the **Great Migration**.
All the people who owned stock in the company (freemen) made up the General Court. The General Court made laws and elected the governor.

Eventually, the General Court was made up of elected stockholders from each town.

The government discouraged new and different religious ideas.

Heretics, people whose religious beliefs differ from the majority, were considered a threat to the community.

These people were often banished.
Founding of Rhode Island

- **Roger Williams** established a new colony after he challenged Puritans authority.
- He bought land from the Narragansett people and founded the town of Providence.
- Different religious beliefs were tolerated.
- **Anne Hutchinson** was banished after she challenged the authority of ministers.
- She founded the town of Portsmouth.
- These towns along with several others became the colony of Rhode Island.
River Towns of Connecticut

- **Thomas Hooker** founded the town of Hartford because he was believed everyone should get to vote, not just church members.
- Hartford and several other towns adopted the **Fundamental Orders of Connecticut**, which was a constitution that allowed all adult men to vote and serve in government.
New Hampshire and Maine

- Captain John Mason established the colony of New Hampshire after a English court ruled in his favor.
- Sir Fernando Gorges founded the colony of Maine.
Native American troubles

- In 1636, two Massachusetts traders were killed in Pequot territory.
- War erupted and the Pequot began raiding towns along the Connecticut River.
- An army led by Captain John Mason and some Native American Allies attacked the main Pequot fort and set it on fire.
- By the 1670s, colonial governments began to demand that Native Americans follow English laws and customs.
- Plymouth Colony arrested and executed three Wampanoag for a murder.
- This set off King Philip’s War.
- The colonists won the war in 1678, which left very few Native Americans in New England.