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COLONIAL AMERICA

CHAPTER 3

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THE NEW ENGLAND COLONIES

LESSON 2

CONTENT VOCABULARY

1. dissent— to disagree with or oppose an opinion
2. persecute— to mistreat a person or group on the basis of their belief
3. tolerance— the ability to accept or put up with different views or behaviors

SEEKING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

- The first group of English colonists came for wealth. The new groups came for religious freedom.
- England is now Protestant. (Thanks to King Henry VII, who broke from the Catholic church, and formed the Anglican church, so he could divorce his first wife.)
- Not everyone is happy and many dissented. Some stayed Catholic. Some, called **Puritans**, wanted to reform the Anglican Church while staying Protestant. Some, called **Separatists**, wanted to break away completely.

SEEKING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

- Separatists were persecuted in England. Some fled to the Netherlands, where they could practice their religion, but couldn't find jobs.
- In 1620, a group of Separatists, called the **Pilgrims**, decided to move to America. They got a land grant and permission to settle and practice their religion in Virginia from the Virginia Company. They set sail on the *Mayflower*, and drifted off course, landing near Cape Cod. The new colonists decided to settle in Cape Cod, at a place they called **Plymouth**, because winter was fast approaching and that meant bad weather for sailing.
- Because they hadn't reached Virginia, they needed new laws. They created the **Mayflower Compact**, which set up a government, and each signer promised to obey the laws for the good of the colony.
- This was a key step in the development of representative, democratic government in America.

SEEKING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

- Almost half the Pilgrims died during the first winter due to hunger, illness, and cold.
- Luckily, they befriended two local Native Americans who offered to help. Squanto and Samoset taught the Pilgrims to grow corn, beans, and pumpkins. They also showed the colonists where to hunt.
- Because of the friendship of Squanto and Samoset, the Pilgrims also became friendly with the Wampanoag (wahm-pah-no-ahg) people.
- To thank them for their help, the Pilgrims included Squanto, Samoset, and the Wampanoag people in a feast of **thanksgiving** the following year. (This is the story of Thanksgiving.)

NEW COLONIES: MASSACHUSETTS BAY COLONY

- In 1629, a group of Puritans received a royal charter and formed the Massachusetts Bay Colony, north of Plymouth. They chose **John Winthrop** to be the colony's governor.
- In 1630, Winthrop led 900 colonists to Massachusetts and established a settlement they called Boston.
- Over the next 10 years, over 15,000 Puritans moved to the colony during the Great Migration, to escape persecution in England .
- Until 1634, Winthrop and his assistants made the laws. In 1634, however, the people demanded more say in their government. Now, adult church members were allowed to vote for the governor and representatives. Later, owning land became a requirement for voting.

NEW COLONIES

- Although the Puritans came to America to practice their religion without persecution, they had little tolerance for different beliefs.
- They, in turn, criticized and persecuted those who didn't agree with their view and strictly enforced their own religious rules.
- This led to people leaving the colony and forming their own.

NEW COLONIES: CONNECTICUT

- In 1636, a Massachusetts minister named **Thomas Hooker** left Massachusetts to settle in the Connecticut River Valley. He did not agree with how Winthrop and the other Puritan leaders were running the colony.
- He founded the town of **Hartford**, while others created towns nearby. After three years, these towns formed the colony of **Connecticut**.
- In 1639, the adopted the **Fundamental Orders of Connecticut**, the first written constitution in America, describing the organization of representative government and reflecting the belief in democratic principles.

NEW COLONIES: RHODE ISLAND & NEW HAMPSHIRE

- The same year that Hooker founded Hartford, **Roger Williams** founded **Rhode Island**. Williams, a minister, felt that government should not force people to worship in a certain way. He also believed that settlers were wrong to settle on Native American lands without permission, and often without payment.
- Massachusetts leaders kicked him out and he took refuge with the local Native Americans, the Narragansett. He was able to buy land from them later and found the town of **Providence**. This was the first place where people of any faith could worship freely.
- Like Williams, **John Wheelwright** led a group of dissidents from Massachusetts to found the city of **Exeter** in **New Hampshire**, in 1638. They became an independent colony in 1679.

NEW COLONIES: CONFLICT WITH NATIVE AMERICANS

- As the settlers spread across New England, they often encountered the Native Americans who lived there. Native Americans traded with colonists for furs.
- Conflicts often arose because the colonists were moving into the Native Americans' territory without permission or paying.
- All through the colonial period, clashes between the colonists and Native Americans occurred.
- In 1675, the leader of the Wampanoag people, Metacomet, waged war against the colonists. This was known as **King Phillip's War** because the colonists called Metacomet "King Phillip". After 14 months of fighting, the colonists defeated Metacomet, destroying the power of the Native Americans in New England.

STOP & CHECK

1. Why did the Separatists and Puritans leave England and settle in North America?
2. What was the significance of the Mayflower Compact?
3. What did the colonies of Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island have in common?
4. Which colony was the first to let people of all faiths worship freely? Why?