

FILL IN THE BLANK

Supply the correct word or words in the following paragraphs.

In the 1600's, the Church of England was the official church and set the rules for how to worship God. It was illegal to disobey the rules. Separatists were a group of people who disagreed with these rules of the Church and separated themselves in order to worship and follow God as the Bible taught. Because of persecution, some of them fled to Holland in 1608. While they were grateful for a safe place to live, it was hard for these people to speak another language and to find work in a foreign country. They decided to leave Europe altogether, and so, along with another group of people they called Strangers, they set sail on the Mayflower from England to the New World. They were now the Pilgrims.

In 1620, after sixty days of a very difficult voyage, the Pilgrims arrived in the New World and set up their new settlement called Plymouth on the site of an abandoned Indian village near Cape Cod Bay in Massachusetts. The soil was rich with freshwater streams and dense woods. In order to maintain unity and order, the colonists created a document of governing laws called the Mayflower Compact.

Many of the settlers stayed on the ship during the first, harsh winter while others tried to build simple wooden houses. During this time, known as the "Great Sickness", many of the colonists died of illness and fever. By spring, only about fifty of the one hundred two colonists remained alive. However, God took care of the colonists by bringing an Indian named Squanto to help them. Because of his earlier capture by Englishmen, he spoke English and so was able to communicate with the colonists. He showed them how to hunt deer and fertilize their corn crops by placing dried fish in the ground with the seeds. He also helped them maintain peaceful relations with the area tribes, led by Massasoit. With the Indians' help, the colony had an abundant harvest that first fall. Along with their Indian neighbors, they celebrated a harvest feast which we now call Thanksgiving.