US History Chapter 3 Lesson 2 A:

The New England Colonies

Jamestown inspired colonists looking for wealth, the next group of colonists were searching for religious freedom

1534 – King Henry VIII, breaks away from the Roman Catholic Church and forms the Anglican Church (protestant). Not everyone is happy with this decision. Many people dissented (disagreed with Anglican beliefs or practices). Some wanted to remain Catholic and some wanted to reform the Anglican Church, still others wanted to break away from it altogether. The Protestants who wanted to reform the Anglican Church were called Puritans, those who sought their own church were known as Separatists.

Separatists were persecuted (mistreated for their beliefs) in England. Some fled to the Netherlands where they found freedom to practice their religion but they had difficulty finding work. They also worried their children were losing their religious values and English way of life.

Pilgrims Settle Plymouth –

1620 – a group of Separatists decided to move to America. They are known as the Pilgrims. They were able to get grants of land from the Virginia Co. and permission to practice their religion freely. They boarded the Mayflower in September of 1620 and set sail for Virginia. They were blown off course and in November of 1620 sighted Provincetown and in December of 1620 landed at Plymouth.

Mayflower Compact – Plymouth was outside of the territory of the Virginia Co, while onboard the crafted the Mayflower Compact. It set up an organized, orderly government. Each signer promised to obey the laws passed “for the general good of the colony”. It is a key step in the development of a representative democratic government

Native American Help – During the first winter almost half of all the Pilgrims died. Illness, hunger and cold took a terrible toll. In the spring, however, two Native Americans, Squanto and Samoset, befriended the colonists. They taught them to grow corn, beans and pumpkins. They also showed the colonists where to hunt and finish. They even helped them to make peace with the Wampanoag people who lived in the area. For a time there was peace, in 1621, the Pilgrims included the Wampanoag in a feast of thanksgiving.