

The New England Colonies

The North is also called New England. There were four colonies in the North. The colonies were Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and New Hampshire.

The Pilgrims were the first group of people to settle in the North. They came from Great Britain. The Pilgrims came over on a ship called the *Mayflower* in 1620. The second group of settlers was the Puritans. The Puritans arrived in 1629.

The Pilgrims arrived at the start of winter. It was very cold. They did not have much food. Many of them died in the cold.



The Puritans were also promised land. They had a charter. The Puritans brought a lot of food. They did well during their first winter. The Puritans came to make a new church. They wanted to make their own rules. The Puritans made lots of rules. Everyone living in the colony had to follow them.

Some people were unhappy. They did not like the rules. They left Massachusetts. They started their own colonies. This is how the rest of the New England colonies began.

Making a Living

The North was not good for farming. The ground was full of rocks. The winters were cold and lasted a long time. The colonists grew enough food to eat. But they could not grow any extra food. So, they could not make a living as farmers.

There were a lot of trees in the North. The wood from the trees was used to build ships. Some men became shipbuilders. Other men caught fish. The people ate the fish.

Many animals lived in the forests. People caught them to sell the furs. Fur traders got rich.



Comprehension Question

What kinds of jobs did men have in the North?

The New England Colonies

New England began as one large colony. Two different religious groups settled it. In the year 1620, the Pilgrims came from Great Britain. The Pilgrims landed in Plymouth Bay. The Puritans arrived in 1629. The Puritans started the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

The Pilgrims had a charter promising them land in Virginia. But their ship, the *Mayflower*, blew off course. The Pilgrims were not prepared for life in the North. They arrived just before winter. There was not enough food. Half of the colonists died that first winter.



The Puritans had a charter for land north of Plymouth. They knew how cold it would be. So, the Puritans arrived with plenty of food. They did well their first winter.

The Puritans wanted to change the Church of England. They wanted a religion that was plain and simple. They believed that all church members were equal. In the new colony, the Puritans set up their own church. It had strict rules. Everyone in Massachusetts had to follow them.

People got sick of the rules. They left Massachusetts. They began other colonies. In 1636, some people moved to the Connecticut River Valley. Roger Williams was a Puritan minister. He founded the colony of Rhode Island. By 1679, the people in New Hampshire had broken free from Massachusetts, too.

Making a Living

The North was not good for farming. The soil was too rocky. The winters were cold and long. The people grew only enough food to feed themselves. So, they had to find other ways to earn money.

There were many forests. The trees there were good for building ships. There were many animals in the forests, too. Fur traders caught them. Then they sold the fur. Some grew quite rich. Other men caught fish in the sea. This provided food for the colonists.



Comprehension Question

Life in the North was hard. What jobs did the northerners have?

The New England Colonies

New England started as one large colony. It was settled by two different religious groups. In 1620, the Pilgrims came from Great Britain on the *Mayflower*. They started a colony in Plymouth Bay. The Puritans arrived in 1629. They started the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

The Pilgrims had a charter promising them land in Virginia. But on the trip across, their ship blew off course. Unfortunately, they were unprepared for life in the North. They arrived just before winter. There was not enough food. Half of the colonists died that first winter.



The Puritans had a charter for land north of Plymouth. The Puritans arrived with food. They were prepared and did well their first winter.

The Puritans wanted to simplify the Church of England. They did not believe in fancy ceremonies. The Puritans thought that all church members should be equal. They set up their own church in the new colony. The church made strict rules that everyone in Massachusetts had to follow. This was true even if the people were not Puritans.

Over time, people left Massachusetts. They started other colonies. In 1636, small groups of people moved to the Connecticut River Valley. Roger Williams, a Puritan minister, founded the colony of Rhode Island. By 1679, the colonists in New Hampshire had broken away from Massachusetts, too.

Making a Living

The northerners quickly learned that their new home was not very good for farming. The soil was rocky. The winters were cold and long. The colonists could only grow enough food to feed their own families. They had to find other ways to earn money.

In the early years, most colonists lived in towns along the ocean. There the men became shipbuilders, traders, and fishermen. The inland forests provided wood for building ships. They also were home to a variety of fur-bearing animals. This helped fur traders grow rich. Fishermen in the port towns provided food for the colonists of the region.



Comprehension Question

How did geography affect life in the northern colonies?

The New England Colonies

New England started as one large colony settled by two different religious groups. In 1620, the Pilgrims came from Great Britain on the *Mayflower* and started a colony in Plymouth Bay. The Puritans arrived in 1629 and started the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

The Pilgrims had a charter promising them land in Virginia, but on the trip across, their ship blew off course. Unfortunately, they were unprepared for life in the North. They arrived just before winter, and there was not enough food. Half of the colonists died that first winter.



The Puritans received a charter for land north of Plymouth. Unlike the Pilgrims, the Puritans arrived with food. They were prepared and did well their first winter.

The Puritans wanted to simplify the Church of England. They did not believe that religion should have fancy ceremonies. Puritans thought that all church members should be equal. The Puritans set up their own church in the new colony and made strict rules that everyone in Massachusetts had to follow, even if they were not Puritans.

Over time, people left Massachusetts to start other colonies. In 1636, small groups of people moved to the Connecticut River Valley. Roger Williams, a Puritan minister, founded the colony of Rhode Island. By 1679, the colonists in New Hampshire had broken away from Massachusetts to form a new colony.

Making a Living

The northerners quickly learned that their new home was not very good for farming because the soil was rocky, and the winters were cold and long. The colonists could only grow enough food to feed their own families. The people living in New England had to find other ways to earn money.

In the early years, most colonists lived in towns along the ocean, and the men became shipbuilders, traders, and fishermen. The inland forests provided both wood for building ships and a variety of fur-bearing animals, which helped fur traders grow rich. Fishermen in the port towns provided food for the colonists of the region.



Comprehension Question

In what ways was life in the North difficult?
How did the northerners cope?