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♥ Marie



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The Mayflower and the Pilgrims

In 1620, a small group of people called the Pilgrims set sail on a ship named the Mayflower. The Pilgrims were English settlers who sought a place where they could practice their religion freely. Life in England had become difficult for them, so they made the brave decision to cross the Atlantic Ocean to start a new life.



The journey on the Mayflower was long and uncomfortable. The ship was only about 100 feet long, and more than 100 people were crowded inside. The trip took 66 days, and the passengers faced rough seas, storms, and sickness. Even though it was tough, the Pilgrims never gave up hope.



The Mayflower finally reached land on November 11, 1620. Instead of landing in Virginia, where they had planned to go, the ship was blown off course. They arrived in what is now Massachusetts, near a place called Cape Cod. A few weeks later, they chose a spot to build their new settlement, which they named Plymouth.

Before leaving the ship, the Pilgrims wrote an agreement called the Mayflower Compact. This document said that the settlers would work together, make fair laws, and help their new community succeed. It was one of the first steps toward self-government in America.



Life in Plymouth was very hard at first. The Pilgrims didn't have enough food, and many became sick during the cold winter. Thankfully, the Wampanoag people, who already lived in the area, helped them learn how to plant crops like corn, beans, and squash. With their help, the Pilgrims survived and their colony slowly grew.

The story of the Mayflower and the Pilgrims has become an important part of American history. It reminds us of courage, teamwork, and the importance of helping one another—lessons that are still meaningful today.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Multiple Choice

1. Why did the Pilgrims leave England?
 - a. They wanted to find gold
 - b. They wanted to practice their religion freely
 - c. They wanted to meet new people
 - d. They wanted to explore the Pacific Ocean

2. How long did the Mayflower's journey across the Atlantic take?
 - a. 10 days
 - b. 30 days
 - c. 66 days
 - d. 100 days

3. Where did the Pilgrims land in 1620?
 - a. Florida
 - b. North Carolina
 - c. Massachusetts
 - d. Virginia

4. What was the Mayflower Compact?
 - a. A map of the new land
 - b. A list of rules about how to work together and make fair laws
 - c. A book of Pilgrim stories
 - d. A plan for building houses

Short Answer

5. What were two challenges the Pilgrims faced on their journey or during their first winter?
6. Who helped the Pilgrims learn to plant crops, and why was this important?
7. Why do we still remember the story of the Mayflower and the Pilgrims today?

Extended Response

8. In your own words, explain why teamwork was important for the Pilgrims both on the ship and in the new colony.