

Early English Settlements: Plymouth

WebQuest Description: More than a happy Thanksgiving meal: Discover the hardships faced by the first Pilgrims as they left England to find religious freedom.

Grade Level: 3-5

Curriculum: Social Studies

Keywords: Settlements, English, Plymouth

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Introduction

We all know the story of Thanksgiving; the Pilgrims landed in modern day Massachusetts, didn't have any food, were helped by the Indians, and had a big feast to celebrate. But do you know why the Pilgrims were so thankful! In this lesson you will become a historical detective attempting to piece together what obstacles and hardships the early Pilgrims faced before the first Thanksgiving ever happened.

Tasks

In this assignment, your task is to find out the answers to some puzzling historical questions about the early settlers of Plymouth. You will have to use your expert detective skills to answer questions about three different aspects of the pilgrims' journey and settlement. You must keep a detailed journal with notes on your discoveries as well as the answers to all the questions for each section. Each section will also include a critical thinking question for you to answer will help you prepare for the quiz at the end of this activity about the early American settlements.

Process

Welcome to Plymouth, Detective! Are you ready to begin your sleuthing? Before we begin, please mark three pages in your journal with the word "Plymouth." On the first Plymouth page, please write "Background," on the second page, write "Mayflower Compact," on the third, write "Settlement." Now you're ready to start! For each section you will be given a list of questions to answer. Some questions will only need a short answer, like a date or a name, but some will require more thinking and effort. Try to answer each question to the best of your ability. Good luck!

Background
In this section, you will be asked to answer some questions about who the Pilgrims were and why they came to America. All the answers can be found on the websites listed below the list of questions.

- Who were the first pilgrims (in other words, they were members of what group)?
- Where were they from and where did they land and build their settlement?
- How did they get to North America?
- Why did they make this dangerous journey?
- When did their journey take place?
- What was their journey like?

Bonus Question: Remember to answer this question by critically thinking about the information you gathered about the pilgrims.

When the pilgrims first arrived in North America, why did they stay on the ship for awhile before bringing everyone on land? What were they doing during those months?

<http://stufffromthelab.wordpress.com/2007/11/12/why-did-the-pilgrims-come-to-the-new-world/> Use this webpage for answers to questions 1-5.

http://www.scholastic.com/scholastic_thanksgiving/voyage/journey.htm Watch this presentation and answer question 6.

http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/collateral.jsp?id=260_type=Contributor_typeId=1239 Miss Water's answer to the second question will help give you some ideas for the answer to your group's bonus question.

Mayflower Compact
In this section, you will answer questions about the Mayflower Compact and why it was important for the new colony.

- Why did the pilgrims need to Mayflower Compact?
- Did something happen that made them realize they needed it?
- What did the Mayflower Compact say?
- Who wrote it? Who signed it?
- Where did they sign it?
- When did they sign it?
- How did the Mayflower Compact help them and their colony survive the first hard years?

Bonus Question: Remember to answer this question by critically thinking about the information you gathered about the Mayflower Compact.

How did the Mayflower Compact help early Americans understand the idea of democracy (the idea the people should select their own rulers and laws)?

<http://mrkash.com/activities/mayflower.html> Read section two (after the blue writing) to answer questions 1, 3, and 4. Read section four to answer question 2. Read section three to answer the bonus question.

<http://plimoth.org/discover/colonial-life/mayflower-compact.php> Read this webpage to answer question 5. Use your information from the first 5 questions to help you come up with an answer to question 6 on your own.

Settlement
In this section, you will answer questions about the original Plymouth Settlement and how the pilgrims survived.

- How did the pilgrims start building their settlement of Plymouth Plantation?
- Why was it so hard for the pilgrims living in Plymouth?
- Who helped the pilgrims? What tribe were they from?
- Where did the Indians learn English?
- When did the Indians start helping the pilgrims?
- What did they do to help them?

Bonus Question: Remember to answer this question by thinking critically about the information you gathered about the Plymouth Settlement.

What do you think the pilgrims had to be thankful for on the first Thanksgiving? List at least five things you would have been thankful for if you had been one of the pilgrims in Plymouth.

AboutFamousPeople.com Scroll down to the section titled "The Pilgrims Land at Plymouth." Now go down 6 paragraphs and begin reading the paragraph that begins

"Upon arriving at Plymouth..." to answer questions 1 and 2. [StuffFromRoom311.com](http://www.stufffromroom311.com) Use the information on the new Plymouth colony to answer questions 3, 4, 5, and 6. [Additional Information](http://www.plimoth.org/kids/) If you are interested in learning more about Plymouth, check out these great websites! <http://www.plimoth.org/kids/> This is a great website from the Plimoth Plantation, a recreation village to teach people about the early Plymouth settlers. This site has interesting information and fun things like recipes and homework help if you're interested in more information on Plymouth. http://www.scholastic.com/scholastic_thanksgiving/ You already watched the section about the voyage on the Mayflower, but this website has lots of pictures and fun information about the differences between the Indians and the Pilgrims. <http://plimoth.org/discover/colonial-life/mayflower-compact.php> This web page has lots of detailed information about different aspects of the pilgrims voyage and settlement.

Evaluation

Your work in this activity will be evaluated based on two things: 1.) Your correct answers to all the questions in your journal. 2.) Your score on the quiz at the end of this section.

| Category and Score | Excellent | Superior | Satisfactory | Unsatisfactory | Score |
|------------------------|---|---|--|---|-------|
| Journal Answers | All answers were accurate and complete. | Most answers were accurate and complete. | Most answers were accurate, but some were incomplete. | Answers were mostly inaccurate or incomplete. | 4 |
| Bonus Question Answers | Demonstrated excellent critical thinking and reasoning skills. Answers were well thought out and plausible. | Demonstrated good critical thinking and reasoning skills. Answers were plausible. | Demonstrated some critical thinking skills, but answers were disorganized or irrational. | Did not demonstrate critical thinking and answers were incomplete, disorganized, or irrational. | 4 |
| Quiz | 90% or better on quiz. | 80% or better on quiz. | 70% or better on quiz. | Less than 70% on quiz. | 4 |
| | | | | Total Score | 12 |

Conclusion

Through this activity, you have used critical thinking and reasoning skills to research and discover answers to important questions regarding the early Plymouth settlement. Well done! Hopefully you have learned some important facts about the pilgrims... good luck on the quiz!

Teacher Page

This webquest was designed as one of three stations to teach 5th grade California students (CA Standard 5.4.2) about three early American settlements, Roanoke, Plymouth, and Jamestown. In Roanoke, students had to read "letters" from the settlers back home to England to try and deduce what happened to the colony. In Jamestown, students watched a film documenting the struggles of the young colony. This webquest was their activity for the Plymouth settlement. The class was broken into three groups, with each group completing the station for one settlement per class period (1 hour 20 min). At each station, students kept a "Discovery Journal" with answers to specific questions as well as their own notes. At the end of each class period, the students took a quiz on the settlement they had studied. After completing all three settlements, students took home their quizzes and discovery journal, along with a study guide and online practice test, to prepare for an exam on the content. The teacher began this unit with a Powerpoint presentation that gave students a brief overview of the early colonization of the New World, maps of the three settlements, and instructions on completing each station as well as a brief discussion about early settlers.

Standards

Credits

Other