

1

The New England Colonies

FIND OUT

- Why did Puritans set up the Massachusetts Bay Colony?
- Who founded the colonies of Connecticut and Rhode Island?
- How did people in New England make a living?

VOCABULARY toleration

April and May 1630 were cold, stormy months in the North Atlantic. Huddled below deck, colonists aboard the *Arbella* wondered if they had been foolish to sail to a new land. Their leader, John Winthrop, had no doubts. The new colony, he assured them, would set an example to the world:

“The Lord will make our name a praise and glory, so that men shall say of succeeding [colonies]: ‘The Lord make it like that of New England.’ For we must consider that we shall be like a City upon a Hill. The eyes of all people are on us.”

The passengers on the *Arbella* were among more than 1,000 men, women, and children who left England in 1630 to settle in the Americas. They set up their colony on Massachusetts Bay, north of Plymouth. Over the next 100 years, English settlers would build towns and farms throughout New England.

Puritans in Massachusetts

John Winthrop and his followers were part of a religious group known as *Puritans*. The Puritans wanted to reform the Church of England. They were different

from the Pilgrims, who had wanted to separate entirely from the English church. The Puritans called for simpler forms of worship. They wanted to do away with practices borrowed from Roman Catholics, such as organ music and special clothes for priests.

Reasons for leaving England. Puritans were a powerful group in England. Many were well-educated merchants or landowners. Some held seats in the House of Commons. However, Charles I, who became king in 1625, disliked their religious ideas. He took away many Puritan business charters and had Puritans expelled from universities. A few were even jailed.

Some Puritan leaders decided that England had fallen on “evil and declining times.” In 1629, they convinced royal officials to grant them a charter to form the Massachusetts Bay Company. The company’s bold plan was to build a new society in New England. The new society would be based on the laws of God as they appeared in the Bible. Far from the watchful eye of the king, Puritans would run their colony as they pleased.

Some people joined the colonists for economic rather than religious reasons. They were not Puritans escaping persecution but people looking for land. In England, the oldest son usually inherited his father’s estate. Younger sons had little hope of owning land. For these people, Massachusetts Bay offered cheap land or a chance to start their own business.

Settling in. The Puritans sent a small advance party to North America in 1629. John Winthrop and his larger party of colonists arrived the following year. Winthrop was chosen as the first governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, as the Puritan settlement was called.

Once ashore, Winthrop set an example for others. Even though he was governor of the colony, he worked as hard as anyone to build a home, clear land, and plant crops. As one colonist wrote, “He so encouraged

us that there was not an idle person to be found in the whole colony."

At first, Winthrop tried to govern the colony according to its charter. Only stockholders who had invested money in the Massachusetts Bay Company could vote. However, most settlers were not stockholders. They resented taxes and laws passed by a government in which they had no say.

Voters elect an assembly. Winthrop and other stockholders quickly realized that the colony would run more smoothly if other settlers could take part. On the other hand, the Puritan leaders were determined to keep non-Puritans out of government. As a result, they granted the right to vote for governor to all men who were church members. Later, male church members also elected representatives to an assembly called the *General Court*.

Under the leadership of Winthrop and other Puritans, the Massachusetts Bay Colony grew and prospered. Between 1629 and 1640, more than 20,000 men, women, and children journeyed from England to Massachusetts. This movement of people is known as the *Great Migration*. Many of the newcomers settled in Boston, which grew into the colony's largest town. (□ See "Forefathers' Song" on page 550.)

Settling Connecticut

In May 1636, about 100 settlers, led by a Puritan minister named Thomas Hooker, left Massachusetts Bay. Pushing west, they drove their cattle, goats, and pigs along Indian trails that cut through the forests. When they reached the Connecticut River, they built a town, which they called Hartford.

Hooker left Massachusetts Bay because he believed that the governor and other officials had too much power. He wanted to set up a colony in Connecticut with laws that set strict limits on government.

In 1639, the settlers wrote a plan of government called the *Fundamental Orders of*



The Puritan Relying on faith and hard work, the Puritans built a thriving colony at Massachusetts Bay. Augustus Saint-Gaudens, the foremost American sculptor of the 1800s, captured the Puritan spirit in his powerful bronze statue *The Puritan*. **American Traditions** How did their religious beliefs help the Puritans succeed?

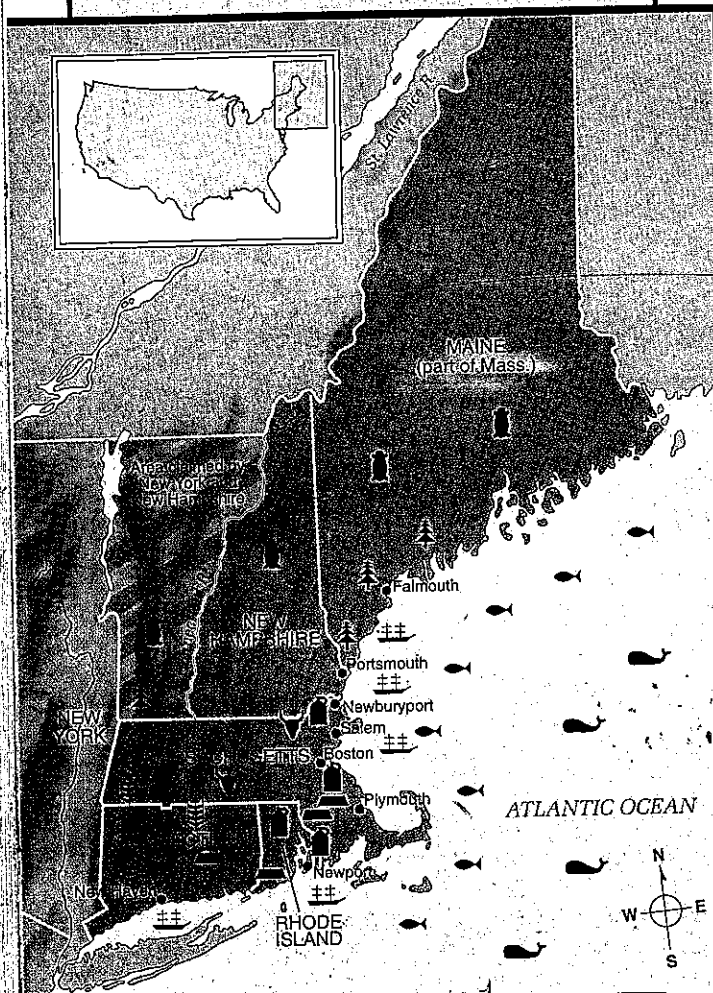
Connecticut. The Fundamental Orders created a government much like that of Massachusetts. There were, however, two important differences. First, the Fundamental Orders gave the vote to all men who were property owners, including men who were not church members. Second, the Fundamental Orders limited the governor's power. In this way, the Fundamental Orders expanded the idea of representative government in the English colonies.

By 1662, 15 towns were thriving along the Connecticut River. In that year, Connecticut became a separate colony, with a new charter granted by the king of England.

MAP STUDY










The New England Colonies were among the first colonies the English set up in North America. Major economic activities in the region included shipbuilding, fishing, and fur trapping.

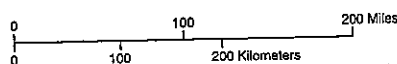
1. Name the four New England Colonies.
2. What products did Connecticut produce?
3. **Understanding Causes and Effects** How did New England's geography encourage the growth of shipbuilding?



The New England Colonies

Products

	Grain		Fish		Ships
	Cattle		Whales		Iron
	Lumber		Furs		Rum



Toleration in Rhode Island

Another Puritan who disagreed with the leaders of Massachusetts Bay was Roger Williams. A young minister in the village of Salem, Williams was gentle and good-natured. Most people, including Governor Winthrop, liked him. In 1635, however, Williams found himself in trouble.

Williams believed strongly that the Puritan church had too much power in Massachusetts. In Williams's view, the business of church and state should be completely separate. The state, said Williams, should maintain order and peace. It should not support a particular church.

Williams also believed in religious toleration. **Toleration** means a willingness to let others practice their own beliefs. In Puritan Massachusetts, non-Puritans were not permitted to worship freely.

Williams's ideas about these and other matters troubled Puritan leaders. In 1635, the Massachusetts General Court ordered him to leave the colony. Fearing that the court would send him back to England, Williams escaped to Narragansett Bay. He spent the winter with Indians there. In the spring, the Indians sold him land for a settlement. After several years, it became the English colony of Rhode Island.

In Rhode Island, Williams put into practice his ideas about religious toleration. He allowed complete freedom of religion for all Protestants, Jews, and Catholics. He did not set up a state church or require settlers to attend church services. He also gave all white men the right to vote. Before long, settlers who disliked the strict Puritan rule of Massachusetts flocked to Providence and other towns in Rhode Island.



Linking Past and Present

The first synagogue in the United States was built in Newport, Rhode Island, in 1763. The Touro Synagogue, designed by Peter Harrison, still stands today.

The Trial of Anne Hutchinson



One woman who found shelter in Rhode Island was Anne Hutchinson. Hutchinson and her husband, William, had settled in Boston in 1634. She worked as a midwife, helping to deliver babies. Hutchinson herself had 14 children.

Hutchinson was intelligent and God-fearing. Governor Winthrop called her "a woman of a ready wit and bold spirit." In time, however, her bold spirit got her into trouble with Puritan officials.

Forbidden meetings. Hutchinson often held Bible readings in her home. And after church, she and her friends gathered to discuss the minister's sermon. Sometimes, as many as 50 or 60 people flocked to her house to listen.

Anne Hutchinson Preaches at Home *Anne Hutchinson's independent views angered the Puritan leaders of Massachusetts Bay. In 1638, they ordered her to leave the colony. Here, Hutchinson defies Puritan leaders by preaching in her Boston home. **Citizenship** Why do you think Hutchinson moved to Rhode Island after leaving Massachusetts Bay?*



At first, Hutchinson merely related what the minister had said. Later, however, she expressed her own views. Often, she seemed to criticize the minister's teachings.

Puritan leaders grew angry. They believed that Hutchinson's opinions were full of religious errors. Even worse, Hutchinson was a woman. A woman did not have the right to explain God's law, they said. That job belonged to ministers. In November 1637, the General Court ordered Hutchinson to appear before it.

On trial. At her trial, Hutchinson answered all the questions put to her by Governor Winthrop and other members of the court. Time after time, she revealed weaknesses in their arguments. They could not prove that she had broken any Puritan laws or challenged any religious teachings. Winthrop was clearly annoyed. "Mrs. Hutchinson can tell when to speak and when to hold her tongue," he concluded sharply.

Then, after two days of questioning, Hutchinson made a serious mistake. She told the court that God spoke directly to her.

"Hutchinson: I bless the Lord. He hath let me see which was the [true] ministry and which [was] wrong. . . .

The court: How do you know that it was God that did reveal these things to you?

Hutchinson: By an immediate revelation.

The court: How! An immediate revelation?

Hutchinson: By the voice of his own spirit to my soul."

Members of the court were shocked. The Puritans believed that God spoke only through the Bible, not directly to individuals. The court declared that Hutchinson was "deluded by the Devil" and ordered her out of the colony.

In 1638, Hutchinson, along with her family and some friends, went to Rhode Island. The Puritan leaders had won their case against her. For later Americans, however, Hutchinson became an important symbol of the struggle for religious freedom. ■

Relations With Native Americans

From Massachusetts Bay, settlers fanned out across New England. Some built trading and fishing villages along the coast north of Boston. In 1680, the king of England made these coastal settlements into a separate colony called New Hampshire.

As more colonists settled in New England, they took over lands used by Native Americans for thousands of years. As a result, fighting often broke out between white settlers and Indian nations of the region.

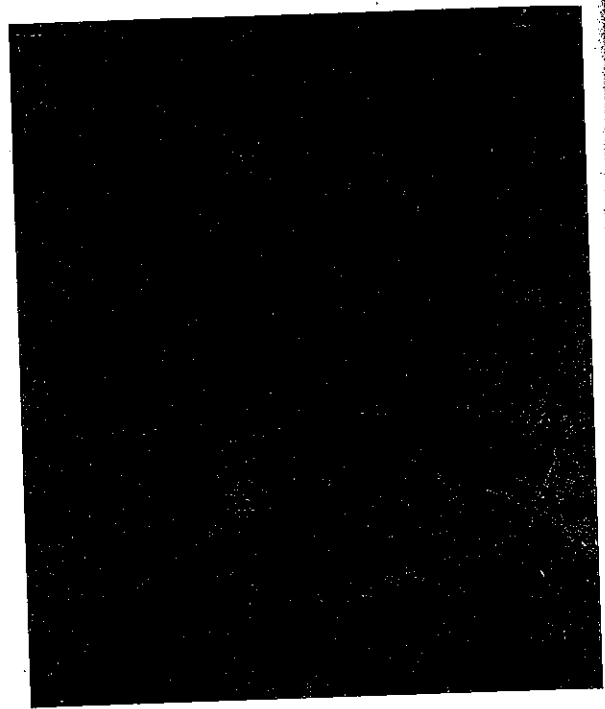
The largest conflict came in 1675, when Wampanoag Indians, led by their chief, Metacom, attacked colonial villages throughout New England. Other Indian groups allied themselves with the Wampanoags. Fighting lasted 15 months. In the end, however, Metacom was captured and killed. The English sold his family and about 1,000 other Indians into slavery in the West Indies. Other Indians were forced from their homes. Many died of starvation.

The pattern of English expansion followed by war between settlers and Indians was repeated throughout the colonies. It would continue for many years to come.



Linking Past and Present

The biggest battle of the war between Metacom and New England settlers took place in a great swamp. Descendants of the Wampanoags have dedicated the spot as a shrine of brotherhood. Each September, they hold a ceremony at the monument that stands there.



BIOGRAPHY Metacom *Native Americans in New England watched with alarm as settlers moved onto Indian lands. More than 10,000 Indians joined the Wampanoag leader Metacom in a war against the New England Colonies.*
Multicultural Heritage *Why do you think many Indians were willing to join Metacom?*

A Life of Hard Work

New England was a difficult land for colonists. But the Puritans believed that daily labor honored God as much as prayer. With hard work, they built a thriving way of life.

Farms, forests, and seas. New England's rocky soil was poor for farming. After a time, however, settlers learned to grow Native American crops, such as Indian corn, beans, squash, and pumpkins.

Although the soil was poor, the forests were full of riches. New Englanders hunted wild turkey and deer, as well as hogs that they let roam free in the woods. In the spring, colonists collected the sweet sap that dripped from gashes cut in sugar maple trees. Settlers also cut down trees and float-

ed them to sawmills near port cities such as Boston, Massachusetts, or Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Here, major shipbuilding centers grew.

Other New Englanders fished the coastal waters for cod and halibut. When the fish were running, fishers worked tirelessly, seldom taking time to eat or sleep. Shellfish in New England were especially large. Oysters sometimes grew to be a foot long. Lobsters stretched up to 6 feet. "Those a foot long," one host recommended, "are better for serving at a table." Larger ones hung off the edge!

In the 1600s, New Englanders also began to hunt whales. Whales supplied them with products such as oil for lamps and ivory. In the 1700s and 1800s, whaling grew into a big business.

Tightly knit towns and villages. Puritans believed that people should worship and take care of local matters as a community. For this reason, New England became a land of tightly knit towns and villages.

At the center of each village was the common, an open field where cattle grazed. Nearby stood the meetinghouse, where Puritans worshipped and held town meetings. Wooden houses with steep roofs lined both sides of the town's narrow streets.

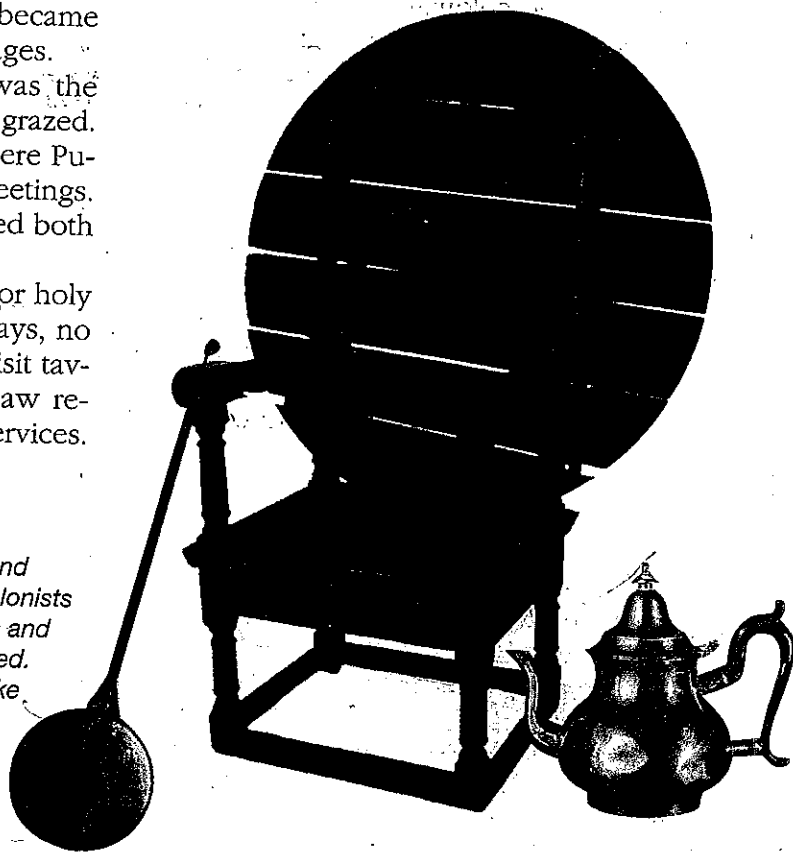
The Puritans took their Sabbath, or holy day of rest, very seriously. On Sundays, no one was allowed to play games or visit taverns to joke, talk, and drink. The law required all citizens to attend church services.

In a New England Home Most New England homes had no fireplace in the bedroom. Colonists would fill a warming pan (left) with hot coals and slip it between the sheets to warm up the bed. Home furniture was sturdy and practical—like this oak chair that converted into a table. New England craftsmen also produced fine pewter items, like the teapot at right. Daily Life How do these items reflect the geography of New England?

During the 1600s, women sat on one side of the church and men on the other. Blacks and Indians stood in a balcony at the back. Children had separate pews, where an adult watched over them. If they "sported and played" or made "faces [that] caused laughter," they were punished.

At town meetings, settlers discussed and voted on many issues. What roads should be built? What fences needed repair? How much should the schoolmaster be paid? Town meetings gave New Englanders a chance to speak their minds. This early experience encouraged the growth of democratic ideas in New England.

Puritan laws were strict, and lawbreakers faced severe punishment. About 15 crimes carried the death penalty. One crime punishable by death was witchcraft. In 1692, Puritans executed 20 men and women as witches in Salem Village, Massachusetts.



Home and family. The Puritans saw children as a blessing of God. The average family had seven or eight children. The good climate allowed New Englanders to live long lives. Many reached the age of 70. As a result, children often grew up knowing both their parents and their grandparents. This did much to make New England towns closely knit communities.

During the 1700s, the Puritan tradition declined. Fewer families left England for religious reasons. Ministers had less influence on the way colonies were governed. Even so, the Puritans stamped New England with their distinctive customs and their dream of a religious society.

SECTION 1 REVIEW

- 1. Locate:** (a) New England Colonies, (b) Massachusetts, (c) Connecticut, (d) Rhode Island, (e) New Hampshire.
- 2. Identify:** (a) John Winthrop, (b) Puritans, (c) General Court, (d) Great Migration, (e) Fundamental Orders of Connecticut, (f) Roger Williams, (g) Anne Hutchinson, (h) Metacom.
- 3. Define:** toleration.
- How did the Puritans govern the Massachusetts Bay Colony?
- (a) Why did Thomas Hooker and Roger Williams leave the Massachusetts Bay Colony? (b) Where did each of them go?
- How did New Englanders use the resources of the region to make a living?
- 7. CRITICAL THINKING Linking Past and Present** (a) Why did the Puritan leaders see Anne Hutchinson as a threat to Massachusetts? (b) Do you think the government would see her as a threat today? Explain.

ACTIVITY Writing to Learn

Write a dialogue between a New England settler and a Wampanoag Indian in which they discuss tensions between their peoples in the mid-1600s.

2

The Middle Colonies

FIND OUT

- What was William Penn's "holy experiment"?
- Why were the Middle Colonies known as the Breadbasket Colonies?
- What peoples settled in the Middle Colonies?
- What was life like in the backcountry?

VOCABULARY *patroon, proprietary colony, cash crop, backcountry*

In the summer of 1744, a doctor from the colony of Maryland traveled north to Philadelphia. Doctor Hamilton was amazed at the variety of people he met in that city. Describing a meal he had there, he wrote:

“I dined at a tavern with a very mixed company of different nations and religions. There were Scots, English, Dutch, Germans, and Irish. There were Roman Catholics, Church [of England] men, Presbyterians, Quakers, . . . Moravians, . . . and one Jew.”

By the mid-1700s, England had four colonies in the region south of New England. Because of their location between New England and the Southern Colonies, they were known as the Middle Colonies. As Doctor Hamilton observed, the Middle Colonies had a much greater mix of peoples than either New England or the Southern Colonies.

New Netherland Becomes New York

As you have read in Chapter 3, the Dutch set up the colony of New Netherland