

New England Colonies

One American's Story

One Sunday morning in 1630, **John Winthrop**, a Puritan leader, gave a sermon to a congregation gathered on a ship's deck. The ship was called the *Arbella*, and it was one of four carrying hundreds of English colonists across the Atlantic Ocean to Massachusetts Bay. In his sermon Winthrop stated that success would come only if the settlers worked together as a community to achieve their common goals.

PRIMARY SOURCE

“We must be knit together in this work. . . . We must delight in each other, make others' conditions our own and rejoice together, mourn together, labor and suffer together. . . . For we must consider that we shall be as a City upon a Hill; the eyes of all people are on us.”

—John Winthrop, “Model of Christian Charity”

Tens of thousands of English settlers soon followed Winthrop and tried to create a religious society dedicated to the common good.



John Winthrop,
by Charles Osgood

The Voyage of the Mayflower

KEY QUESTION Why did the Pilgrims want to settle in America?

In the early 1500s, King Henry VIII of England broke his country's ties with the Catholic Church and established the Church of England. Although English Protestants approved of separation from the Catholic Church, many disagreed with certain aspects of the English church. Those who disagreed with England's official church were called **dissenters** (dih•SEHN•tuhrz).

Religious Freedom and Self-Government In the early 1600s, another dissenting group called the Separatists wanted to separate from the Church of England. They thought it was still too much like the Catholic Church. King James **persecuted** (PUR•sih•KYOOT•ted), or mistreated, the Separatists for rejecting England's official church. To escape this persecution, they fled to Holland, a country known for its **tolerance**, or acceptance of different



A reenactment of preparation for a Thanksgiving feast. Why would the Pilgrims need Native Americans' help in order to survive?

opinions. Eventually the Separatists approached the Virginia Company and gained permission to settle in America. Because this group of Separatists traveled far to gain religious freedom, they later became known as the **Pilgrims**. A pilgrim is a person who goes on a religious journey.

The Pilgrims Found Plymouth On a cold November day in 1620, the Pilgrims, traveling on a ship called the *Mayflower*, arrived off Cape Cod on the Massachusetts coast. Blown north off its course, the *Mayflower* landed in an area that John Smith had mapped and called New England. The Pilgrims settled on the site of an abandoned Native American village. They called their settlement Plymouth.

Because the Pilgrims landed beyond the limits of the Virginia Company, their charter did not apply. They were far from government authority and the laws of England. So most of the men aboard the *Mayflower* signed an agreement called the **Mayflower Compact**. The Mayflower Compact helped establish the practice of self-government and majority rule. (See Reading Primary Sources, page 74.)

Like the settlers at Jamestown, the Pilgrims at Plymouth endured a "starving time." Half the group died during the first winter. However, they were saved by Native Americans who had learned to speak English. Squanto, a Native American, taught the Pilgrims how to plant native crops.

Sometime in the fall of 1621 the Plymouth settlement celebrated a good harvest by holding a three-day feast. It was the first Thanksgiving in New England. This Thanksgiving came to represent the peace that existed at that time between the Native Americans and Pilgrims.

CAUSES AND EFFECTS Explain why the Pilgrims settled in America.

The Puritans Come to Massachusetts Bay

KEY QUESTION What kind of society did the Puritans hope to create?

By the late 1620s, England was troubled by religious and political conflict. Many groups of dissenters were speaking out against the king and the Church of England. The **Puritans** were one such group. Unlike the Separatists, who wanted to break away from the English church, the Puritans wanted to reform, or "purify" its practices. The Puritans faced increasing persecution in England. Many decided to leave and set up a Puritan society in America.

The Great Migration In 1629, the Massachusetts Bay Company, a joint-stock company owned by Puritan merchants, received a royal charter to settle New England. The charter also gave the colony freedom to govern itself. In 1630, 11 ships carried about 1,000 passengers to the Massachusetts Bay Colony. There the Puritans founded Boston, which became the most important town in New England. Between 1630 and 1640 about 20,000 more settlers crossed the Atlantic Ocean in what is known as the **Great Migration**.


The New England Way The Puritans set up their ideal society—a religious “commonwealth” of tightly-knit communities. Instead of a church governed by bishops and king, they created self-governing **congregations**. A congregation is a group of people who belong to the same church. Because Puritan congregations were self-governing, their churches came to be called “Congregationalist.” This Congregationalist way of organizing churches became known as “the New England Way.”

Each congregation chose its minister and set up its own town. The town’s most important building was the meetinghouse, where religious services were held. Everyone had to attend these services. The meetinghouse was also used for town meetings, a form of self-government.


Puritan values helped the colonists organize their society and overcome the hardships of colonial life. Puritan colonists valued:

- **hard work** as a way of honoring God. The Puritan work ethic contributed to the colony’s rapid growth and success.
- **education**. Because the Puritans wanted everyone to be able to read the Bible, laws required that all children learn to read.
- **representative government**. Puritans brought their traditions of town meetings and local self-government with them to America.

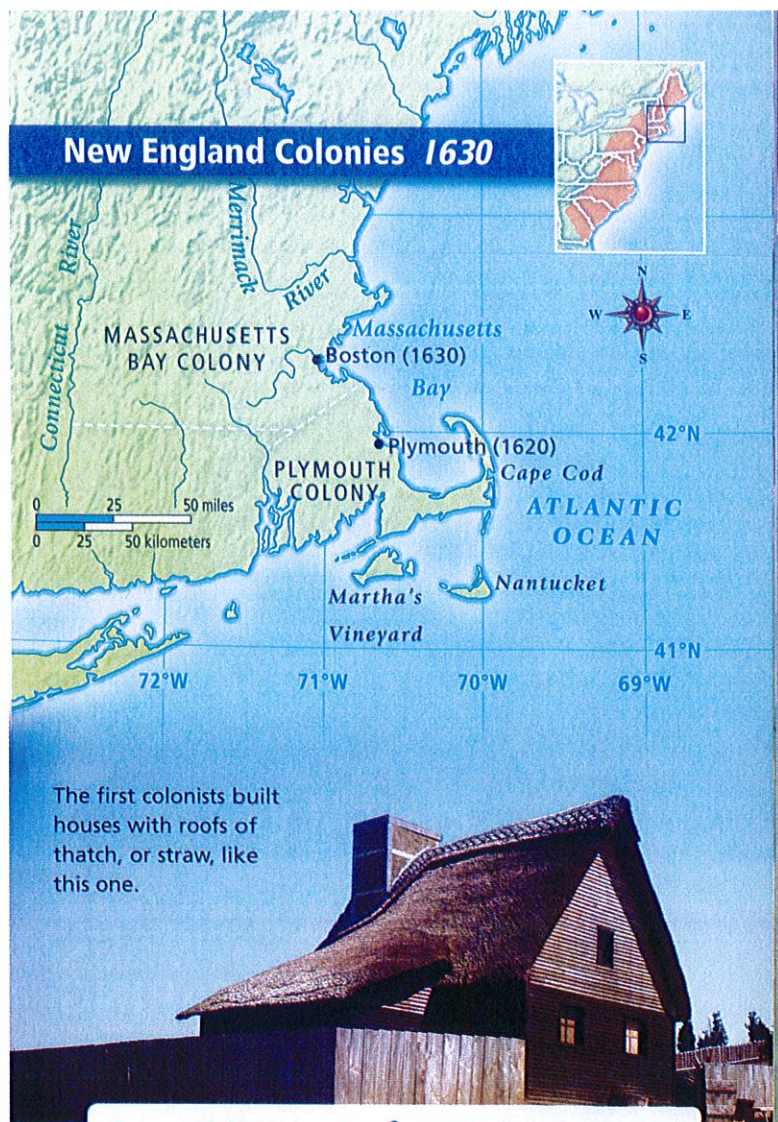
Democratic rights were quickly expanded. The colony’s charter allowed only “freemen” or investors to vote. But when the colonists arrived in America, Winthrop, the colony’s first governor, changed the definition of “freeman” to mean any male church member. Although this covered only a limited number of people, it was a major step in expanding voting rights.

 **SUMMARIZE** Describe the kind of society the Puritans hoped to create.

Massachusetts Bay “Seeds” New England

 **KEY QUESTION** Why did some colonists leave Massachusetts?

The Puritans worked hard to create an orderly society and felt threatened by those who questioned their ways. But dissenters within their ranks soon began challenging Puritan leaders. Disagreements within Massachusetts forced many to leave and found other colonies. In this way, Massachusetts became a “seed colony” out of which other New England colonies grew.



The first colonists built houses with roofs of thatch, or straw, like this one.

Connect Geography & History

1. **Place** How far is Plymouth from Boston?
2. **Make Inferences** Why do you think that Boston became the most important port in New England?

Rhode Island Welcomes Dissenters In Salem, Massachusetts, the minister **Roger Williams** shocked Puritan authorities by insisting that

- the colonists had no right to take Native American lands by force;
- no one should be forced to attend church;
- the Puritans should not impose their religious beliefs on others; and
- church and state should be kept separate.

Because of his beliefs, the Puritans had Williams **banished**, or forced to leave the colony. In 1636 he fled south and founded Rhode Island, a colony that guaranteed religious tolerance and separation of church and state. Williams also established the first Baptist Church in America.

Anne Hutchinson was another dissenter. She believed that many of the clergy were not among the “elect”—those chosen by God for salvation. She held discussions that challenged church authority. Hutchinson was also tried and banished from Massachusetts. In 1638 she fled to Rhode Island. That same year, John Wheelwright, Anne Hutchinson’s brother-in-law and supporter, also fled. He established the town of Exeter, in what is now New Hampshire. The town’s founders wrote the Exeter Compact, which was based on the Mayflower Compact. New Hampshire became a separate colony in 1679.

**ONLINE
PRIMARY SOURCE**

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COMPARING Perspectives

RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE VS. INTOLERANCE

Puritans began arguing over religious matters almost as soon as they had set up the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Those who disagreed with Puritan leaders were sometimes brought to trial and punished. Issues of religious freedom were widely debated as some colonists argued for and others argued against tolerance.

FOR TOLERANCE

“It doth not a little grieve my spirit to hear what sad things are reported daily of your tyranny and persecutions in New England, as that you fine, whip, and imprison men for their consciences.

—Richard Saltonstall

Forced worship stinks in God’s nostrils.

—Roger Williams, minister

AGAINST TOLERANCE

“He that is willing to tolerate any religion. . . either doubts of his own [religion] or is not sincere in it.

—Nathaniel Ward, minister

We have here Presbyterian churches as well as Congregational. . . Only we are [reluctant] to be blown up and down. . . by every wind of new notions.

—John Cotton, minister

CRITICAL THINKING


Connect to Today

Which group might feel more at ease in modern American society and why?

Connecticut Extends Voting Rights Conservative Puritans also set up new colonies. In 1636, Thomas Hooker moved his congregation to the Connecticut Valley. There settlers wrote the **Fundamental Orders of Connecticut** in 1639. (See pages 74–75.) The Orders extended voting rights to non-church members. This expanded representative government.

 **SUMMARIZE** Explain why some colonists left Massachusetts.

The Fight for Tolerance

 **KEY QUESTION** Why did the Quakers protest against the Puritans?

Although Puritans had come to America to find religious freedom for themselves, they would not allow all faiths to worship freely. They were particularly intolerant of the **Quakers**, another group of Protestant dissenters.

Puritans Persecute Quakers The name “Quakers” came from a leader’s statement that they should “tremble [quake] at the word of the Lord.” Quaker beliefs angered the Puritans. The Quakers believed God could be known directly through an “inner light,” and that Puritan sermons and ministers were obstacles to the direct experience of God. Because Quakers believed that women were spiritually equal to men, Quaker women served as preachers and as missionaries. These beliefs and practices threatened the very foundations of the New England Way. For this, Quakers were jailed, whipped, or banished from Puritan colonies.

Although often banished, Quaker missionaries defied the authorities, returning repeatedly to Puritan colonies to speak openly about their faith. In frustration, Puritan leaders passed laws with increasingly brutal punishments. Finally Puritans began executing Quakers who returned after being banished.

In response, Quakers became martyrs, people who choose to die for a religious principle. One of the most famous Quaker martyrs was a woman named Mary Dyer. Despite her banishment from the colony, Dyer returned to Massachusetts, determined to “look the bloody laws in the face.” Although she was executed, her death led to greater religious tolerance.

 **CAUSES AND EFFECTS** Explain why the Quakers protested against the Puritans.



History Makers

Mary Dyer ?–1660

Mary Dyer, the religious martyr, came to Massachusetts with her husband, William Dyer, in 1635. She supported her friend Anne Hutchinson during Hutchinson’s trial. When Hutchinson was banished from Massachusetts, Dyer followed her to Rhode Island. Returning to England, Dyer met George Fox, the founder of the Quakers. In 1657 she was back in New England as a Quaker missionary. For speaking openly about her faith, Dyer was banished once from New Haven before being imprisoned and banished three times from Massachusetts.

Determined to protest against religious intolerance, Dyer again returned, this time to face the sentence of death. She was hanged on June 1, 1660. As she had hoped, her execution helped end the Puritan persecution of the Quakers.

CRITICAL THINKING Make Inferences Why do you think the Puritans felt threatened by the Quakers?



For more on the life of Mary Dyer, go to the Research & Writing Center @ ClassZone.com



Connect Geography & History

- 1. Place** Why did the colonies grow mainly north-south?
- 2. Make Inferences** Why did most early settlements develop along rivers and the coast?

Creating a New England

KEY QUESTION What did the New England colonies have in common?

By the 1650s, settlers had fanned out across New England, bringing their beliefs, religious disagreements, and political traditions with them. Although a number of colonies were established throughout the region, the New England colonies had much in common.

New England Foundations Many New England settlers came from the densely-populated eastern counties of England. They were used to living in towns and established similar settlements in America. Most New England settlers were also religious dissenters who disagreed with the practices of both the Catholic and the Anglican churches. The New England population was mainly Puritan, but had large numbers of other Protestant groups such as Quakers, Separatists, Baptists, and other dissenters in Rhode Island.

Most New England settlers came from the middle ranks of English

society. Many were highly skilled and educated. As they were wealthier than most of the early settlers in the South, they were able to pay their own way across the Atlantic. Few were forced to become indentured servants, who sold their freedom in exchange for passage to America. Unlike the first Jamestown colonists, who were mostly young men, the Puritans traveled in “companies” with their families, friends, and neighbors.

Questions About an Established Church In all the New England colonies, settlers were aware that they were creating new societies in what was, for them, a new world. It is not surprising that they often argued about what direction these new societies should take.

A major argument revolved around a single question: should each colony have one, dominant, “established” church, funded by the taxpayer? In Europe, each national government supported only one established religious group. Other groups might face persecution from the religious group in power.

When the Puritans set up their society in Massachusetts, their church became the only established church in the colony. Other New England colonies were also dominated by Puritans, who tolerated some Christian groups but persecuted others. Only Rhode Island tolerated all Christian denominations, as well as Judaism.

Democratic Traditions Throughout the New England colonies, settlers established democratic practices and self-government. Colonists wove democratic practices into both their local government and their church life.

- The Congregational churches of the Puritans were self-governing.
- In Massachusetts, Puritan men elected the governor and the legislature.
- Voting rights were expanded in Massachusetts and Connecticut.
- In the New England countryside, towns controlled their own affairs.

Because of this democratic tradition in the region, the New England town meeting became a symbol of local self-government. At a time when very few Europeans had the right to vote, New England became famous for its democratic practices.

During these early decades of settlement, Massachusetts had the largest population and the greatest influence in the region. Its democratic political trends, its religious beliefs, and the conflicts of its early years influenced the course of American history.

-  **COMPARE AND CONTRAST** Describe the features that the New England colonies had in common.



A modern town meeting



Section Assessment



ONLINE QUIZ

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TERMS & NAMES

1. Explain the importance of

- John Winthrop
- Pilgrims
- Mayflower Compact
- Puritans
- Great Migration
- Roger Williams
- Anne Hutchinson
- Fundamental Orders of Connecticut
- Quakers

USING YOUR READING NOTES

2. **Causes and Effects** Complete the diagram that you started at the beginning of this section.

Cause	Effect
	<i>Pilgrims settled in America.</i>

KEY IDEAS

- Why did the Puritans leave England?
- Why was Rhode Island founded?
- In what ways were New England settlers different from the settlers of Jamestown?

CRITICAL THINKING

- Analyze Point of View** Why was religious tolerance an important issue for the early settlers?
- Make Generalizations** How did the Puritans weave democracy into their political and religious life?
- Connect to Today** What modern American values might be familiar to a 17th-century Puritan?
- Writing Research Report** Mary Dyer broke Puritan laws by returning to Massachusetts. This was an act of civil disobedience. Write a paper about other historical figures who used this form of protest.

SECTION
1

New England: Commerce and Religion

One American's Story

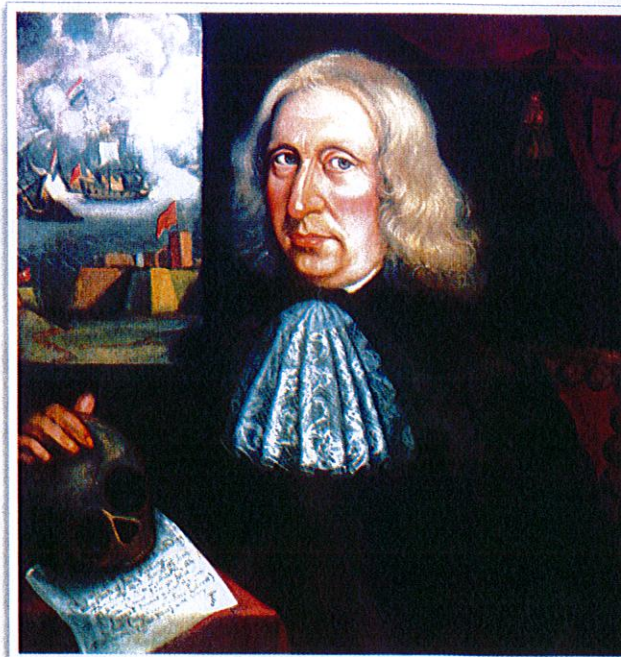
Like many other New England Puritans, Captain Thomas Smith had grown rich through commerce. In this self-portrait from 1680, he displays his wealthy clothes and surroundings. He was proud of his achievements: the painting includes a scene of a naval battle in which he may have fought. Smith enjoyed his worldly success. But as a Puritan, he was also torn between the joys of this world and the need to prepare for the next. So under the skull appears a religious poem that begins

PRIMARY SOURCE

“Why why should I the World be minding
Therein a World of Evils finding.
Then Farewell World: Farewell thy Jarres [conflicts]
Thy Joies thy Toies thy Wiles thy Warrs”

—poem in Captain Thomas Smith's self-portrait

The poem reveals a man who was aware of both the “evils” and the “joys” and “toys” of this world. Like other New Englanders, Captain Smith struggled to balance his religious life with his commercial success.



Captain Thomas Smith
Self-Portrait, Worcester
Art Museum

The Resources of New England

KEY QUESTION Why did England pass the Navigation Acts?

By the 1700s, the colonies formed several distinct regions: New England, the Middle Colonies, the Southern Colonies and the **Backcountry**, which ran through the far western edges of the colonies. Of all the colonial regions, New England was the most populated. Its people grew rich by cleverly exploiting the region's resources.

Farms and Towns Farming in New England was not easy. The growing season was short, and the soil in many places was rocky. Most farmers practiced **subsistence farming**. That is, they produced just enough food for themselves and sometimes a little extra to trade in town.

Most New England farmers lived near a town. Colonial officials sold large plots of land to groups of people—often to a Puritan **congregation**. The congregation settled the town and divided the land among its members.

This pattern of settlement led New England towns to develop in a unique way. Usually, a cluster of farmhouses and a meetinghouse were built around a **common**—shared land where public activities took place. Because people lived together in small towns, a diverse economy developed. Farmers sold produce to shopkeepers; shopkeepers had enough customers to make a living. Along the coast, seaport towns shipped farm products and provided a marketplace for goods coming into New England.

Harvesting the Sea The Atlantic Ocean offered many economic opportunities. Near New England's coast were some of the world's best whaling and fishing grounds for mackerel, halibut, cod, herring, and other fish.

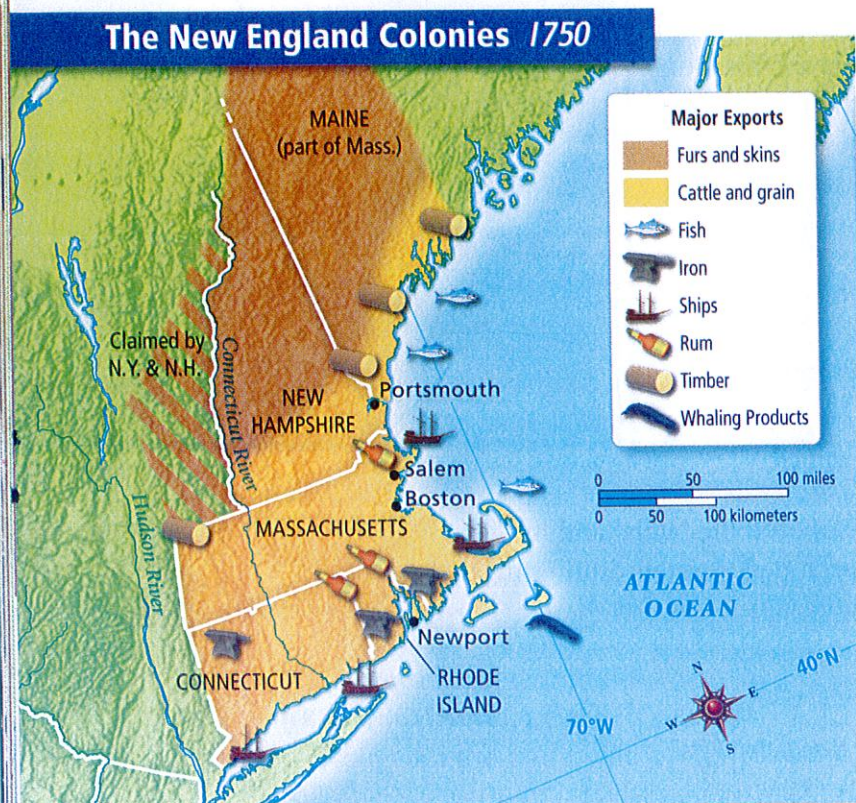
New England's forests provided everything needed to harvest these “pastures” of fish. Wood from oak trees made excellent ship hulls. Hundred-foot-

tall white pines were ideal for masts. Shipbuilders used about 2,500 trees to produce just one ship!

The forests were a valuable resource. Soon New England was exporting timber, as well as fish, to the world. As merchants grew rich from exporting these goods, their ships began carrying goods produced in other places as well. New England's ships became an important part of international trade.

Throughout New England, the population benefitted from the wealth being created in the seaports. The colonists were soon competing with England's fishermen, shipbuilders, and merchants. As coastal towns like Boston, Salem, and Newport grew rich, the English government began to take notice.

The Navigation Acts According to the economic theory of **mercantilism**, the mother country was supposed to profit from its colonies. As the American colonists prospered, England wanted to make sure that it profited




Connect Geography & History

1. **Location** All of the New England colonies are located to the east of what major river?
2. **Make Inferences** Why do you think New Englanders exported so many ocean-related products?

from colonial prosperity. So the English government began passing the **Navigation Acts** in 1651. The Navigation Acts had four major provisions designed to ensure that England made money from its colonies' trade.

1. All goods had to be carried on English ships or on ships made in the English colonies.
2. Products such as tobacco, wood, and sugar could be sold only to England or its colonies.
3. European imports to the colonies had to pass through English ports.
4. Officials were to tax any colonial goods not shipped to England.

The colonists resented these laws. Merchants ignored the acts whenever possible. England had trouble controlling colonial shipping and patrolling the long coastline of the colonies. **Smuggling**—importing or exporting goods illegally—was common. England also had great difficulty preventing pirates, like the legendary Blackbeard, from interfering with colonial shipping.

 **CAUSES AND EFFECTS** Explain why England passed the Navigation Acts.

CONNECT To Today

PIRACY

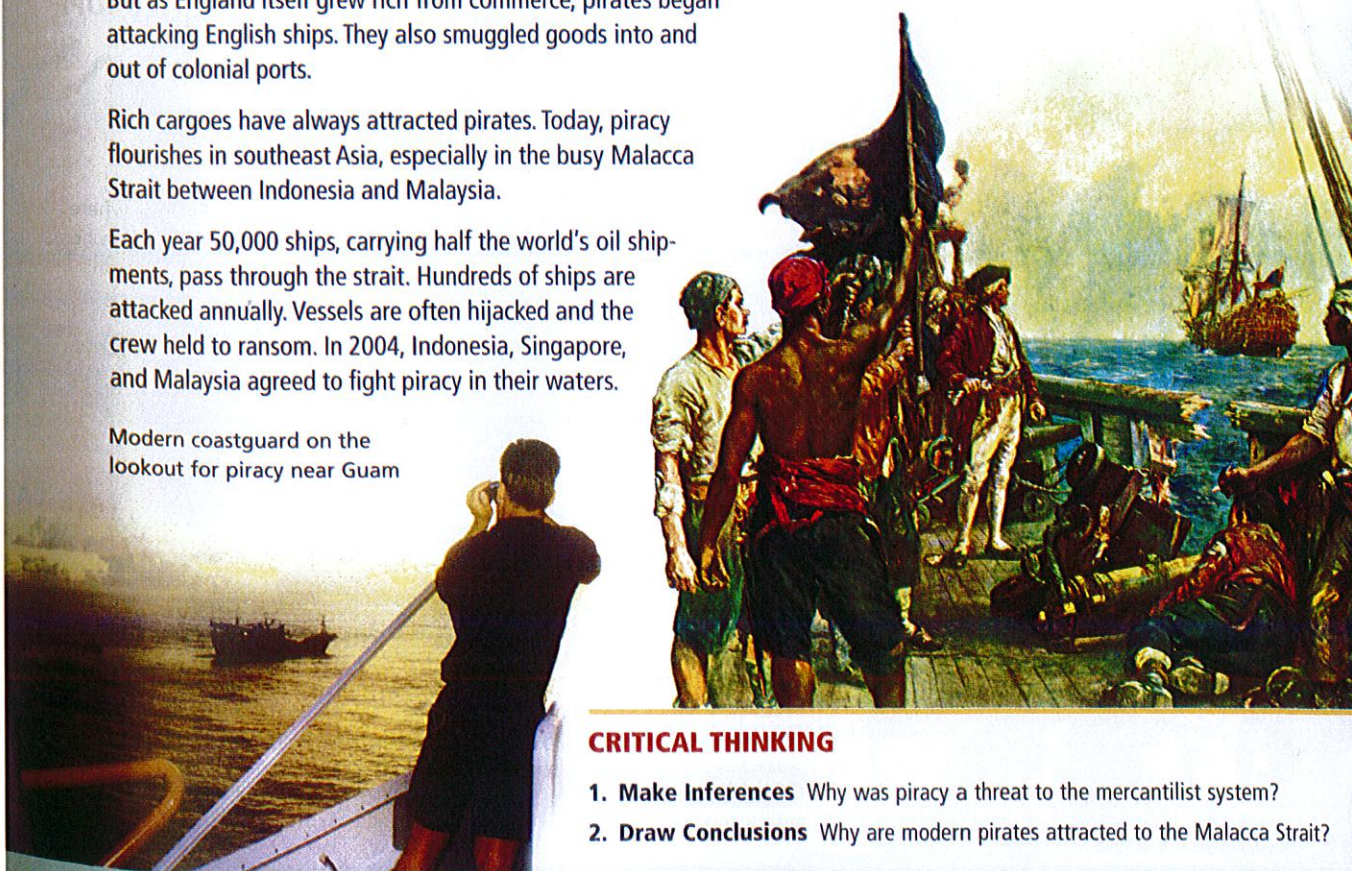
In the late 1600s, England faced a problem that it had helped create—Atlantic piracy. For decades, England had encouraged pirates to attack Spanish shipping. But as England itself grew rich from commerce, pirates began attacking English ships. They also smuggled goods into and out of colonial ports.

Rich cargoes have always attracted pirates. Today, piracy flourishes in southeast Asia, especially in the busy Malacca Strait between Indonesia and Malaysia.

Each year 50,000 ships, carrying half the world's oil shipments, pass through the strait. Hundreds of ships are attacked annually. Vessels are often hijacked and the crew held to ransom. In 2004, Indonesia, Singapore, and Malaysia agreed to fight piracy in their waters.

Modern coastguard on the lookout for piracy near Guam

Pirates in colonial times



CRITICAL THINKING

1. **Make Inferences** Why was piracy a threat to the mercantilist system?
2. **Draw Conclusions** Why are modern pirates attracted to the Malacca Strait?

Atlantic Trade

KEY QUESTION How did New Englanders profit from the triangular trade?

New England settlers engaged in three types of trade. First was the trade with other colonies. Second was the exchange of goods with Europe. But the third type, known as the **triangular trade**, had a sinister, or evil, aspect—because it involved trade in human beings.

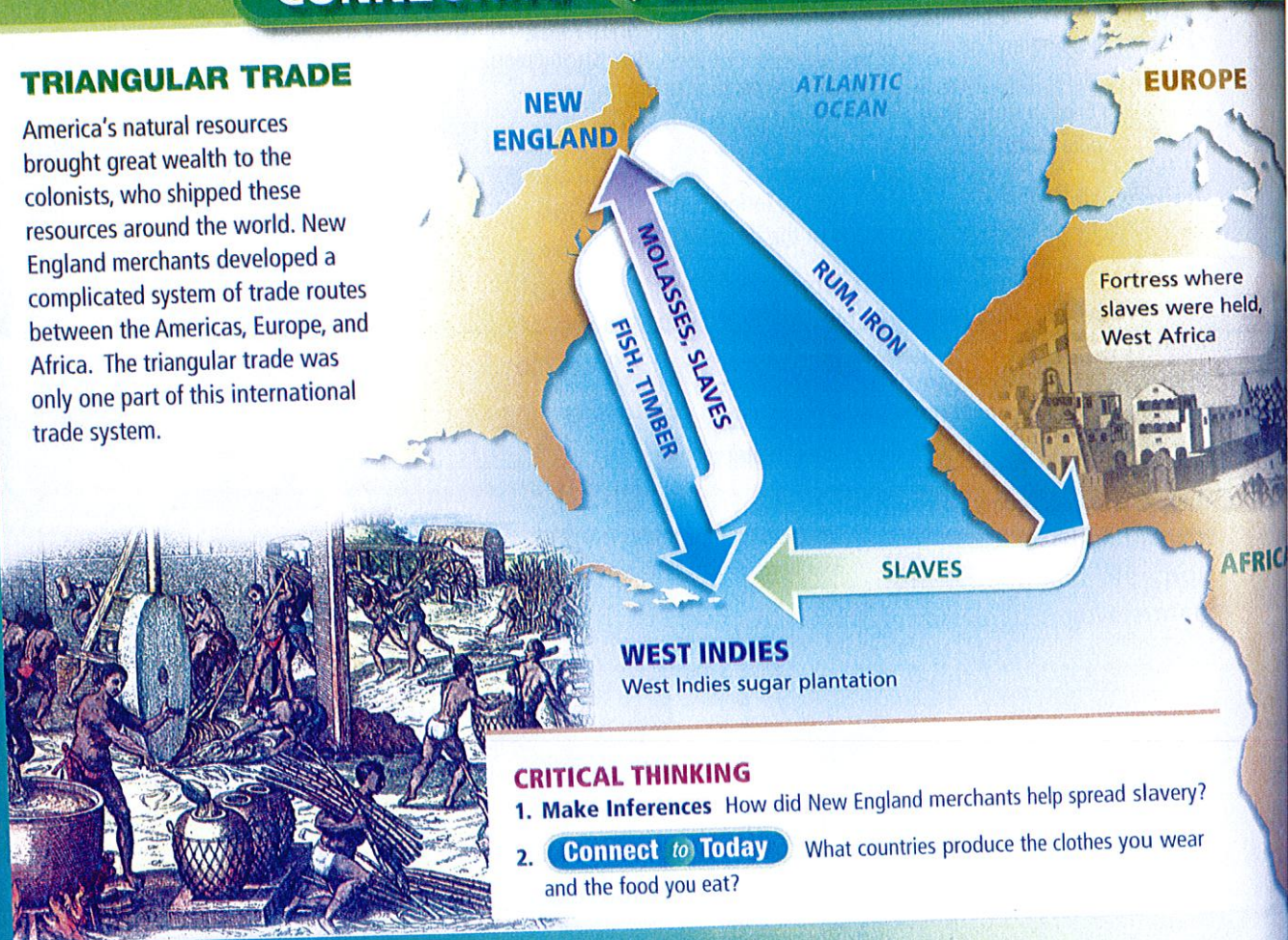
Human Cargo Triangular trade describes a complex system of trans-Atlantic trade used to exchange slaves, rum, sugar, and molasses. For example, a ship might leave New England with a cargo of rum and iron. In Africa, the captain would trade his cargo for slaves. Slaves then endured the cruel voyage to the West Indies, where they were exchanged for sugar and molasses. Traders then took the sugar and molasses back to New England. There, colonists used the molasses to make rum, and the sequence began again.

New Englanders not only brought slaves to the West Indies but also sent fish to feed the huge slave population there. In this way, the economies of New England and the West Indies were closely tied. This trading system brought prosperity to both New England and the West Indies.

CONNECTING Economics and History

TRIANGULAR TRADE

America's natural resources brought great wealth to the colonists, who shipped these resources around the world. New England merchants developed a complicated system of trade routes between the Americas, Europe, and Africa. The triangular trade was only one part of this international trade system.



CRITICAL THINKING

- 1. Make Inferences** How did New England merchants help spread slavery?
- 2. Connect to Today** What countries produce the clothes you wear and the food you eat?

Africans in New England Despite New Englanders' involvement in the slave trade, there were few slaves in New England. In 1700 slaves made up only 2 percent of New England's population. New England had no large plantations, so there was no need for a large labor force on each farm. This is why a large slave population never developed in New England.

Some New Englanders who lived in larger towns and cities did own slaves. Enslaved people worked as house servants, cooks, gardeners, and stablehands. In the 1700s, New England slave owners seldom had enough room to house more than one or two slaves. Instead, more and more slave owners hired out their slaves to work on the docks or in shops or warehouses. Slave owners sometimes allowed their slaves to keep a portion of their wages.

Occasionally, the enslaved were able to save enough to buy their freedom. In fact, New England had more free blacks than any other region. A free African American man might become a merchant, sailor, printer, carpenter, or landowner. Even so, white colonists did not treat free African Americans as equals.

 **SUMMARIZE** Explain how New Englanders profited from the triangular trade.

King Philip's War

 **KEY QUESTION** How did Native Americans react to colonial growth?

Europeans and Native Americans had different attitudes about land ownership. Europeans believed that land could be owned. Native Americans had a more communal attitude to land use. Conflict over land resulted in warfare.

Fighting for Survival Native American tribes in New England were alarmed by the increasing numbers of settlers on their hunting grounds and near their crops. They were also troubled by the growing influence of European culture on their people. In 1675–1676, they carried out an uprising against the Puritan colonies. This was known as **King Philip's War**. "King Philip" was the English name of Metacom, leader of the Wampanoag tribe, who led the first attacks against the colonists.

The Wampanoag were soon joined by other tribes. For both sides, the war was a fight for survival. Twelve Puritan towns were destroyed. Forty other towns, including Plymouth and Providence, were attacked. For a while, it seemed as if the New England colonies might be destroyed.

In desperation, the English colonists turned to other Native American peoples for help. Southern New England tribes such as the Pequot and the Mohegan showed the New Englanders how to track down and ambush the rebel tribes. In the summer of 1676 the uprising collapsed. Many Native Americans were killed, while others were sold into slavery in the West Indies. English settlers expanded even farther into Native American land.

 **MAKE INFERENCES** Explain how Native Americans reacted to colonial growth.



Why might King Philip (shown above) have been outraged by European attitudes about land use?

Changes in Puritan Society

KEY QUESTION What factors helped weaken Puritan religious control?

New England society was changing rapidly by the late 1600s. One of the most noticeable changes was the decline of Puritan power.

Economic Success and Religious Diversity The Puritan values of hard work made many New Englanders rich. But some colonists now seemed to care more about business and material possessions than about religion. Puritan ministers noticed the change and used their sermons to condemn the new interest in worldly success.

History through Art



Portraits of Elizabeth, Mary, and John Freake by an unidentified artist, from the collection of the Worcester Art Museum.

A Changing Puritan World

These portraits, painted a few years before King Philip's War, are windows onto a changing Puritan world. Elizabeth, (shown with her daughter Mary) and John Freake were in their 30s when these portraits were painted in the 1670s. Elizabeth was one of the children of the first generation of Puritans, who arrived during the Great Migration. Elizabeth and John enjoyed the fruits of the prosperous society that their parents had created. Their clothes are richly decorated and expensive. For example, John's elaborate lace collar, gloves, and ruffled sleeves display his wealth.

CRITICAL VIEWING How do Elizabeth's clothes and surroundings reveal the wealth of Puritan society in the late 1600s?

PRIMARY SOURCE

“We have changed our Interest. The Interest of New England was religion, which did distinguish us from other English [colonies]. . . . Now we begin to espouse a Worldly Interest and so choose a new God.”

—Increase Mather, from the sermon “The Day of Trouble is Near,” 1674

The arrival of non-Puritan immigrants also threatened Puritan control. The success of the colony began attracting different kinds of immigrants. Baptists and Anglicans established churches in Massachusetts and Connecticut, where Puritans had once been the most powerful group.

Political changes further weakened Puritan domination. In 1691, a new royal charter for Massachusetts guaranteed religious freedom for all Protestants, not just Puritans. The charter broke Puritan power by ending the churches' control of elections. The loss of power created great uncertainty for many Puritans, which may have contributed to one of the strangest episodes in American history—the Salem witchcraft trials.

The Salem Witchcraft Trials In 1692, a year after the new charter broke Puritan power, a terrifying series of events occurred in Salem Village, Massachusetts. Several girls,

pretending to be bewitched, began accusing others of witchcraft.

Hysteria spread through the community. Those accused were forced to name others as witches. More than 100 people were arrested and dozens were tried. Of those, 19 were found guilty and put to death by hanging, including a popular minister. In addition, two dogs were hanged, and a man was pressed to death when he refused to cooperate with the court.

Eventually, important ministers intervened, and the governor stopped the executions. Within a few years, several of the accusers admitted that they had made false accusations. In 1697 one of the judges begged public forgiveness for his part in the trials.

Puritan Legacy Although Puritan power declined, Puritan values survived. These values have influenced American culture. Americans have inherited:

- the Puritan work ethic
- a high regard for education
- opposition to royal power and support for representative government
- the practice of voting on decisions affecting the community

Many of these Puritan values helped put America on the road to independence.

CAUSES AND EFFECTS Describe how Puritan religious control was weakened in the later 1600s.



An elderly women being arrested for witchcraft in Salem

Why do you think the girls accused so many people of witchcraft?



Section Assessment



ONLINE QUIZ

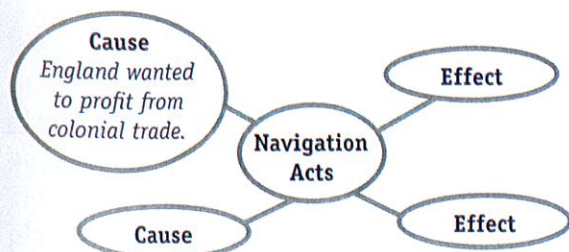
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TERMS & NAMES

1. Explain the importance of
 - Backcountry
 - Navigation Acts
 - triangular trade
 - King Philip's War

USING YOUR READING NOTES

2. **Causes and Effects** Complete the diagram you started at the beginning of this section to show the causes and effects of the Navigation Acts.



KEY IDEAS

3. How did England profit from colonial shipping?
4. What changes did prosperity bring to New England?

CRITICAL THINKING

5. **Make Inferences** How do you think the enslaved were able to save money if they were not paid for their labor?
6. **Connect Economics & History** Why did New England come to depend on fishing and shipbuilding?
7. **Connect to Today** New Englanders took economic advantage of their environment. Describe modern examples of people using natural resources to gain wealth.
8. **Writing Letter** Write a letter from Metacomb to the English colonists. Explain the reasons for the war that is about to be launched against them.