



Summary

Events in American History: Pilgrims in America highlights the history of the Thanksgiving holiday and the settlers whose strong religious convictions led them to a new life in America. The text provides a sequential retelling of the Pilgrim's journey and the events of the early years of their settlement.

Vocabulary	Comprehension Strategy	Genre Study	Text Features
chamber pot colony game harbor harvest	heritage linen mutiny native plague	port Puritan replica tradition wigwam	Determining main idea and supporting details, Using graphic features
		Text structure: Description, Identify main ideas	captions glossary headings index
			labeled photograph maps photographs sidebars
			table of contents text boxes timelines

Standards: Social Studies and Science

- Knows why the Puritans came to America and understands the Puritan family structure
- Understands the religious, political, and economic motives of immigrants who came to North America from different parts of Europe
- Understands the opportunities and challenges encountered by European immigrants who came to North America
- Understands how various Native American societies changed as a result of expanding European settlements
- Understands how various Native American societies influenced European societies

Kendall, J. S., & Marzano, R. J. (2004). *Content knowledge: A compendium of standards and benchmarks for K-12 education*. Aurora, CO: Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL). Online database: www.mcrel.org/standards-benchmarks/

Discussion Prompts Prior to Independent Reading

Vocabulary Building and Background Knowledge:

Read the title as students look at the cover. Ask students to talk about what they observe on the cover and what they already know about Pilgrims in America. Scaffold a discussion that builds on the background knowledge of students. Introduce students to the vocabulary words as they examine the glossary on page 47.

Discussion Questions:

- *Heritage* is a way of life passed from one generation to the next. What is a way of life and how do individuals pass a way of life from one generation to the next?
- Why would a group of people risk settling in a distant land when they do not know the dangers of the new place?
- What is the definition of the word *tradition*? What is an example of a custom or belief in your family?

Genre Study and Text Features:

State that **Events in American History: Pilgrims in America** is an informational text. Highlight genre characteristics and text features that will support students in reading the text.

Highlight prompts:

- Examine the timeline on page 46. How is the information organized? What kind of information do you find? How is the timeline useful to the reader?
- Examine the text boxes on pages 7 and 9. Throughout the text, eyewitness accounts from journals and letters are highlighted from real people who lived during this time. What is the importance of these text boxes? What can you learn from them?

Reading the Book:

Have students read the book independently or with a partner.

Comprehension Questions

After students have completed reading **Events in American History: Pilgrims in America**, gather students together for a discussion based on the questions below or assign students to answer the questions independently or with a partner.

- How did the Pilgrim's harvest celebration influence the permanent national holiday known as Thanksgiving?
- How are the Pilgrims a symbol of the American spirit?

BLM: Extension Activity

Students may use the next page to plan a journey to a new place by listing the most important items and supplies they would need to survive and to begin a colony in this uninhabited location.



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EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Events in American History: American Pilgrims

Name: _____ Date: _____

Planning a Journey

Directions: Plan a journey to a new place by listing the most important items and supplies you would need to survive and begin a new colony in this uninhabited location. Then write your reasons for starting a new settlement.

My plan for a journey from _____ (current home location)	to _____ (new settlement location)
List of Supplies	_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____
Reasons for Settlement	_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____