

Settling a Wilderness

CHAPTERS IN THIS UNIT:

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FINDING A
NEW WORLD

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SETTLING THE
THIRTEEN COLONIES

3

COLONIAL SOCIETY
AND GOVERNMENT

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LIFE IN THE
COLONIES

5

AMERICAN
COLONIES IN THE
BRITISH EMPIRE

1770: Tensions began to rise between the colonies and their mother country. Provoked by a colonial mob, British soldiers in Boston opened fire, killing five and wounding six others.





1741: The preaching of Jonathan Edwards helped restore colonial America to its spiritual foundations during the Great Awakening.

1492: Though he believed the island he named San Salvador was part of the Orient, Columbus had actually paved the way for the exploration and development of a New World.



1492

10

1775



1500

1492 Columbus lands in the New World

1522 Magellan circumnavigates the earth

1550

1588 Defeat of the Spanish Armada

1600

1607 Jamestown founded

1620 Pilgrims come to the New World

1630 Massachusetts Bay Colony formed

1636 Harvard founded

1650

1647 Massachusetts passes "Old Deluder Satan" education act

1664 England takes New Netherland

1700

1692 Salem Witch Trials

1720

The Great Awakening

1750

1754

1763

French and Indian War

1770 Boston Massacre

1800

Unit I: Settling a Wilderness

William Bradford's Account of the Founding of Plymouth

Governor Bradford wrote *Of Plymouth Plantation*, the most famous account of the early years of Plymouth Colony. After you read about the Pilgrims' arrival in December, answer the questions that follow.

Being thus passed the vast ocean, and a sea of troubles before in their preparation, they had now no friends to welcome them nor inns to entertain or refresh their weatherbeaten bodies; no houses or much less towns to repair to. . . . Savage barbarians, when they met with them (as after will appear) were readier to fill their sides full of arrows than otherwise. And for the season it was winter, and they that know the winters in that country know them to be sharp and violent, and subject to cruel and fierce storms, dangerous to travel to known places, much more to search an unknown coast. . . .

What could now sustain them but the Spirit of God and His grace? May not and ought not the children of these fathers rightly say: "Our fathers were Englishmen which came over this great ocean, and were ready to perish in this wilderness; but they cried unto the Lord, and He heard their voice. . . ."

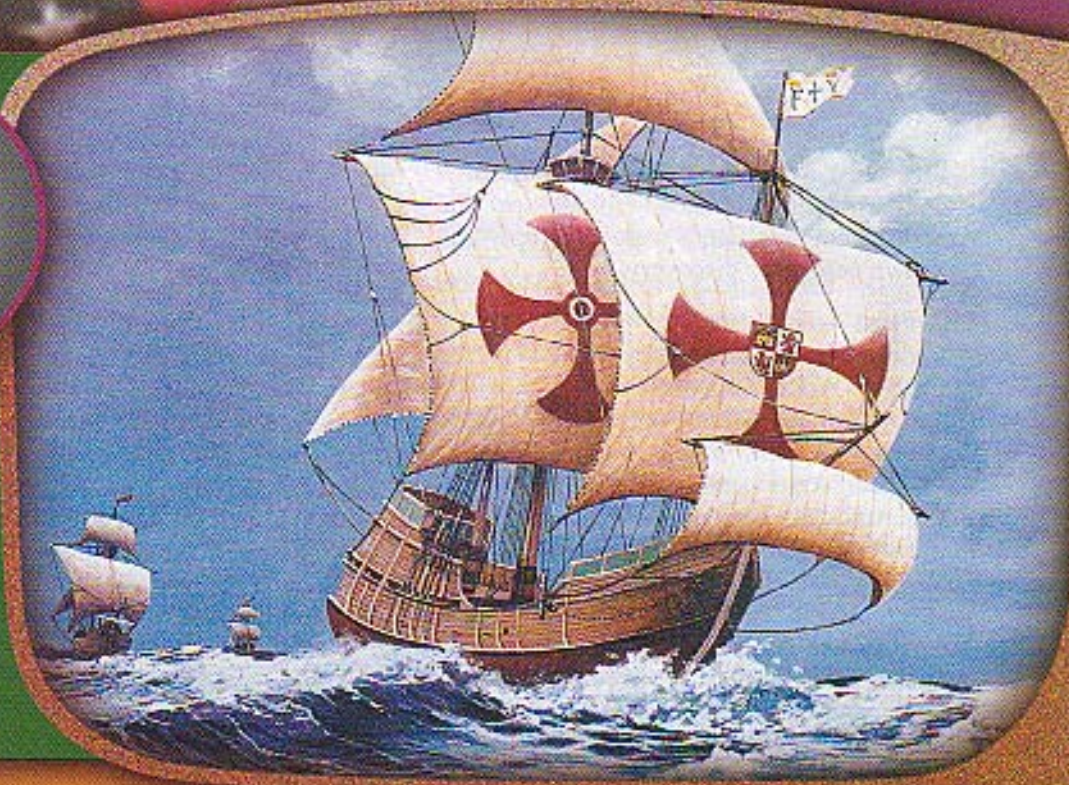
They chose, or rather confirmed, Mr. John Carver (a man godly and well approved amongst them) their Governor for that year. And after they had provided a place for their goods . . . and begun some small cottages for their habitation; as time would admit, they met and consulted of laws and order, both for their civil and military government. . . .

In these hard and difficult beginnings they found some discontents and murmurings arise amongst some, and mutinous speeches and carriages [conduct] in other; but they were soon quelled [quieted] and overcome by the wisdom, patience, and just and equal carriage of things, by the Governor and better part, which clave faithfully together in the main.

But that which was most sad and lamentable was, that in two or three months' time half of their company died, especially in January and February, being the depth of winter, and wanting houses and other comforts; being infected with scurvy and other diseases which this long voyage and their inaccommodate condition had brought upon them. So as there died some times two or three of a day in the foresaid time, that of 100 and odd persons, scarce fifty remained. And of these, in the time of most distress, there was but six or seven sound persons who to their great commendations, be it spoken, spared no pains night nor day, but with abundance of toil and hazard of their own health, fetched them wood, made them fires, dressed them meat, made their beds, washed their loathsome clothes, clothed and unclothed them. In a word, did all the homely and necessary offices for them which dainty and queasy stomachs cannot endure to hear named; and all this willingly and cheerfully.

1. How many people died during the first few months?
2. According to Bradford, what saved the colonists?
3. What was Bradford's opinion of the first governor?
4. List four hardships that the colonists faced.

1



Finding a New World

After sailing nearly three thousand miles, ninety men and boys in three small ships searched the horizon for land. The sailors were reluctant to sail on into the unknown waters far to the west of Europe, but their leader, Christopher Columbus, was determined to find the riches of the Orient. He was sure that he could reach the lands of spices and gold in the East by sailing west.

At ten o'clock that night, Columbus saw a dim light on the horizon. It may have been the moonlight reflecting on an island beach or cliff, or it may have been a fire used by natives on an island. Columbus pressed toward the light, and four hours later, in the early morning of October 12, 1492, Columbus, his men, and his three ships, the *Niña*, the *Pinta*, and the *Santa Maria*, reached sight of land. Later

that day Columbus went ashore on the island he named San Salvador (Holy Savior).

Debate still continues over which of several small islands in the Bahamas Columbus saw first, but Columbus believed it was an island in the Orient, perhaps in the East Indies. Therefore, he called the natives "Indians." Even after four voyages to the "New World" he had found, Columbus continued to believe he had reached the Far East. He failed, however, to find the spices and riches he sought, and he died in 1506, poor and powerless. Nevertheless, Columbus's discovery of America opened the door to the exploration and development of two continents and gave the United States of America an important piece of its early heritage.