



Teacher's Guide

The Pilgrims **Drive Thru History/American History**

Grade Levels:

7-12

Subject Areas:

United States History

Synopsis:

Dave recalls the Pilgrims' decision to leave England and find a place free from religious persecution. Dave traces the Pilgrim exodus to Amsterdam, to Leiden, and finally to America where a land patent gives the settlers permission to settle in Virginia. Dave explains that the Mayflower Compact established social order and good government that would ultimately inspire the words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. Dave visits Plymouth Rock, and gives some idea of the Native American friendships that resulted in the first Thanksgiving on American soil.

Learning Objectives: Students will:

- Describe the social conditions that resulted in the Pilgrims journeying to America
- Explain the importance of the Mayflower Compact
- Understand why the Pilgrims were successful in the New World and the reasons for the first Thanksgiving

Vocabulary:

dissenters, separatists, unorthodox, non-conformist, Pilgrim

Pre-Viewing Discussion:

Why were the Pilgrims social outcasts in England?

Who was on the English throne when the Pilgrims left England? How did this king feel about religious dissenters?

Post-Viewing Discussion:

Why was Richard Clyfton expelled from All Saints Church in Babworth, Yorkshire? Where did he and his followers go after the expulsion?

Why did they decide to immigrate to Holland? How were they received there? Why did they decide to immigrate to America?

Why were the Pilgrims more successful in America than settlers who had come before them? How have the ideas of the Mayflower Compact influenced the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence?

Why were the Pilgrims able to make friends with the Indians? Why did they feel ready to celebrate their first Thanksgiving in the New World?

Further Activities:

Find original documents that describe the Pilgrim's reception in Amsterdam and Leiden.

Further investigate the fraud that was perpetrated by the sale of the Speedwell to the Pilgrims. Consider what this incident tells about the Pilgrims and the way they viewed the world.

Further investigate the biographies of any of the Pilgrims mentioned in this program.

Further investigate the hardships and reward of the Pilgrims' first year in America.

Related New Dimension Media Titles:

Colonial Life series

Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn