

**Exploration**

**of the continent**

From the very first, Europeans who explored North America were looking for riches. Every trip was a journey into the unknown. Slowly, however, explorers began to learn more about the world. With each voyage they could draw maps more accurately. The early explorers made travelling easier for those who came later.

## Explorers:

- *Leif Ericsson* – a Viking who sailed to the shore of Newfoundland. Ericsson found grapes, wheat and trees. He called it Vinland.
- *Christopher Columbus* – sailed to the Americas, Columbus landed in the Bahamas, Cuba and Hispaniola. He was sure that he had approached the coasts of China and India. Columbus made three voyages to the New World to find out if there was gold in Mexico.
- *Hernando Cortes* – a Spanish explorer who led the first expedition to find out if there was gold in Mexico.



## Other European Explorers:

- *John Cabot* – an Italian navigator who landed on Cape Breton Island. Instead of spices, he found one of the richest fishing areas in the world
- *Jacque Cartier* – a French explorer, was looking for the Northwest Passage – a water route through North America to Asia. He found the St. Lawrence River and explored it as far as present-day Montreal, Canada.
- *Robert La Salle* – another French explorer, travelled to the mouth of the Mississippi in 1682. He called the surrounding area Louisiana.
- *Henry Hudson* – a Dutch explorer, explored the Atlantic shore and sailed up the river that was later named for him – the Hudson.





# Spanish Settlements

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# French and Dutch Colonies

In the 1600's other European nations also started colonies in the New World.

- **New France.** In 1608 Samuel de Champlain started the first French settlement in the New World. It was located along the banks of the St. Lawrence River. Champlain called this place Quebec. The entire colony was known as New France. Today this area is part of Canada. New France did not attract many settlers. Some people came to farm, but the weather in New France was very cold. Fur trade was the main business of New France.
- **New Netherlands.** A few years after Henry Hudson's voyage, Dutch settlers from The Netherlands came to the New World. They were planning to make money buying furs from the Indians and selling them to Europe. At the mouth of the Hudson River they built a settlement and called it New Amsterdam. In 1664, after the war between The Netherlands and England, New Amsterdam was re-named in New York.





# English Settlements

People from England came to America. Although these first settlements were very small, they were the beginning of the thirteen English colonies along the Atlantic coast.

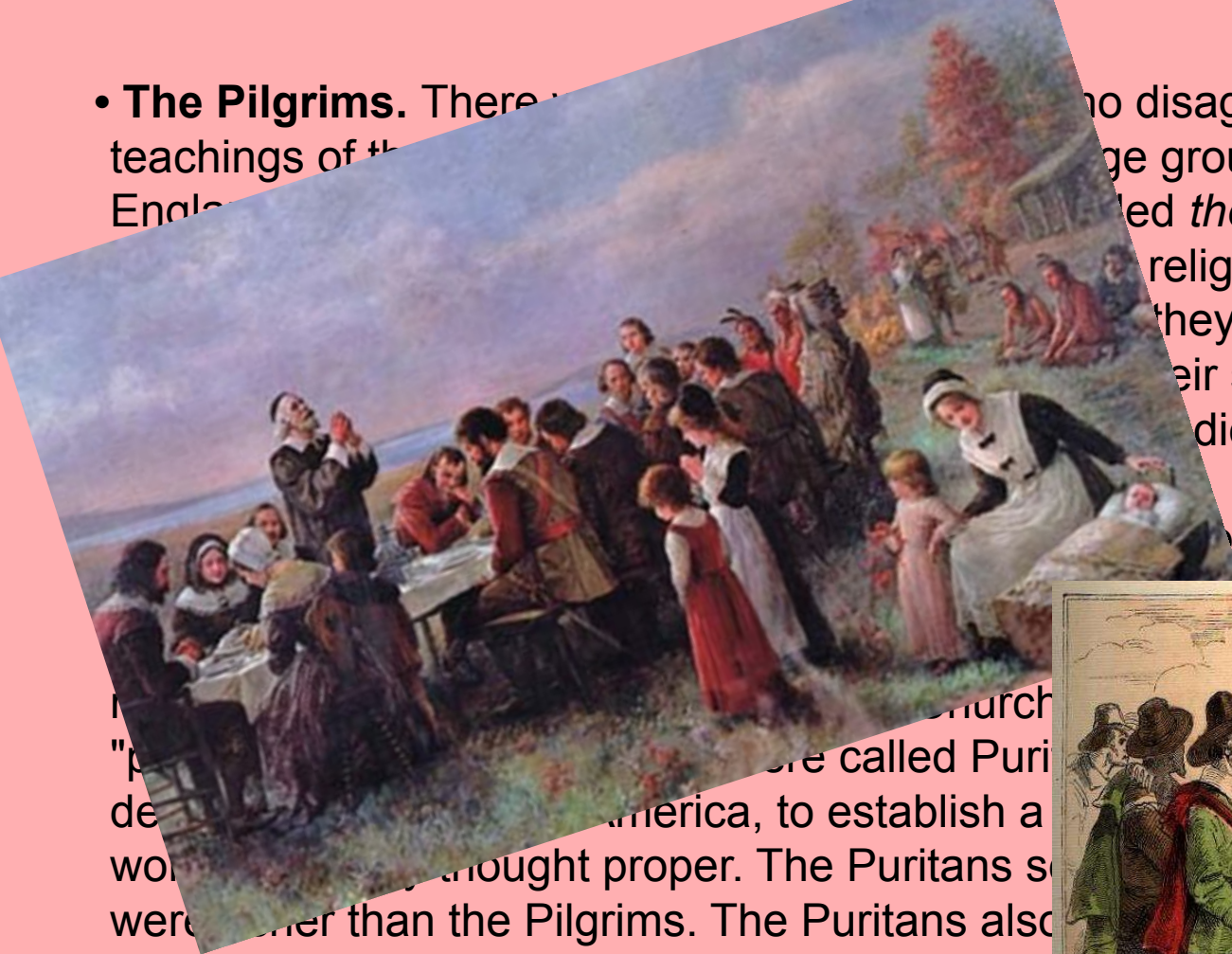
The Virginia Company in London formed a private company to settle in North America. It asked England's King for a charter to establish a colony. The King gave the charter. The company sent settlers to the new colony, Jamestown. The settlers needed to send the company reports.

The first settlement was Jamestown. It was founded in January 1607. In the first year, the settlement was almost destroyed. The settlers were given the right to elect a governing body, the first step toward self-government.

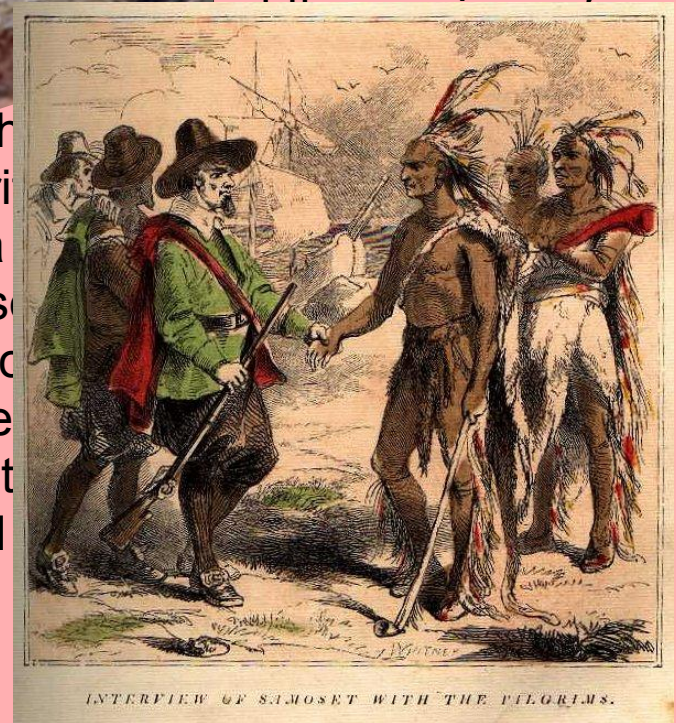




- **The Pilgrims.** There were many who disagreed with the teachings of the Church of England. A large group of such people left England and sailed on the *Mayflower*. These people had religious purposes. They wanted to live the way they wanted. The Pilgrims founded their settlement Plymouth. Many died from cold. But the



many people who disagreed with the Church of England. These people were called Puritans. They came to America, to establish a new society. They thought proper. The Puritans were more than the Pilgrims. The Puritans also explored the coastline and found an excellent harbor. The Charles River empties into the ocean. They set up a settlement in Boston. The Puritan Church was very powerful.





# The English Colonies

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Put the colonies into a new world. The colonies were founded by English, Dutch, and Swedish settlers. The English colonies were the largest and most influential.



NARRAGANSETT INDIANS RECEIVING ROGER WILLIAMS

Island's first law was about religious toleration. It allowed people to worship as they wished.

Colonies.

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### 3. The Southern Colonies.

- The five Southern colonies were Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia. These five colonies had a warmer climate than the other colonies. Farmers had great plantations where they grew tobacco and rice. However, planting and harvesting these crops required many workers. During the 17th and 18th centuries many Negro slaves from Africa were brought to the South to work on the plantations. The slaves had no rights of their own. Some colonies passed laws saying that the Africans could be bought and sold as slaves. Charleston in South Carolina was the major city of the Southern colonies. In the 1700's more than 10,000 whites and 12,000 black slaves lived there. Charleston had an excellent harbour. Planters brought their crops to the port. There the crops were loaded on ships and sent to Great Britain, the West Indies and to other colonies. Merchants grew rich from the busy trade.

