

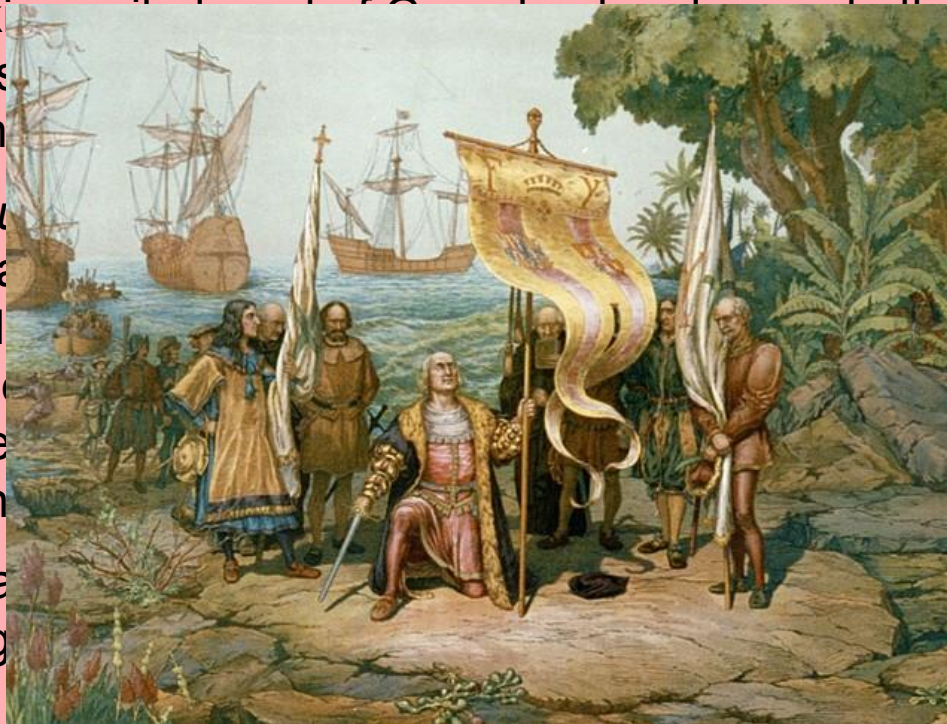
Exploration

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 discovered wild grapes, wheat and trees. He called it Vinland.
- *Christopher Columbus* – sailed to the Americas. Columbus landed in the Bahamas and explored the coasts of China and India. Columbus made three voyages to the Americas, including Cuba and Hispaniola. But he never reached the mainland. He was sure that he had approached the mainland.
- *Hernando Cortes* – a Spanish explorer who came to the New World to find out if there was gold.



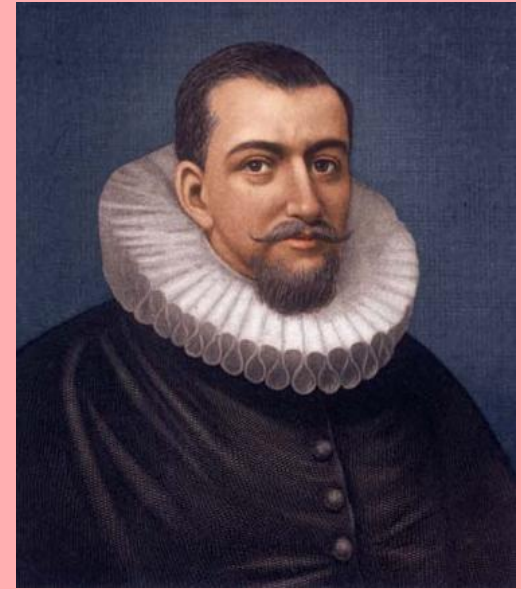
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Mexico.

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 and other European countries came to America. Although these first settlements were very small, they grew into the thirteen English colonies along the Atlantic coast.



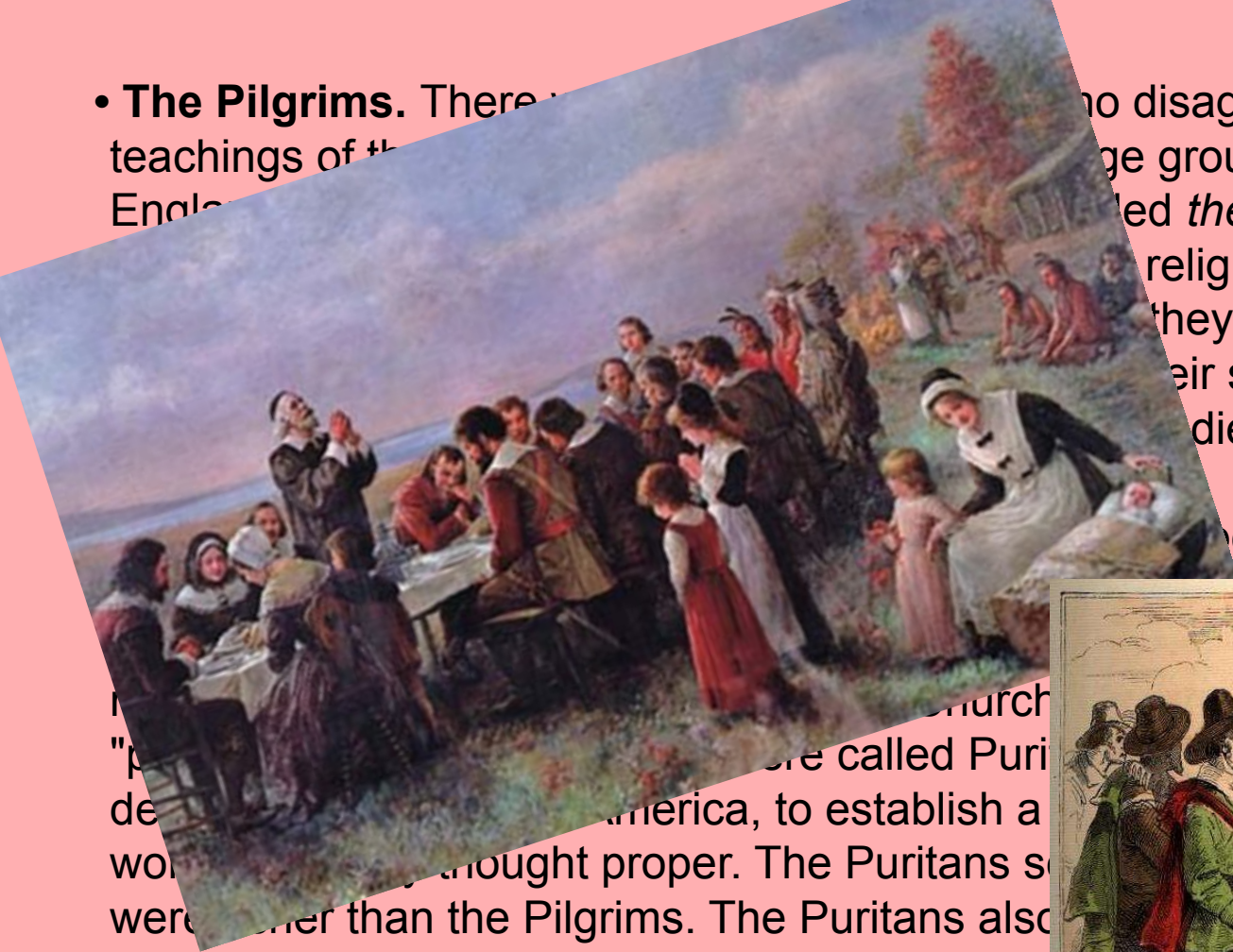
The Virginia Company in London formed a private colony. It asked England's King to grant a charter for a new colony. The King agreed. The first settlers arrived in 1607 to settle in the new colony, Jamestown. They had to send the

Company of Virginia was founded in 1606. It was the first English colony in North America. It was founded on January 4, 1607. In the beginning, the settlement was given the name of Jamestown. It was the beginning of self-government.



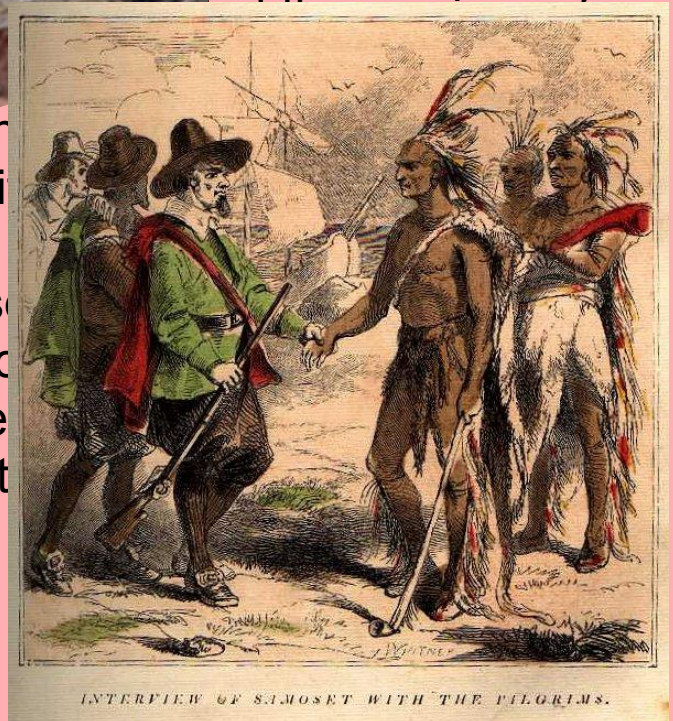
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• **The Pilgrims.** There were many who disagreed with the teachings of the Church of England. A large group of such people left England and sailed on the *Mayflower*. These people had religious purposes. They wanted to practice their religion as they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



people who disagreed

the Church
"Puritans" were called Puritans
decided to come to America, to establish a
work as they thought proper. The Puritans so
were more than the Pilgrims. The Puritans also
They explored the coastline and found an excellent harbor.
Charles River empties into the ocean. They set up a settlement
Boston. The Puritan Church was very powerful



INTERVIEW OF SAMOSET WITH THE PILGRIMS.

The English Colonies

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NARRAGANSETT INDIANS RECEIVING ROGER WILLIAMS

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2. THE MIDDLE COLONIES



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Engraving. Library of Congress.

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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.

