

# Lesson

# 1

## Time

1600

1750

1630

The Massachusetts Colony is founded

1636

Roger Williams founds Providence

1675

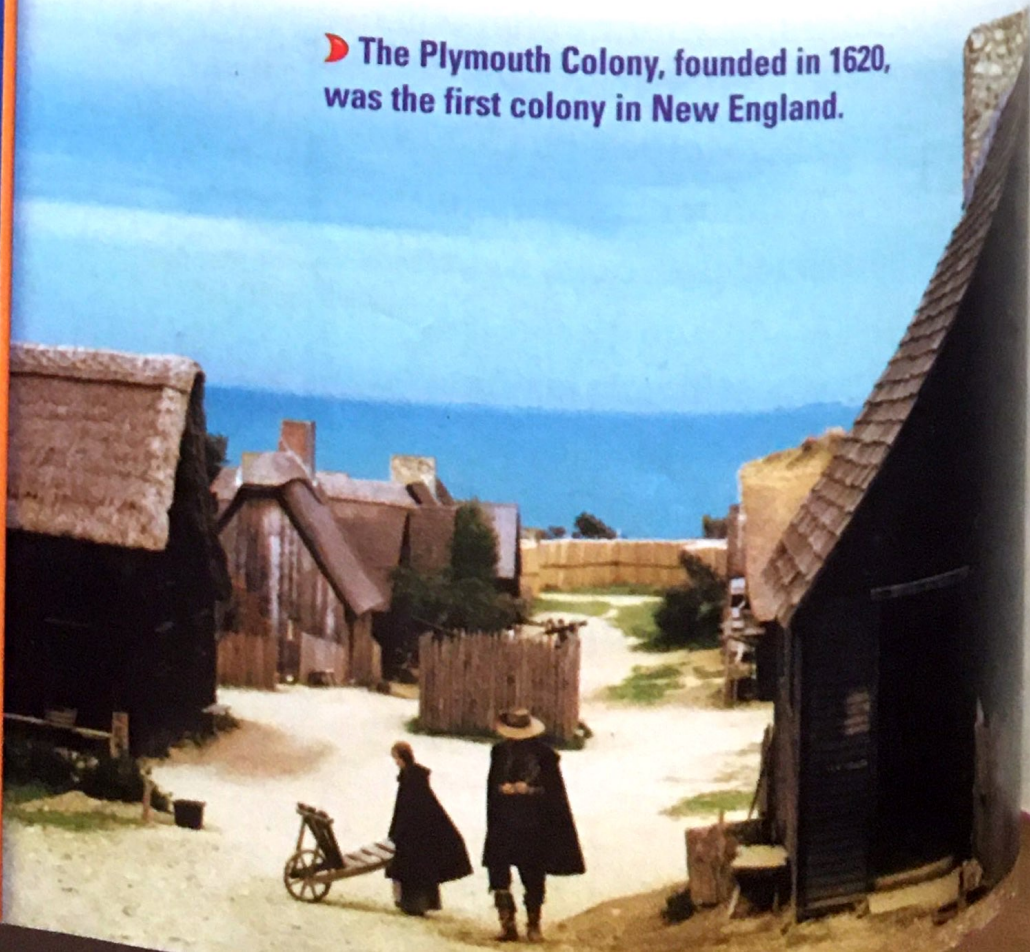
King Philip's War begins

# Settling New England

**YOU ARE THERE**

You walk outside your small village and look out at the sea. Ten years ago, you and your family traveled here from England to build a religious community. At first, you were sad to leave England, but you have learned to adjust to your new life. Your experiences have taught you that life in this colony requires hard work and a strong spirit. Recently, you have heard that new settlers from England will soon arrive. You hope they are prepared for all the challenges they will face.

► The Plymouth Colony, founded in 1620, was the first colony in New England.



## WHAT TO KNOW

Why did people start colonies in New England?

- ✓ Describe the location of the New England Colonies.
- ✓ Identify the people who founded colonies in New England.
- ✓ Examine relations between American Indians and settlers.

## VOCABULARY

**charter** p. 207

**dissent** p. 208

**expel** p. 208

**consent** p. 209

**sedition** p. 209

**frontier** p. 212

## PEOPLE

John Winthrop

Roger Williams

Anne Hutchinson

## PLACES

Massachusetts

Rhode Island

Connecticut

New Hampshire



## SUMMARIZE



California Standards

HSS 5.3, 5.3.2, 5.3.3, 5.4, 5.4.1, 5.4.2, 5.4.3, 5.4.7



► From 1630 to 1643, more than 20,000 Puritans left Europe to settle in New England.

## A City on a Hill

In 1628, a small group of settlers arrived in North America with a **charter** from the king of England. This official paper gave them approval to start a colony in New England. With their charter, they built a village called Salem on a bay they called Massachusetts Bay.

Like the Pilgrims, these settlers came to New England to practice their religious beliefs and to start farms and businesses. Unlike the Pilgrims, however, they did not want to break away from the Church of England. They wanted to change the church to make it more “pure.” For this reason, they were called Puritans.

In 1630, John Winthrop led the second group of Puritans to settle the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

He hoped the colony would be seen by others as an example of Christian living. In a sermon, he said,

“... We shall be as a city upon a hill. The eyes of all people are upon us. . . .”\*

Winthrop’s group of Puritans chose to build their “city upon a hill” to the south of Salem, near the mouth of the Charles River.

They named their settlement Boston, after a town in England. Most early settlements in New England were built along the Atlantic coast to make it easier for colonists to get supplies from English trading ships.



► John Winthrop

**READING CHECK** **SUMMARIZE**

**Why did the Puritans found the Massachusetts Bay Colony?**

\*John Winthrop. *Pilgrims and Puritans: 1620–1676*, by Christopher Collier and James Collier. Benchmark Books, 1998.

## New Ideas, New Settlements

In 1630, John Winthrop was elected governor of the Massachusetts Colony. He and the other Puritan leaders kept strict control over life in the colony in an effort to create the perfect society. They did not welcome people whose beliefs differed from their own, because they thought that **dissent**, or disagreement, might hurt their colony.

Some colonists did disagree with the Puritan leaders. One of those colonists was a minister in Salem named **Roger Williams**. He and his followers believed

that their church should be separate from the colonial government and the strict rule of the Church of England. They also believed that Puritan leaders should not punish people for having different beliefs.

Williams disagreed with Puritan leaders over the treatment of the Indians, too. He argued that the settlers ought to live in peace with the Indians. Before long, Winthrop and the other Puritan leaders decided to punish Williams for his dissent. They held a court trial and found him guilty of spreading "new and dangerous opinions."\* In 1635, the leaders voted to **expel** Williams, which meant he had to leave Massachusetts.

\*Records of the court of assistants of the Colony of Massachusetts Bay, 1630-1692. AMS Press, 1928.

► After Roger Williams was expelled from Massachusetts, the Narragansett Indians gave him shelter.





► Anne Hutchinson's weekly meetings were seen as a challenge to the authority of the men who led the Puritan church.

Williams and his family moved south of Salem to what is now called Narragansett (nar•uh•GAN•suht) Bay. For a short time, they lived near the coast with the Narragansett Indians. Many of Williams's followers soon joined him there. In 1636, Williams bought land from the Narragansett and founded a settlement that he called Providence.

Williams organized a settlement based on the **consent**, or agreement, of the people and a spirit of cooperation with the Indians. The new settlement gave its people the freedom to follow any religion they chose.

The leaders of the Massachusetts Bay Colony faced another challenge to their authority, or power, from a colonist named Anne Hutchinson. Hutchinson

questioned the teachings of the Puritan ministers and started holding popular religious meetings at her home.

Hutchinson's actions angered many Puritan leaders. In 1637, they brought her to trial on charges of **sedition** (sih•DIH•shuhn), or speaking in ways that caused others to work against the government. Hutchinson was found guilty and expelled from the colony.

With her family and several followers, Hutchinson left to start a settlement on an island near Providence. That settlement later joined Williams's settlement under the charter that formed the colony of Rhode Island in 1647.

**READING CHECK** ✨ **SUMMARIZE**

Why did Roger Williams wish to start a new settlement?



## New England Colonies



### ANALYZE SKILL Analyze Maps

- ◆ **Regions** Which of the New England Colonies had the smallest amount of land?

## New England Grows

Other settlers moved away from Massachusetts to find better farmland.

They left the poor, rocky soil of coastal New England for the

fertile Connecticut (kuh•NEH•tih•kuht) River valley to the west.

Most early Connecticut settlers came to find good farmland, but many also came because of their religious beliefs. One such settler was a Puritan minister named Thomas Hooker. He left Massachusetts because he disagreed with the way its leaders ruled. Hooker and his followers founded the settlement of Hartford. In 1636, Hartford and other nearby settlements became part of the colony of **Connecticut**.

In 1639, the leaders of the Connecticut Colony wrote the Fundamental Orders, a plan of government. These orders allowed voters to elect their leaders. However, the only people who could vote were white men who owned land.

Other colonists looking for economic opportunities moved north of Massachusetts. In 1623, a Scottish settler named David Thomson set out with a group to establish a fishing settlement near the mouth of a river. In 1679, this settlement, later known as Portsmouth, joined with others in the area to form the colony of **New Hampshire**.

### READING CHECK CAUSE AND EFFECT

**What caused farmers to settle in the Connecticut River valley?**

## Growth Brings Conflict

As the colonists spread across New England, they settled where American Indians already lived and hunted.

In the Connecticut River valley, fighting broke out between the colonists and the Pequot (PEE•kwaht) Indians. The Pequot wanted to stop the colonists from taking over their lands. With the help of the Narragansett and soldiers from Massachusetts, the Connecticut settlers defeated the Pequot in the 1630s. The conflict became known as the Pequot War.

The settlers and the Indians had different ideas about land ownership. The Mohegan (moh•HEE•guh), Narragansett, Wampanoag (wahn•puh•NOH•ag), and other tribes believed that no one could own land. When they “sold” land to settlers, they thought they were agreeing to share it. The English, however, expected the Indians to leave the land.

Metacomet, known to the English as King Philip, was the leader of the Wampanoag Indians. When more English

► **The Connecticut River flows through present-day New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, and Connecticut.**



► **Metacomet**

settlers began moving onto Indian lands, Metacomet decided that the Indians had to unite against the colonists. He said,

**“I am resolved not to see the day when I have no country.”\***

In 1675, harsh feelings between the colonists and the Indians led to an all-out war. The colonists named it King Philip’s War. The war began when a group of Indians attacked the town of Swansea in Rhode Island. In return, the settlers destroyed a nearby Indian village.

Over the next year, King Philip’s War spread as far north as present-day Maine and as far south as Connecticut. In the end, both sides suffered terrible losses. Among the colonists, 1 of every 16 men died in battle. At least 3,000 American Indians, including Metacomet, died.

\*Metacomet. *The Rhode Island Colony* by Dennis Fradin. Children’s Press, 1989.

## Cultural Heritage

### American Indian Place Names

Most of New England’s native people belonged to the Algonquian language group. Many place names in New England reflect this Algonquian heritage. The name *Massachusetts*, for example, means “at the big hill” in the Algonquian language. The name *Connecticut* comes from the Mohegan Indian word *quinnitucket*, meaning “at the long tidal river.” Other places in the region, such as Narragansett Bay, were named for the tribes that lived there.

Some tribes were nearly wiped out, and most were forced to give up their lands.

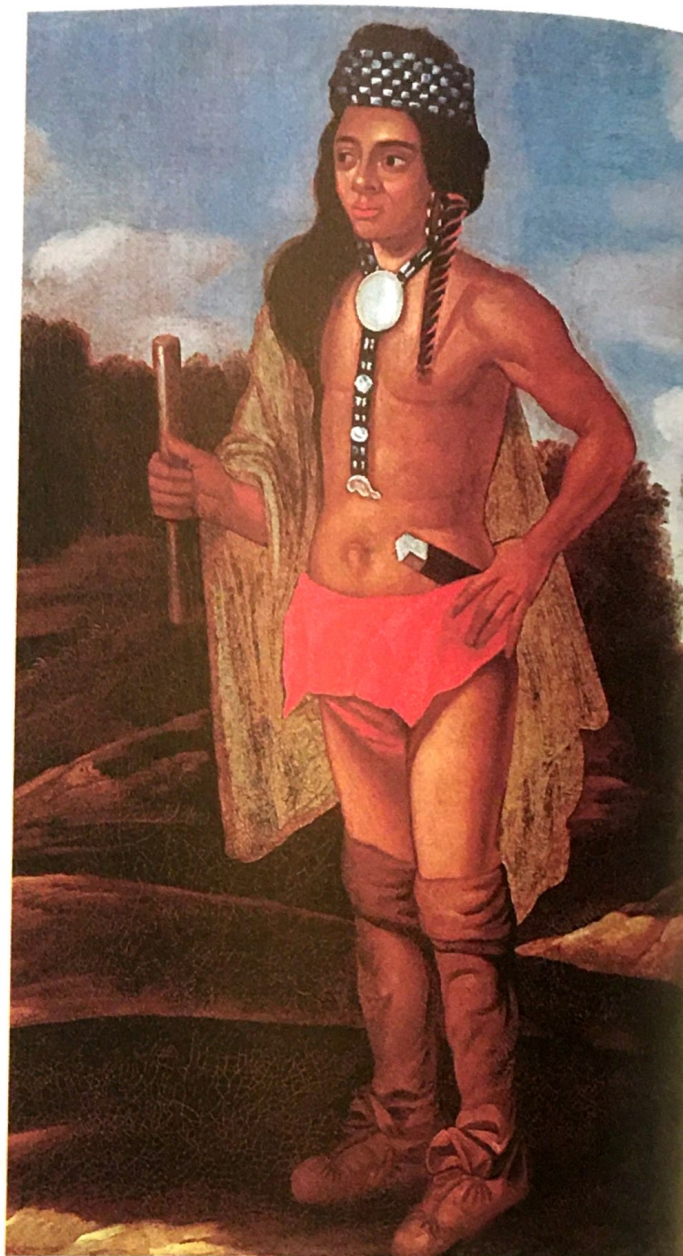
Settlers soon moved onto those lands. Some began settling in western Connecticut, while others moved into present-day Vermont, northern New Hampshire, and Maine. The **frontier**, or the lands beyond the areas already settled by colonists, was being pushed west, too. By 1700, more than 90,000 colonists lived in New England.

**READING CHECK** ✨ **SUMMARIZE**

**What were the two major effects of King Philip's War?**


### Summary

English settlers came to New England and built colonies along the Atlantic coast. Many lived by their religious beliefs. Over time, more settlers arrived, forcing American Indians to leave their lands.




➤ The Niantic Indians, along with several other groups, did not take part in King Philip's War.

## REVIEW

1.  Why did people start colonies in New England?
2. Use the term **dissent** in a sentence about Roger Williams.
3. How did the physical features of New England affect colonists' decisions about where to settle?

### CRITICAL THINKING

4. Why do you think the leaders of the Massachusetts Bay Colony forced out colonists who disagreed with their rule?
5. **ANALYSIS SKILL** In what ways did the actions of John Winthrop, Roger Williams, Anne Hutchinson, and Thomas Hooker show the importance of religious belief in early New England government?

6.  **Draw a Map** Make a map that shows the location of the New England colonies. Your map should also list the date each colony was established and the person or group that founded it.

7. **FOCUS SKILL** ✨ **SUMMARIZE**

On a separate sheet of paper, copy and complete this graphic organizer.

#### Key Fact

Metacomet asked Indians to unite.

#### Key Fact

Indians and settlers disagreed about land ownership.

#### Summary