

Mayflower, Compact, and Patuxet

1620 | Grade 4 · Explain with evidence

Words to know

agreement — a plan or promise people accept together

rule — an instruction about what is allowed

community — people connected by a place or something they share

Look closely



Modern reconstruction of the English village at Plimoth Patuxet Museums. These are not surviving buildings from 1620.

Read the story

Mayflower passengers crossed the ocean. Some men signed an agreement about rules called the Mayflower Compact. The newcomers built Plymouth at Patuxet, a Wampanoag place. Native people had lived there long before.

The Compact organized a colonial community but did not give everyone equal political rights. Women and many others did not sign. It did not transfer Native ownership of land.

Think, talk, and show evidence

1. State the main idea. Support it with two details from the reading.
2. Explain a change or challenge described in the text. Which words support your answer?
3. Use one vocabulary word in a new sentence about this event.
4. What can the image and caption help explain? What can they not tell you?

Follow-up reading: A harvest gathering

1621

Wampanoag people and Plymouth colonists shared a gathering. Ousamequin, also called Massasoit, came with many men. They brought deer. We know only some details. This was not the first time people gave thanks.

Edward Winslow's surviving English account does not supply every guest, food, or viewpoint. The later American Thanksgiving holiday and the 1621 gathering are related but different stories.

Compare the two readings. Explain one similarity or difference using a detail from each. Their order does not prove that one caused the other.

Teacher guide & source trail

Original classroom adaptation. Suggested reading levels are instructional choices, not standardized readability certifications. Use professional judgment and learner feedback.

ELA practice: RI.4.1: refer to details; RI.4.2: main idea and summary; RI.4.3: explain events; RI.4.7: interpret visual information; W.4.2 and SL.4.1: explain and discuss.

These tasks support selected skills in the [Massachusetts 2017 ELA framework](#); they do not establish mastery of an entire standard.

Answer guidance

Factual anchor: Mayflower passengers crossed the ocean. Some men signed an agreement about rules called the Mayflower Compact. The newcomers built Plymouth at Patuxet, a Wampanoag place. Native people had lived there long before. The Compact organized a colonial community but did not give everyone equal political rights. Women and many others did not sign. It did not transfer Native ownership of land.

Accept accurate main ideas and explanations supported by the text. Vocabulary meanings are in the opening word bank. For picture questions, use the caption and credit below; distinguish what is visible from what is inferred. For comparison, accept a specific connection supported by both readings. Do not require personal accounts of trauma.

Continue the inquiry

[Research source for this event ↗](#)

[Research source for follow-up ↗](#)

[Event page, accessible HTML reading, and vocabulary game ↗](#)

Image: English village at Plimoth Patuxet — [Trlsie / Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 3.0](#).

[Image source and rights record ↗](#)

The PDF contains selectable English text and embedded fonts. For adjustable text and browser reading tools, use the event's [HTML page](#). External sources may need adult guidance.