



A
Study Guide
For
The Reluctant Pilgrim

By David Lucas

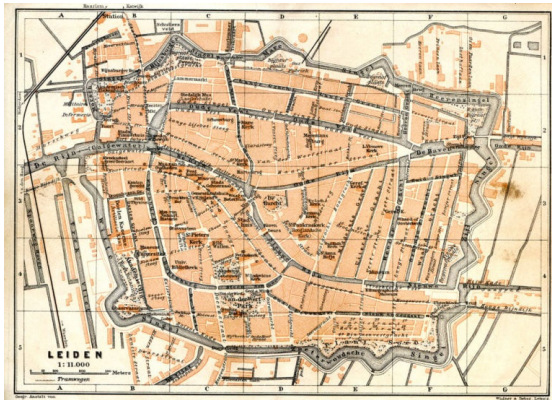
Section 1

Life in Holland

Chapters 1-4



- 1 Why was the destruction of the printing press a sign to leave Holland?
- 2 In Chapter 3, what were three reasons given for leaving Holland?
- 3 Do you think these were good reasons?



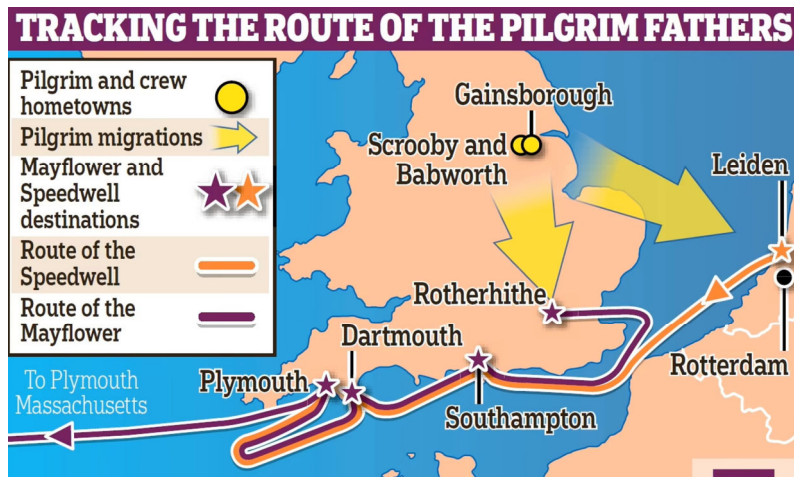
This Gothic church, with its awe-inspiring, vaulted ceiling, is located in the middle of what would have been called the Pilgrims' neighborhood. A number of the English lived in the area, most significantly, John Robinson. He and many other Pilgrim men, women, and children, are now buried in the Pieterskerk. For these individuals, who never made it to the New World, Leiden was the last stop on their pilgrimage. A monument to them in the church quotes Pilgrim Robert Cushman's Bible-inspired comment:
"We are all, in all places, strangers and pilgrims."

Section 2

Stop in England

Chapter 5

- 1 There were two groups on the Mayflower. What were they called, and what were the differences and similarities with these groups?



Section 3

Life at Sea

Chapters 6-11

Route of the Mayflower in 1620



Fun Activity: Using masking tape, mark a 2' x 5' rectangle on the floor. Live there for 66 days. (Just kidding.) No, really, do it.

- 1 What do you think life below deck was like? What would be most difficult for you?
- 2 Why were some of the sailors so cruel to the passengers?
- 3 In Chapter 10, Mary asked if John Howland's rescue was a miracle. What do you think?



The Mayflower II



The gun deck of the Mayflower was 50 feet long by 25 feet wide, with a 5-foot ceiling. Subtracting for the stored shallop (a small sailboat), the capstan (used to raise sails), the windlass (used to raise the anchors), they had less than 10 square feet per person.

Section 4

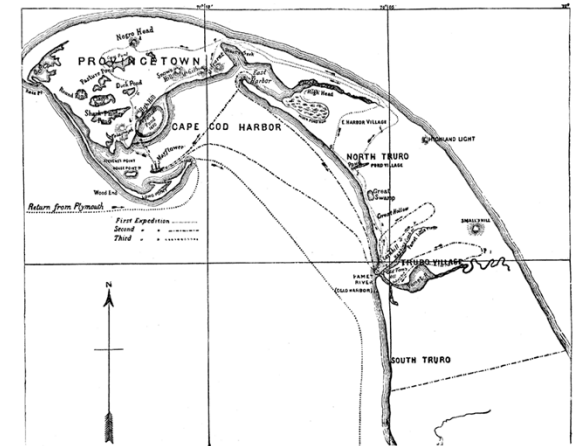
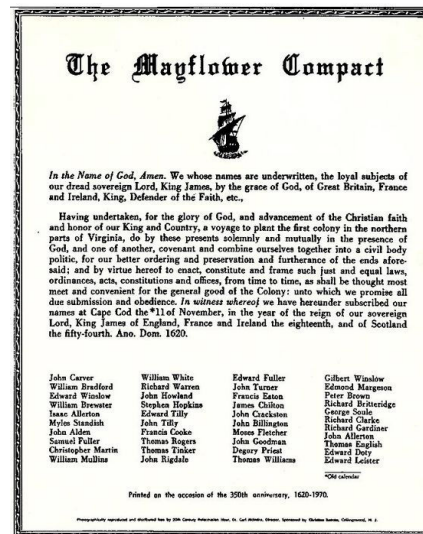
Land Fall

Chapters 12-13

- 1 When you take a trip and stop for the night, what do you expect to see?
What did the Pilgrims see?
- 2 What was the main purpose of the Mayflower Compact? Did it succeed?
- 3 Why was the Mayflower Compact important in American history?



Signing the Mayflower Compact 1620, a painting by Jean Leon Gerome Ferris 1899



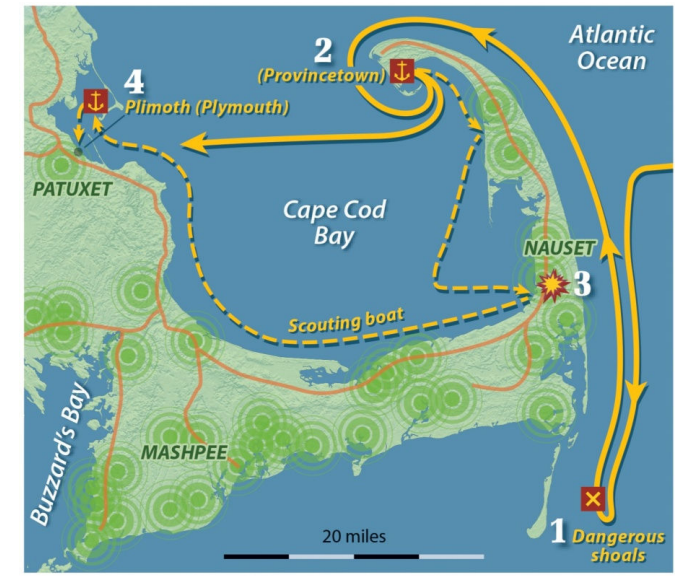
The Mayflower Compact was signed while the ship was at anchor in Cape Cod Harbor.

Section 5

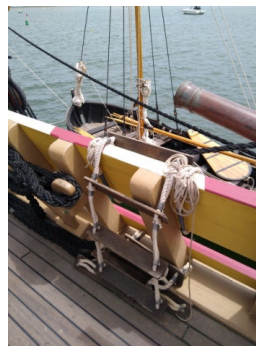
Finding a New Home

Chapters 14-16

- 1 If you had been "cooped up" in a small place with 100 others, what would you want to do first?
- 2 In Chapter 16, John Tilley recounts their third trip. Do you see any miracles during this voyage?
- 3 Looking back on the voyage from England, was this the destination they were "aiming" for? Was this the place they had planned to establish their plantation?



The shallop



Rope ladder



First Encounter Beach

Section 6

Death at Hand

Chapters 17-19

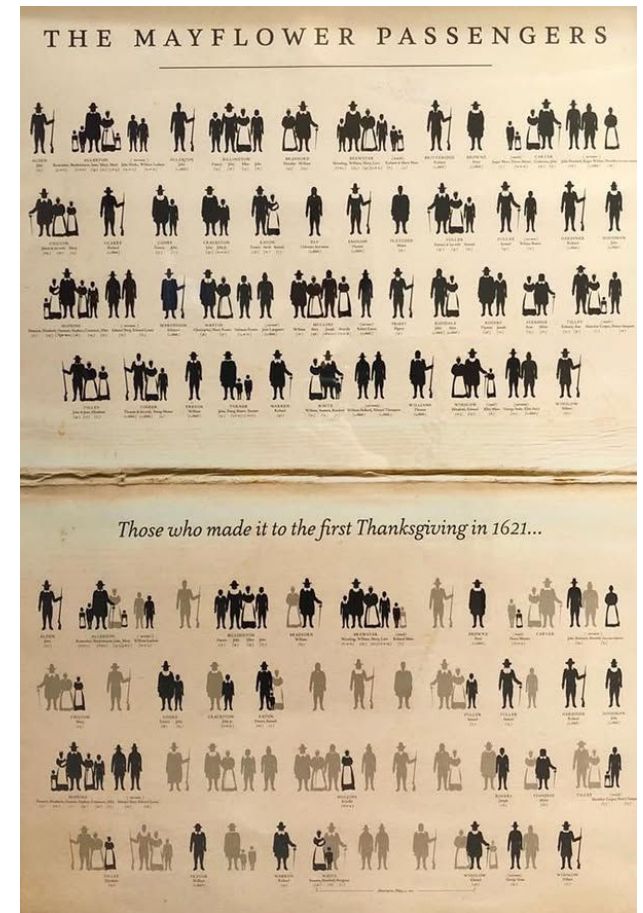
- 1 The bodies of the dead were buried at night. Why did they do this?
- 2 Try to imagine Bess's loss. Do you think the Carvers treated her fairly?



Burial vault, Bural hill, Plymouth MA



Second burial site, Plymouth



Mayflower Passengers that made it to the 'first Thanksgiving' in 1621.



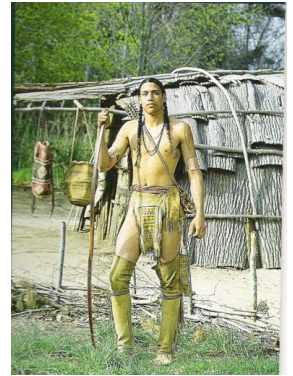
You can purchase this poster at this website.

Section 7

"Naturals" Arrive

Chapters 20-24

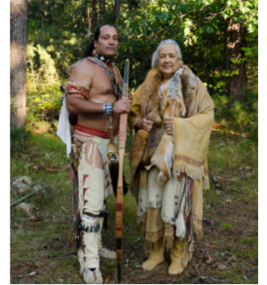
- 1 Samoset tells several bits of information about the place the English have chosen to live. What were they? List them.
- 2 At the end of Chapter 20, Bess thinks, "Was Papa right?" What did she mean?
- 3 One of the debates about the Pilgrims asks if they stole the land from the Native Americans. Based on what you read in this section, did the Pilgrims take the land from the Wampanoag people?
- 4 What were the terms of the peace treaty? List them.
- 5 Winslow called the treaty the "covenant of peace and friendship." What does it mean to "covenant" together?



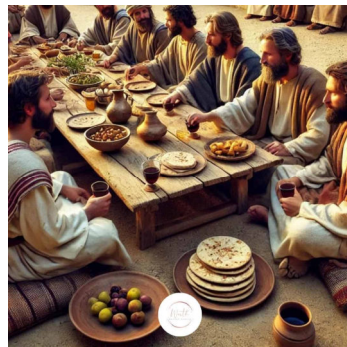
Section 8

New People, New Problems

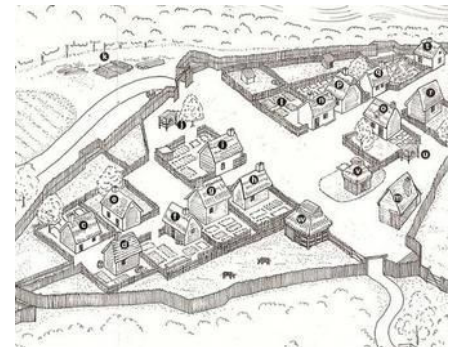
Chapters 26-33



- 1 In Chapter 26, we get a glimpse of a past injustice inflicted on a Nauset woman. What was it? How did Bradford try to comfort her?
- 2 The harvest feast (the first thanksgiving) was called a covenant meal in Chapter 28. What is a covenant meal? (See the Bible verses below for help.)
- 3 The Fortune's arrival was a mixed blessing. What were the pros and the cons? List them.
- 4 Why did the colonists build a wall of protection around the town? (Chapters 32-33)



Verses to look up:
Genesis 31:51-54, Laban and Jacob
Genesis 26:26-31, Abimelech and Isaac



Fortress built around village for protection.

Section 9

Finding a Better Way

Chapters 34-39

- 1 The year 1622 was a difficult year in *Plymouth*. What were some of the challenges?
- 2 In Chapter 35, what did Squanto do to cause so much turmoil in the community?
- 3 In Chapter 37, how did Winslow prove the English's devotion and friendship to Massasoit?
- 4 Could you have done what Winslow did?
- 5 Bradford introduced a new system of farming in the spring of 1623. What was it, and why did it work?



Garden plot, Plymouth Patuxet Museum



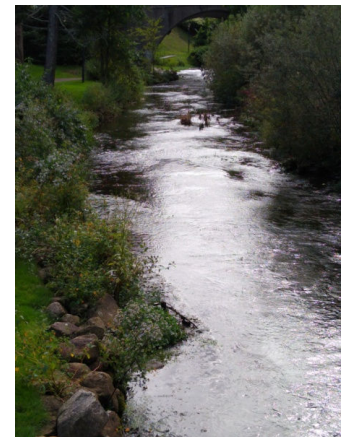
Statue of Ousamequin,
"Massasoit" in Plymouth
MA

Section 10

The Second 'first' Thanksgiving Chapters 40-41



- 1 When the drought came and the crops began to fail, what did Bess do to save the crops? How did her actions affect her relationship with Sokanon and her family?
- 2 What was the first positive outcome from the Day of Prayer, even before the rain came?
- 3 Was it appropriate to have a Day of Thanksgiving after the rain? Think about how important this rain was. What could have been lost had it not rained???



Town Brook

For additional information see the Plymouth Rock Foundation web site, <https://plymrock.org/answered-prayer-and-a-day-of-thanksgiving>