**THE NEW ENGLAND COLONISTS THE PILGRIMS AND PURITANS**

In England during the September of the 1620, 102 people, who were considered rebels and called pilgrims left England by a ship called Mayflower to go to America. They are religious people and they left their nation to establish a colony where they could practice their religion. They were separatists because they wanted to separate themselves to the church of England. Ten years later another group, called puritans followed them in America. Puritans wanted the church of England to be pure and simpler than it was, but they didn’t want to separate from it as the pilgrims. Puritans’ ideas were similar to the pilgrims one, but they were different from one another. Both groups were important for the history of USA, because their ideas and ways of doing things shaped the country’s development. Both groups were protestant, but five hundred years before all had been roman catholic. Some roman catholic wanted to change the church and they became protestants and these changes were called the protestant reformation. Catholic and protestant has lots of difference, for example catholic believe in the authority of the pope, but the protestants, they believe only in the Bible. While in 1534 king Henry VIII started the church of England, in France John Calvin began the church’s reformation. The Calvinists destroyed religious statues, altars and window because they thought Christ wanted true religion to be plain simple and very strict. Puritans in England decided to follow Calvin’s example. Most of puritans didn’t want to leave the church of England, instead they hope that if they had worked as church members they could have changed all things were wrong, like religious art work, priests and catholic ceremonies, but one group of puritans thought they had to separate from England to follow their religious believes: they were called separatists (later pilgrims). Many separatists settled in Massachusetts. In 1603 Elizabeth I died and James I became the king, he obligated all the English people to belong to the church of England, it was a crime if you didn’t belong it. He said to the separatist to leave the country if they wanted to practice their religion, so lots of people were forced to leave England. They first went to Boston, where their leader was jailed. Later they went to Virginia, because there, there was more freedom. Pilgrims needed more money to start a new community, so they found a company of merchants from Virginia to London. In September 1620 Mayflower was ready to start, it was stormy crossing the Atlantic Ocean. Forty-one men of the ship signed a contract of simple democratic self government, they agreed in making equal laws. It is too cold to go away, so the colonists remained there. During the spring, the native American taught them how to grow corn and how to fish. In the October of 1621, the Plymouth colony celebrate their excellent grabs, there were three festival days, here comes the perfect Thanksgiving day, when in the meal we have turkey. George Washington 168 years later put the thanksgiving day on 26th of November. Houses were made by wood and dry reed and they were very small. There was a meeting House where the colonists could defend themselves against enemies. On Sundays all activity even cooking stopped, they had to do for 8 hours religious services. They weren’t allowed to celebrate Christmas. In 1629 Charles I ruled England, he didn’t like the colonists, but he allowed them to found a second colony in Massachusetts. Later lost of colony were found, like Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Heaven. In these colonies people lived very closely, with strict rules. Puritans and pilgrims worked harder than other people, they started the first factory in America.