The first English settlers

**Focus on communication
*Complete the sentences below with your own words.***

a)When the Pilgrim Fathers landed in America, they didn’t find any help.
b)The natives they met were not helpful unlike the inhabitants of Malta who attached them with their arrows.
c)Moreover, it was winter, which is a sharp season in America.
d)Around them they could only see wildness.
e)They felt hopeless because, unlike Moses, they couldn’t climb up higher and get a view of landscape.
f)The landscape in front of them was desolate.
g)The ocean behind them was mighty.
h)They knew they were separated from civil world and only God could help them.

**Focus on literature**

1)***Bradford creates a moving and dramatic picture of the colonists’ situation by using the following devices. Give at last one more example of each device.***- Negative indefinite adjectives: “no friends …. Nor inns” no houses
-Evocative adjectives: “cruel and fierce storms” sharp winter
-Biblical parallels: “the Apostle” Pisgah
2)***How do you think the biblical references contained in the passage apply to the colonists’ situation?***The biblical references in the document perfectly reflect the strong puritan beliefs regarding the total trust they had in the principle of the bible. Their convictions are at the basis of their prejudices about the Native people who lived in America before English colonisation.
3)***The text also contrasts “civilisation” with “savagery”. Complete the table by quoting from the passage.***

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | ***civilisation*** | ***Savagery*** |
| Living beings | Friends, civil world | Wild beasts, wild men |
| Places | Towns, inns | Unknown coasts |
| Weather | summer | Winter, storms |
| feelings | The spirit of God, God’s Grace, to welcome | No small kindess, little solace or content |

4)***How would you define Bradford’s attitude to the new land? Give reason for your answer.***Bradford gave a negative vision of the new land. He created a racist vision using the association of God to the colonists and of wildness to the natives.

**Get your bearings
*Are the following statements true or false?***

a)The English Puritans first set foot in America in the spring of 1620. F
b)Without the Indians’ help the colonists would not have survived. T
c)The natives’ attitude towards the newcomers was protective. T
d)They fed them with fish from their tribal stores. F
e)The colonists were skilled farmers, while the Indians were not. F
f)In order to build new settlements, the colonists cut down the forests along the coast. T
g)Although they did not believe in private property, the Pemaquids agreed to sell part of their land to please the colonists. T
h)In less than thirty years the Native Americans were driven out of their territories. T