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 **DEVELOPING CRITICAL THINKING**

Both texts tell about the first months of living in the New World of the Pilgrims from two different points of view. The pilgrims belonged to a group called the separatists, who felt they needed to separate themselves from the Church of England to worship God as they saw it; the puritans wanted the Church of England to be poorer and simpler than it was. In the month of September in the year 1620 a ship called the Mayflower, that was draft at the English port of Plymouth, loaded on for a long voyage.

The reader can notice the documents have been written from writers of different ages. William Bradford, a fervent puritan and one of the Pilgrim Fathers, wrote the “History of Plymouth Plantation” in 1650 from the point of view of the colonists; instead Dee Brown is a contemporary writer and his text “Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee” (1971) focuses on the thought of the Native Americans.

When Bradford and the other pilgrims arrived in the New Land they had nobody to welcome them nor inns, no houses or towns and the barbarians didn’t show any kindness, they were readier to fill their sides of arrows than otherwise.

It was winter when the Puritans set foot on the coast of the American continent, it was a sharp and violent season, subject to cruel and fierce storms. That place was a desolate wilderness, full of wild beasts and wild men. They didn’t like the new colony during the first period and if they looked behind them, there was the mighty ocean they had passed that separate them from all the civil parts of the world.

The document of Brown is the result of a historical research that caused a sensation when it was published because of its revisionist history of the North America.

He says that probably the Englishmen probably would have starved to death without the help of natives. They shared corn from their stores with the pilgrims, showed them how to catch fish, and got them through the first winter. In spring they gave the white men some seed corn and taught them how to cultivate it. The two populations lived in peace for several years, but continued to reach the coast more and more people and the settlements began crowding in upon each other. The new people arrived in the continent didn’t care about indigenous costumes and when the chief of Wampanoags died they were being pushed back into the wilderness.

While Bradford sees the natives as savages that hinder pilgrims, Brown underlines the generosity of the natives towards the newcomers and the subsequent "betrayal" of the Puritans.

Bradford has a negative vision of the New Land, it is a desolate and inhospitable place; for Brown the area is conducive to the establishment and rich in resources.

 The main motivation of the different point of view between the two writers is that Bradford lives in first person what he writes and it is obvious he has a vision favourable to the colonists; Brown treats the argument many centuries later and has an unbiased view.