

Hardships of the First American Settlers and The Colonisation of North America exercises

Focus on communication

Complete the sentences below with your own words.

- A. When the Pilgrim Fathers landed in America they didn't find inns, houses or people to welcome them and to help them.
- B. The natives they met were not welcome, they attacked them with their arrows, they were savage barbarians unlike the inhabitants of Malta who helped them.
- C. Moreover, it was winter, which is a very cold, hostile, violent and sharp season in America.
- D. Around them they could only see wild beasts, wild men and desolate wilderness.
- E. They felt hopeless because, unlike Moses, they couldn't climb up the mount Pisgah and get a view of the promise land.
- F. The landscape in front of them was wild and savage.
- G. The ocean behind them was mighty and was similar to a gulf that separated them from the civil world.
- H. They knew they were separated from all the civil parts of the world and only God could sustain them.

Focus on literature

1. Bradford creates a moving and dramatic picture of the colonists' situation by using the following devices. Give at least one more example of each device.
 - Negative indefinite adjectives: "no friends","nor inns","no houses","no small kindness";
 - Evocative adjectives: "cruel and fierce storms","desolate wilderness","mighty ocean";
 - 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 principles of the Bible; their convictions are at the basis of their prejudices about the native people who lived in America before the English Colonisation.
3. The text also contrasts "civilisation" with "savagery". Complete the table by quoting from the passage.

	civilisation	savagery
living beings	friends	wild beasts, wild men
places	Towns, inns	words, thickets, wild savage hue, wilderness
weather	summer	storms
feelings	the spirit of God, to welcome, to entertain, to repair, succour, to refresh	no small kindness, little solace or content

4. How would you define Bradford's attitude to the new land? Give reasons for your answers
Bradford's attitude to the new land is racist because he divide the world into in two lands, good one to the part of the settlers and the bad one to the part of the Natives.

Get your bearings

Are the following statements true or false?

Correct the false ones.

- A. The English Puritans first set foot in America in the spring of 1620. --> (False) They set foot in the winter of 1620
- B. Without the Indians help the colonists would not have survived. --> (True)
- C. The natives' attitude towards the newcomers was protective. --> (True)
- D. They fed them with fish from their tribal stores. --> (False) They shared corn with them from the tribal stores and showed them where and how to catch fish.
- E. The colonists were skilled farmers, while the Indians were not. --> (False) The Indians were skilled farmers, while the colonists were not.
- F. In order to build new settlements, the colonists cut down the forests along the coast. --> (True)
- G. Although they did not believe in private property, the Pemaquids agreed to sell part of their land to please the colonists. --> (True)
- H. In less than thirty years the Native Americans were driven out of their territories. --> (False) They were driven out of their territories after forty-two years from the landing of the colonists

