

Quiz for Thanksgiving: The Pilgrims' First Year in America

by Glenn Alan Cheney

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How well do you know the story of the Pilgrims? Find out by taking the quiz below!

1. In what year did the Pilgrims arrive in America?
 - a. 1492
 - b. 1556
 - c. 1620
 - d. 1640
2. Which is true of the *Mayflower*?
 - a. The Pilgrims owned it.
 - b. The Pilgrims paid for it to carry them to America.
 - c. It never returned to England.
 - d. It sailed back to England after a week at Plymouth.
3. What did the *Speedwell* do?
 - a. Leaked like a sieve.
 - b. Accompanied the *Mayflower* to America.
 - c. Brought supplies to the Pilgrims.
 - d. Surrendered to pirates.
4. What's the difference between Separatists and Puritans?
 - a. The Separatists accepted the Pope's authority.
 - b. The Separatists saw no hope for the Church of England.
 - c. The Puritans kept the Separatists separate from Plymouth.
 - d. The Separatists kept the Puritans separate from Plymouth.
5. How many Pilgrims arrived at Plymouth?
 - a. 62
 - b. 82
 - c. 102
 - d. 120
6. What happened at First Encounter?
 - a. The Pilgrims set foot on a beach.
 - b. The Pilgrims set foot on a rock.
 - c. Indians shot arrows at Pilgrims.
 - d. Indians and Pilgrims smoked a peace pipe.
7. What was the major decision expressed in the *Mayflower Compact*?
 - a. The Pilgrims established a Constitutional government.
 - b. The Pilgrims agreed to obey the King and stick together.
 - c. The Pilgrims renounced their allegiance to the Church of England.
 - d. The Pilgrims decided to share everything.

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8. How many Pilgrims died during the voyage of the Mayflower?
- a. 0
 - b. 1
 - c. 10
 - d. 49
9. How many babies were born during the voyage of the *Mayflower*?
- a. 0
 - b. 1
 - c. 10
 - d. 49
10. How many Pilgrims died during their first winter?
- a. 0
 - b. 1
 - c. 10
 - d. 49
11. How many Indians did the Pilgrims kill in their first year in America?
- a. 0
 - b. 1
 - c. 10
 - d. 49
112. What was Myles Standish's job?
- a. Governor
 - b. Scribe
 - c. Military commander
 - d. Minister
13. Which statement is true?
- a. The Pilgrims said the Lord's Prayer every day.
 - b. The Pilgrims invented cranberry sauce.
 - c. The Pilgrims introduced the Indians to fish hooks.
 - d. The Pilgrims drank a lot of beer.
14. What was William Bradford's job?
- a. Governor
 - b. Scribe
 - c. Military commander
 - d. Minister

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15. Where did the Separatists live when they decided to go to America?
- England.
 - Scotland
 - Wales
 - Holland
15. Which best describes the Pilgrims' first houses?
- log cabins
 - wattle-and-daub
 - shaky tee-pees
 - holes in the ground
17. Where were the Pilgrims were supposed to settle?
- Virginia
 - New Amsterdam
 - Jamestown
 - Plymouth
18. What did the *Mayflower* carry back to England?
- Nothing. It never went back.
 - lumber, salted fish, furs
 - rocks
 - almost half the Pilgrims
19. Who was Tisquantum?
- Chief of the Wampanoags
 - Massasoit
 - Squanto
 - Last of the Pokonoket
20. How did the Pilgrims first reach shore?
- They rowed a shallop.
 - They waded.
 - They stepped onto a rock.
 - The *Mayflower* ran aground at the beach.
21. Myles Standish shot an eagle. What did it taste like?
- chicken
 - mutton
 - veal
 - freedom

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22. What did Dorothy Bradford do?
 - a. She fell off the Mayflower.
 - b. She nursed the crew back to health.
 - c. She converted an Indian.
 - d. She gave birth in Plymouth.

23. The Separatists believed...
 - a. the King James Bible.
 - b. the Geneva Bible.
 - c. the papal bull.
 - d. the Book of Common Prayer.

24. Who attended the famous harvest feast?
 - a. More than 100 people.
 - b. Fifty at most
 - c. Indians from many tribes
 - d. All the original Mayflower passengers but one.

25. Why did the Pilgrims hunt for Corbitant?
 - a. They thought he'd captured Squanto.
 - b. He had their cranberries.
 - c. They wanted to make a deal.
 - d. To invite him to Thanksgiving.

26. Billingtons did three of the following things. Which did none of them do?
 - a. Get lost in the woods.
 - b. Marry a Massachusett.
 - c. Almost blow up the Mayflower.
 - d. Hang.

27. What happened when Winslow and Hopkins got in bed with Indians?
 - a. They got bit by fleas.
 - b. They got chased away.
 - c. They slept soundly and dreamed well.
 - d. They spooned the Massachusetts way.

28. Which was aboard the *Mayflower*?
 - a. Cows
 - b. Horses
 - c. Bees
 - d. Dogs

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29. Who lived in the Plymouth area when the *Mayflower* arrived?
- The Wampanoag.
 - The Massachusetts.
 - The Pokonoket.
 - No one
30. How did the Pilgrims bury their dead that first winter?
- In shallow graves in the sand.
 - Precisely six feet deep.
 - Beneath a cross of lashed sticks.
 - At Indian burial sites.
31. To which king did the Mayflower Compact refer?
- Jesus.
 - James.
 - Henry.
 - Elizabeth.
32. Which did the Pilgrims never find?
- the body of a white child.
 - abandoned Indian homes
 - gold beads
 - an iron kettle
33. What did the Pilgrims do on Dec. 25, 1620?
- took the day off
 - nothing special
 - spent all day in church
 - drank the last of their beer
34. Who betrayed both Indians and Pilgrims?
- The Billingtons
 - Squanto
 - Myles Standish
 - King James
35. Which was not served at the famous harvest feast?
- turkey
 - corn
 - cranberry sauce
 - venison

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Answers (with additional questions for extra credit. Answers to these extra questions are in *Thanksgiving: The Pilgrims' First Year in America*.)

1. The Pilgrims sailed from England for the third and last time on September 6, 1620. (That was the date on the calendar of the times. What would it be on today's calendar?)
2. The Pilgrims hired the *Mayflower* to carry them to America. (Why did it wait six months to sail back?)
3. The *Speedwell* was to have accompanied the *Mayflower* to America, but it leaked too badly and could not make the trip. (Why did it leak?)
4. While the Puritans believed they could purify the Church of England by working within it, the Separatists thought the only hope for a true religion was to start a new one. (What was the problem with the Church of England?)
5. One hundred and two passengers arrived at Plymouth. (One who left never arrived. One who arrived had never left. Explain.)
6. After Indians attacked a small landing party on a Cape Cod beach, the Pilgrims named the place First Encounter. (What did the party do then?)
7. The Mayflower Compact formalized the unanimous decision to continue to obey the king, to stick together, and to make their own laws as necessary. (They didn't call it a "compact." What did they call it?)
8. William Button died three days before the *Mayflower* sighted land. (What else is known of him?)
9. Oceanus Hopkins was born on the *Mayflower* during its voyage across the Atlantic. (How many pregnant women boarded the *Mayflower*?)
10. Forty-nine of 102 Mayflower passengers died during the winter of 1620-21. (How did they die?)
11. The Pilgrims did not kill any Indians. (Why not?)
12. Myles Standish was the military commander. (Why him?)
13. The Pilgrims repeated no prayers by rote and had too little sugar for cranberry sauce. The Indians already had fish hooks. Beer was a staple of all English people, young and old. (How much beer did the typical English working man drink in a day?)

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14. William Bradford was the second governor of Plymouth. (Who was the first and what happened to him?)

15. The Separatists were living in Leydon, Holland, when they decided to move to America. (What about the Pilgrims who weren't Separatists?)

16. The Pilgrims lived in wattle-and-daub houses with reed roofs. (What were their chimneys made of?)

17. They were supposed to settle in Virginia, which at the time extended as far north as the Hudson River. (So why didn't they settle there?)

18. The *Mayflower* carried rocks or sand back to England. (Why?)

19. Tisquantum was Squanto's real name. (What was he the last of?)

20. On their first trip to shore, the landing party had to wade through frigid water. (Why?)

21. The eagle tasted like mutton. (What happened when they shot a whale?)

22. In December, 1620, Dorothy Bradford fell off the *Mayflower* into Cape Cod Bay and drowned. (Why do some people suspect she may have jumped?)

23. The Separatists believed the Geneva Bible was closest to the word of God. (What was the Geneva Bible?)

24. More than 90 Pokanoket men and presumably several wives and children attended the famous harvest feast of 1621 along with 52 English. (How many women prepared this three-day feast?)

25. They heard that Corbitant, a Pokonoket, had captured Squanto and was going to kill him. (So what did the Pilgrims do?)

26. None of the Billington's married a Pokonoket or other Indian. (Why did one almost blow up the *Mayflower*? Why did one hang?)

27. Fleas and some annoying singing made for a miserable night at the Pokonoket village. (Who slept in the bed with the Pilgrims?)

28. A mastiff and a spaniel accompanied the Pilgrims. (Why didn't they take cows and horses?)

29. The Patuxet had lived in the Plymouth area, but they had all died. (How?)

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30. Those who died aboard the *Mayflower* that first winter were buried in shallow, unmarked graves in the sand. (Why?)
31. James was the king of England, and the so-called Compact acknowledged their obedience. (Why did they sign a paper promising to obey the king?)
32. The Pilgrims' never found gold. (What did they find and steal from the Indian homes?)
33. Some 20 Pilgrims worked and explored on shore while those onboard the *Mayflower* shared a beer with the ship's Master. There was no Christmas celebration. (Why not?)
34. Squanto tried to manipulate the Pilgrims and the Pokonoket, perhaps to gain power for himself. (What happened when he got caught?)
35. No cranberry sauce. (But they may have eaten cranberries. How?)

Note from the author:

Thank you for taking the time to take this quiz and, I hope, learn a little more about the Pilgrims along the way. It's a fascinating subject. I spent some 10 years researching that one year in American history between the landing of the *Mayflower* and the harvest feast celebrated the following autumn. I hope you get a chance to read *Thanksgiving* and find a little something in there that you never knew.

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