Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay Colony

The “City on a Hill”
Troubles in England

- Puritans
  - Rejected Catholic Church of England
  - Against Modernization
    - Left England for Netherlands (1609)
      - Same problems
    - Sailed for New world (1620)
      - Came mainly for RELIGIOUS FREEDOM
Mayflower

- September 1620 – 35 Puritans & 70 others
  - Boarded wine carrier called the “Mayflower”
  - People known as Pilgrims
  - Named colony Plymouth
Mayflower Compact

• Established selves as single governing body
  – Equality
    • Law
    • Ordinances
  – Legislative body
    • To govern society
The Compact

"In the name of God, Amen. We, whose names are underwritten, the Loyal Subjects of our dread Sovereign Lord, King James, by the Grace of God, of England, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, e&. Having undertaken for the Glory of God, and Advancement of the Christian Faith, and the Honour of our King and Country, a voyage to plant the first colony in the northern parts of Virginia; do by these presents, solemnly and mutually in the Presence of God and one of another, covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil Body Politick, for our better Ordering and Preservation, and Furtherance of the Ends aforesaid; And by Virtue hereof to enact, constitute, and frame, such just and equal Laws, Ordinances, Acts, Constitutions and Offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the General good of the Colony; unto which we promise all due submission and obedience. In Witness whereof we have hereunto subscribed our names at Cape Cod the eleventh of November, in the Reign of our Sovereign Lord, King James of England, France and Ireland, the eighteenth, and of Scotland the fifty-fourth. Anno Domini, 1620."
Importance

• Foundation for US Constitution signed 150 years later
• Covenant (agreement) between man and god
• Religious Principles
  – Honesty
  – Reliability
  – Fairness
Hardships

• First winter – “Starving time”
  – Settlers died from hunger, disease, and exposure
  – Wampanoag Indians offered food and taught settlers to grow maize (corn)

• New settlers coming from England rejected Puritan beliefs

• Strained relations with Natives
  – Fighting
All Falls Apart

- Poor Relations with the native
- Puritan values abandoned in favor of private property
- Lacked charter from crown
- Eventually annexed by Massachusetts Bay Colony
Massachusetts Bay Colony

The Province of Massachusetts Bay was formed in 1691 by merging the Massachusetts Bay Colony, Plymouth Colony, Province of Maine, Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard, and Nova Scotia. Nova Scotia was split off in 1696. Previously New Hampshire had been part of the Massachusetts Bay Colony from 1641-1679 and 1688-1691.
Founding a Colony

- John Winthrop
  - Gentry – Graduate from Cambridge
  - Elected Governor of new colony
- First 400 established city of Salem
- Next 700 Established what would become Boston
Success of the Colony

• Families came prepared
  – Artisans
  – Farmers
• Most had been land owners in England
  – Had experience with government
• Great Migration
  – Steady flow of new settlers ensured there would be enough people