**Plymouth Rock Colony**

* **English pilgrims seeking religious freedom left Europe in 1620 for what is now Plymouth Rock (Mass.) on the “Mayflower”**
* **They were originally headed for what is now New York City, but got moved around by bad weather and ended up in Plymouth Harbour.**
* **The Pilgrims wrote and signed a Mayflower Compact, which promised self-government, or an early democracy (just like today’s U.S. government)**
* **A harsh winter kept the pilgrims inside their ship; roughly half of the 100-plus people who came died (illness)**
* **Squanto and the Wampanoag Indians helped the pilgrims farm, hunt, and fish**
* **They celebrated their survival and good relations with a three-day feast=First Thanksgiving!**
* **Supposedly no turkey, though, but goose, lobster, and deer!**
* **William Bradford-first governor of the Plymouth Colony**

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