

Coming to a New Land

Week 23 • Monday • *Why People Came to America*

Reading Time

Imagine packing one small bag and sailing across a huge ocean to a place you have never seen. That is what many families did about four hundred years ago. They left Europe on wooden ships and came to America.

A **colony** is a new town or settlement built by people far from their home country. The people who live in a colony are called **colonists**.

Why did they come? Some wanted land to farm. Some wanted to find gold or make money. Others wanted the freedom to pray the way they believed was right. The trip was long, hard, and sometimes scary — but they were full of hope for a new life.

Reading Questions

1. What is a colony?

2. What do we call a person who lives in a colony?

3. Name two reasons people came to America.

4. How do you think the colonists felt on the long ocean trip?

This Week's Goals

By the end of this week, you will be able to:

1. Explain what a colony is and why people came to America.
2. Tell the story of Jamestown, the first lasting English colony.
3. Tell the story of the Pilgrims and the Mayflower.
4. Compare why people moved long ago with why people move today.

Vocabulary Grid

Write what each word means in your own words.

colony

colonist

settle

voyage

freedom

hope

True or False

Write T for true or F for false in each circle.

- ☐ A colony is a new settlement far from home.
- ☐ Colonists flew to America on airplanes.
- ☐ Some people came to America to farm land.
- ☐ Some people came to America for religious freedom.
- ☐ The ocean voyage was quick and easy.
- ☐ Colonists traveled on wooden sailing ships.

Think About It

1. If you could only bring one small bag on a long voyage, what would you pack?

2. What would be the hardest part about moving to a brand-new place?

Fill in the Blanks

colony colonists ocean freedom ships land

1. A _____ is a new settlement built far from home.
2. The people who live there are called _____.
3. Families crossed the _____ to reach America.
4. They sailed on wooden _____.
5. Some people came to find _____ to farm.
6. Others came for the _____ to pray their own way.

Draw It!

Draw a sailing ship crossing the ocean to America. Add waves, clouds, and hopeful colonists on deck!

Review

I learned...	Circle one
What a colony is	YES / NOT YET
Why people came to America	YES / NOT YET
How colonists traveled here	YES / NOT YET