

Section 5

Seeking Religious Freedom

VOCABULARY

established church the chosen religion of a country

Pilgrims members of a religious sect that wanted to separate from the Church of England in the 1600s

persecution the mistreatment or punishment of people because of their beliefs

Mayflower Compact pledge made by Pilgrims and non-Pilgrims in Plymouth to unite under a government and to uphold laws

SUMMARY

Before the 1600s, European states had **established churches**—either Catholic or Protestant—and all citizens were expected to belong to them. Monarchs believed that uniformity of religious practice was one way to keep people under control.

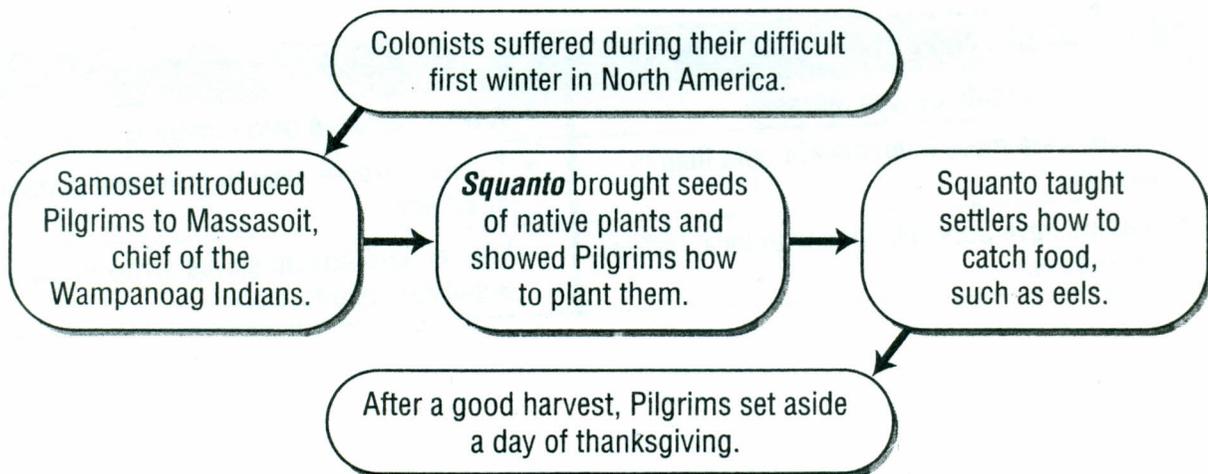
For years, the **Pilgrims** were victims of **persecution** for their beliefs. Finally, in 1620, more than one hundred Pilgrims boarded the *Mayflower* for North America in search of religious freedom.

The Pilgrims had a charter to settle in the Virginia colonies. The rough voyage,

however, sent the *Mayflower* off course, and the Pilgrims landed in what is now Plymouth, Massachusetts. By settling there, the Pilgrims realized that they would be violating the terms of the charter. As a solution, the Pilgrims wrote a framework of self-government called the **Mayflower Compact**.

This spirit of cooperation was crucial to the survival of the colony. The Pilgrims endured hard times and were eventually aided by neighboring Native Americans.

NATIVE AMERICANS HELP PLYMOUTH COLONY



REVIEW

Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Why did the Pilgrims leave England for North America?
2. **Chart Skills** Identify two ways in which the Pilgrims received help from their Native American neighbors.