

Knowledge Organiser

Year Group	Subject	Topic
6	Geography/History	From year 5 – Discovery of the New world & Foundation of USA

The Big Picture

The United States is made up of fifty states, which are often grouped into different regions; each region has its own geographic characteristics, such as climate and natural resources, culture, and other unique features that set it apart from other regions. In this unit you will be exploring the first people who travelled to the new world and their reason behind travelling to the new world. You will also explore how they survived and settled down in the place and the difficulties they faced.

Enquiry Question

- **Where is USA? What are the geographic characteristics of USA?**
- **New England: Why did people from UK move there in the 1600's? Where did they land? How was USA established?**
- **History of the first settlers: What is the Mayflower and who are the puritans?**
- **What is the plantation system? Who controlled the plantation system? How did they run the plantation system?**
- **Who are the Wampanoag? How did they help the new settlers?**

Key Vocabulary

region	an area of Earth's surface that has some unique geographic characteristic that sets it apart from other areas Example: The Southwest region of the United States has a very dry climate.
geography	the physical and human features of a place Example: The geography of the Great Plains is very flat.
natural resource	something from nature that is useful to humans Example: Water is a natural resource that people use for drinking, cleaning, and playing.
landform	a natural physical feature on Earth's surface Example: The Grand Canyon is a famous landform in the southwestern United States.
indigenous	native to a particular region or environment Example: Oak trees are indigenous to many parts of the United States.
industry	a business that manufactures a product or provides a service Example: The travel industry includes hotels, car rental companies, and agents who help people plan vacations.
port	a town or city built around a harbour, where ships can dock Example: The city of Boston was an important port in early America, and it is still an important port today.
populated	having people living in the area Example: Cities are more populated than areas with farms and ranches.
Mayflower	Name of the ship that took the first group of people to the new world
Puritans	a member of a group of English Protestants of the late 16th and 17th centuries who regarded the Reformation of the Church under Elizabeth I as incomplete and sought to simplify and regulate forms of worship.
plantation	an estate on which crops such as coffee, sugar, and tobacco are grown.
pilgrims	a person travelling to a place of particular personal interest.
Separatists	a person who supports the separation of a particular group of people from a larger body on the basis of ethnicity, religion, or gender.
immigrant	a person who comes to live permanently in a foreign country.
Native People	a non-white original inhabitant of a place, as regarded by European colonists or travellers.
colonists	a settler in or inhabitant of a colony

Key facts



The United States Exploring the United States of America The United States, excluding Alaska and Hawaii, stretches about three thousand miles from coast to coast—or east to west. Because of its great size, it is often divided into smaller geographical areas, or regions. The states in each region have many things in common, such as geography, including climate, natural resources, economic activity, and other important geographical conditions.

New England

States: Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island Climate: in the northernmost states, cold winters and warm summers; in the more southerly areas, milder winters and warmer summers Economy: industry, trade, commercial fishing, commercial farming Cultural literacy characteristics: The region is associated with

- Pilgrims and Puritans, the first Thanksgiving.
- Boston, Lexington, Concord, and the beginning of the American Revolution.
- Boston, the largest city in the region.
- Lobsters, maple syrup, and village squares. Other: The term New England was used by the English colonists to refer to what they thought they were creating in their colonies—a “new” England.

Mayflower

On 16 September 1620, the Mayflower sailed from Plymouth, England, to Plymouth, Massachusetts, United States. On board were 102 men, women and children and a small crew, a large group of whom were Puritans (who become known as the Pilgrim Fathers). Their hope was to reach the New World, where they could have religious freedom, and continue using their native language, culture, and customs. After 65 gruelling days they dropped anchor off Cape Cod on 21st November, before landing on the coast of Massachusetts on 21st December 1620 at a spot now called Plymouth Rock, where they established their own government.



Why did the passengers feel they needed to leave England?

On the death of Queen Elizabeth 1st, James 1st became king and adopted a moderate Protestant faith as the one true religion for England and Scotland, all other religions were discouraged or barred.

Why are the Pilgrim Fathers important?

The Pilgrim Fathers were the first permanent European settlers in America and therefore are often said to be the founders of the United States.