

Pilgrim Trivia from Plimoth Plantation

1. The Pilgrims did not happen upon unknown frontier. The waters off New England were fished by the English for at least 100 years before the Pilgrims landing.

2. The Pilgrims did not name Plymouth. Capt. John Smith explored the New England coast in 1614 and gave his map to Prince Charles (who became King Charles). Charles put English names on the map such as Plymouth and the Charles River.

3. Lobsters, clams and mussels were considered "hard rations" when the food supply was scarce. Many Pilgrims thought lobsters were fit only for pigs!

4. In the Pilgrim household, the adults sat down to dinner and the children waited on them. Pilgrims didn't eat in courses as we know them. All foods were placed on the table at one time, including the sweetmeats (desserts), and people ate in any order they chose. Sometimes there were two courses per meal but each course consisted of salad, fish, fowl, a meat, pudding pottage and sweets.

5. Pilgrims didn't use forks. They used a knife, spoon, a large napkin and fingers and would share plates and drinking vessels.

6. There were only four married women who survived the first harsh winter. (Of 102 Pilgrims, about 50 died during that winter.) The four, Elizabeth Hopkins, Eleanor Billington, Susannah White Winslow and Mary Brewster, oversaw the food preparations for the 3-day harvest feast for the 50 colonists and Massasoit and his 90 Indian men—the feast became known as "the first Thanks-

giving": they did eat roast fowl such as duck, goose and turkey, corn meal, cod, sea bass and venison brought by the Indians. The turkey, native to this country was a familiar barnyard fowl in England brought to Europe 100 years earlier by the Spanish.

8. Before the Pilgrims hired her, Mayflower, a merchant vessel, was in the wine trade with France and before that in the fish trade with Norway.

9. "Massasoit" in the Wampanoag language means "great leader". His real name was Ousamequin or "Yellow Feather".

10. The Indians of southeastern Massachusetts who befriended the Pilgrims were the Wampanoag. "Wampanoag" means people of the dawn. Today Wampanoags live on Cape Cod, Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard and inland.

11. The Mayflower's crossing took 66 days. During that time one passenger died at sea—Sam Fuller's servant, William Butten, and one, Oceanus Hopkins, was born, for a total of 102 passengers.

12. The Pilgrims first set foot on American soil on November 11, 1620, on present-day Provincetown at the tip of Cape Cod.

13. Peregrine White was the first person born after the Mayflower arrived.

14. John Carver was the first governor.

15. Of Plimoth Plantation, William Bradford's book, was a history of the early years of the colony.

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