



# 1621 Harvest Feast at Plymouth

*Crisis*



Norcal MUN  
2025

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## CHAIR BIOS

Hi everyone! I'm Preeti, and I can't wait to be your head chair for this committee. I am a senior at Foothill and this is my fourth year in MUN. I love listening to music, spending time with my friends, and watching Netflix shows. I look forward to meeting everyone in committee! Feel free to email me at [pp2864@pleasantonusd.net](mailto:pp2864@pleasantonusd.net) with any questions.

Hi guys! I'm Aditi and I'll be your vice chair for this committee. I'm a sophomore at Foothill, and this is my third year doing MUN. Outside of MUN, I love Carnatic singing/violin, Bharatanatyam, watching Netflix, and listening to music. Some of my favorite artists are Sabrina Carpenter, Daniel Caesar, and Frank Ocean. I love funny hooks, so feel free to be creative with your speeches! I'm so excited to see where this committee goes! If you have any questions, feel free to email me at [apundoor@gmail.com](mailto:apundoor@gmail.com).

## TOPIC BACKGROUND

In 1620, the first pilgrims arrived in what is now known as America. However, when they first stepped off of the Mayflower, they didn't know what this land would become; it was solely a foreign one to them. Before they initially decided to travel to a new land from Europe, these people were craving a new home lacking harsh religious persecution and packed with economic opportunity.

The 17th century bred tight rules regarding religion, especially in England. The English government required all citizens to practice Anglicanism in the state's Church of England. The royal authorities, at times, created religious persecution for those pursuing extreme protestantism in the form of Puritanism. Therefore, the people wanting to flee this reality were desperate and willing to take a chance, boarding a boat to a new land to escape from the restricted lives they were being forced to live in England. They believed that the church of England was corrupt and the essence of Christianity had been diluted. This, combined with the religious turmoil ongoing in England, pushed those who practiced Puritanism to a new land, full of opportunity. Yet, after Oliver Cromwell and the Puritan Revolution were subdued, the New England colonies remained the only outpost of Puritanism and extreme Calvinism.

Following Christopher Columbus's supposed discovery of the American land in 1492, many other European travelers, such as the Spanish, colonized the lower parts of America, like Mexico and South America. The East Coast area around New

England was relatively untouched due to its extreme weather and lack of suitable agricultural land. The Portuguese and Spanish had introduced the idea of plantations to the Americas via sugar plantations in Brazil and the Caribbean. Still, those crops were not suitable for the area near Massachusetts Bay. Due to this, the settlers were on unfavorable terms upon arrival.

The first pilgrims came on the Mayflower, the first big boat making the trip from England to America with a surplus of people seeking new lives. They followed the leadership of William Bradford, a known member of the Separatist movement in England, to separate his Puritan church from the Church of England. His commitment to building a new community motivated the pilgrims to journey across the Atlantic Ocean for freedom.

After surviving a harsh journey on a boat while practically starving and suffocating due to the sheer volume of them packed into a small area, the pilgrims arrived in the new land exhausted yet ready to begin new, more freeing chapters of their lives. However, this seeming utopia quickly revealed more challenges than expected, with the presence of pre-existing tribes and multiple obstacles these pilgrims had to face.

## CURRENT SITUATION

The year is 1620. After an arduous journey across the Atlantic Ocean, the Mayflower has docked on the foreign shores of the New World. The colonists have come ashore with hardly more than the essentials and a common wish for a new beginning.

Although united in their desire to live in a free land, the colonists are far from united ideologically. They share their Puritan views, but each colonist has different opinions on how tolerant they should be. With no permanent shelter, food running low, and no clear leader, action must be taken to ensure this group survives the cold winter that awaits them. Noticing the extreme tension, the settlers agreed to sign the Mayflower Compact - one of the earliest forms of self-governance. This legislature would be vital to the colonists' survival and help them create a functioning settlement.

Meanwhile, they find that they are not alone on this land. The Native people, who have called this land home for much longer than the colonists, are awaiting them, threatened but ready to claim their territory. The Puritans have to choose to survive. Will they rely on the Natives and place their ego to the side?

Internal tensions are rising, creating conflicts over leadership, priorities, and the settlement altogether. Who deserves the power in this "new land"? Who should be in charge within the colony? Can the Natives and Colonists come to a mutual understanding and make peace?

## TECH POLICY

There is no tech allowed during the committee sessions. Additionally, using technology concerning the committee between committee sessions is not allowed.

## QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. With such limited resources and internal conflicts within the group, how do you plan to manage to consult with Natives and agree on a treaty that allows your group to keep surviving?
  - There is the possibility of considering a diplomatic approach. Colonists could derive a strategy that is pleasant to both natives and colonists, allowing them to keep their settlement alive.
2. How can the colony address current issues, such as food shortage, disease, and harsh weather, while simultaneously working to build long-term sustainable solutions?
3. What is the best way for leaders in the colony to be chosen? Should you vote, appoint leaders, or create a new election method to fit your colony, and what guidelines will you put in place to ensure that there isn't an unfair power dynamic?

4. Should the colony focus on expansion and settlement elsewhere, or initially create a solid infrastructure?

## CHARACTER LIST

William Bradford:

He was a leader amongst the group and would later become governor. He was well-liked amongst the settlers and was very organized when keeping track of the early notes of the settlement.

William Brewster:

He was a religious leader amongst the separatist community and was a devout man. He had a lot of authority in that area. He had existing stature from immigrating from the Netherlands and had extreme power via the church. He dominated the formulation of the church's doctrines, worships and practices.

John Carver:

He was the first governor. He was extremely well-liked amongst the community and was responsible for leading the voyage there and handling negotiations. He was responsible for negotiating with investors and would also lead discussions with the Native Americans.

Edward Winslow:

He was well known as a pilgrim, a leader, and a diplomat. He had strong diplomatic skills, often helped in discussions with the natives, and was responsible for other diplomatic adventures beforehand.

Myles Standish:

He was a military soldier whom the pilgrims hired. He was key in defending from the Native American tribes and played a significant role in the safety and security of the settlement. He was most well-known for his skill in military warfare.

Stephany Stanton

She went out of her way to assist families in need. She was a big support for children and the elderly. She always found impressive, practical solutions for problems, especially when it came to helping people. She was incredibly important in creating allies with the Natives and was one of many to learn the Native language.

Alvin Smith

He was known among the pilgrims for his intelligence and for voicing his opinions. Though not an official leader, he possessed many traits adequate for one. He is also the brother of Joseph Smith Jr, the founder of Mormonism. Due to his

connection with his brother, Alvin Smith was known for being very religious and had a belief for the redemption of the dead and baptism for the dead.

### Stanley Stump

He was the best baker back home, and his bread customers considered him selfless and giving. He created many community connections through his role as the town baker and has earned a reputation of respect among many of the Mayflower pilgrims by giving out free bread and taking care of some of the sick members on the ship.

### Amanda McCarthy

She is a talented seamstress who has the skills to creatively stitch any fabrics together and create clothes from mere scraps. Contributing to the mending of sails on the mayflower as well, her skills barely helped her survive back home, but she hopes to contribute and serve a purpose in the new land.

### John Alden:

He was an English magistrate, settler, and cooper. He was a skilled cooper, which led to his hire via the London merchants. Although initially hired for that

purpose, he would soon leave that trade and become assistant governor and treasurer.

He was the youngest person on the Mayflower.

Stephen Hopkins:

A veteran colonist and part of the "Strangers" group. He was very experienced and therefore served as a source of knowledge for the new settlers. He was the only one with experience in the New World before and he also signed the Mayflower Compact. He was an assistant to the governor and helped play a role in diplomacy with Native American tribes due to his previous connections with them.

Massasoit:

The sachem (leader) of the Pokanoket people, who formed the greater part of the Wampanoag Confederacy. He made a treaty with the Pilgrims. This treaty was known for establishing peaceful relations and he also was instrumental for the survival of the Plymouth colony during its early years. He and his people shared much of their knowledge with the Europeans.

Squanto (Tisquantum):

A member of the Patuxet tribe, who had been enslaved and traveled to Europe. He later returned and became a vital interpreter and guide for the Pilgrims. He would teach them skills that would help them survive in the new world.

Samoset:

An Abenaki sachem who was the first Native American to make contact with the Pilgrims in Plymouth, greeting them in English. He gave them info of the surrounding land and of the native tribes located here. He also brought back Squanto, a Patuxet Native American, to his homeland and eventually he helped establish the first formal contact between Pilgrims and Massasoit. He is also credited with assistance for the peace treaty.

Elizabeth Hopkins:

One of the few married women to survive the voyage. She gave birth on board the Mayflower and was known for her resilience and support towards settling families. She had previous experience when she was shipwrecked in Bermuda previously. She was very hands on and was interested in the tavern.

John Billington:

A rebellious colonist and a member of the “Strangers”. He was eventually found guilty of murder and executed in what became the colony’s first criminal case. He

was one of the signers of the Mayflower Compact. His family was known for being unruly and causing problems. Billington had also been charged for a first offense during the travel there.

Margaret Winthrop:

A young woman traveling with her family. She frequently mediates conflicts between passengers and has a strong sense of community. She has a reputation for boosting spirits when things get tough.

Thomas Fletcher:

A merchant from London who was hired by the investors of the Mayflower to manage finances during the trip. He's known for his cleverness and is focused on ensuring the journey goes orderly and safe.

Anne Carston:

As a healer traveling with the Mayflower, Anne has knowledge of herbal medicine and basic midwifery. She is caring, and takes care of those who fall sick during the journey.

Isabella Crowther:

As a widow traveling with her children, Isabella is determined to begin a new life in a place free from persecution. She is assertive, and good at managing limited resources. Isabella was not afraid of anything and was able to create a home for herself and her children.

Thomas Blackwell:

A soldier and former member of the English militia, Thomas was hired to protect the pilgrims. He is strategic and has a strong sense of duty towards the group. He was an early colonist in Virginia and had eight children with his wife. He was widely known for being resourceful and was important in scouting out the area with the Natives.

Hannah Whitcomb:

A young teenager traveling with her family, Hannah is observant and curious. She records daily events in a journal, writing down interactions among passengers, and life on board, hoping to preserve a record of the journey.

Elizabeth Grantham:

As a teacher, Elizabeth helps educate children among the pilgrims during the long voyage. She is calm and respected for her gentleness and patience with the youth.

She had children with her husband and was known for being a very family person.

She was great with children and was able to help people around her.

Dorcas Clay:

A farmer's wife with a lot of knowledge of planting and preserving food. She is practical and constantly thinks ahead about how the group will feed themselves after reaching.

Dorothy Prynne

In charge of meal preparation, Dorothy works alongside other women to preserve food, ensuring passengers eat properly and nothing is wasted.

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