

**HOLIDAYS & HEROES**

*Let's Celebrate*  
**THANKSGIVING  
DAY**



BY Barbara deRubertis • ILLUSTRATED BY Thomas Sperling

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## Pronunciation Guide

Massasoit = MASS-uh-soyt

Wampanoag = WOM-puh-NO-ag

Sachem = SATCH-um

Plimoth (old spelling) = PLIM-uth

Plymouth (present-day spelling) = PLIM-uth

Patuxet = Puh-TUX-ut

Samoset = SAM-oh-set

Squanto (Tisquantum) = SKWAN-toe





**M**assasoit was Chief of the Wampanoag. Each Wampanoag village had a leader called a “sachem.” But Massasoit was Chief Sachem of all the villages.

He was a wise and powerful leader.

Massasoit must have been worried when he heard that about a hundred English settlers had come to his land!

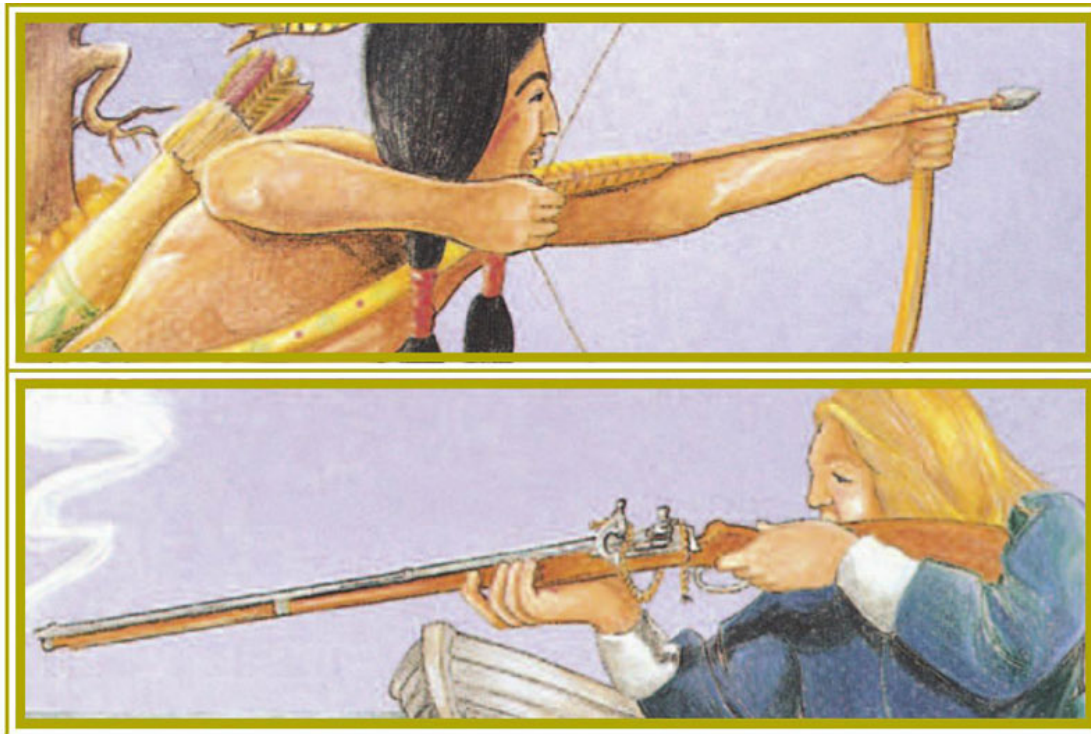


It was **November of 1620** when these settlers first arrived on a ship called the *Mayflower*.

The ship dropped anchor off the coast of land that is now part of the state of Massachusetts.

Some of the people onboard the ship were called “Pilgrims.” They had come to this land to find freedom. Others who traveled with them were also hoping to find a better life.

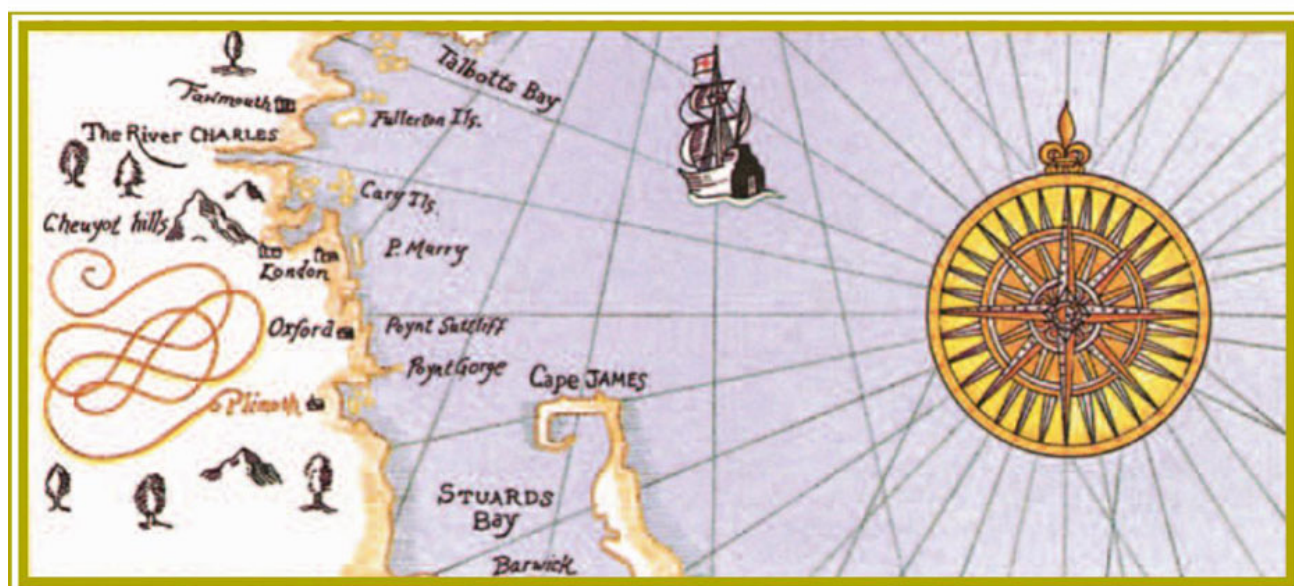




For weeks the Pilgrims searched for a good place to settle. One time, arrows were shot at them. They fired back with their muskets.

No one was hurt. But everyone was worried. The Wampanoag were worried about these English settlers. The English were worried about the people they called “Indians.”

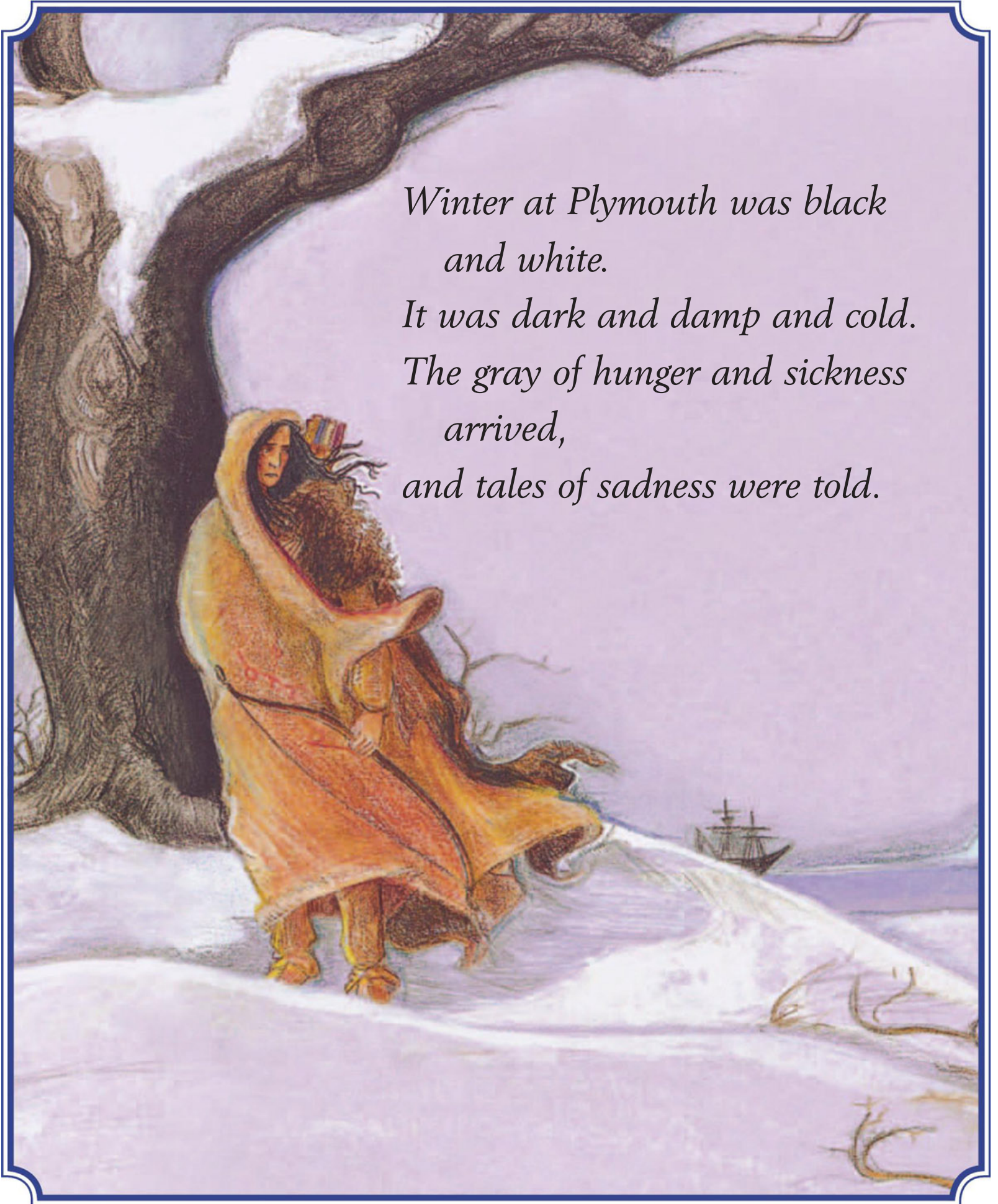
Finally, the Pilgrims found a good harbor at the place named “Plimoth” on their map.



A map of the Massachusetts coast as described by the early explorer John Smith

After November came **December**.  
The season of WINTER began.

*Winter at Plymouth was black  
and white.  
It was dark and damp and cold.  
The gray of hunger and sickness  
arrived,  
and tales of sadness were told.*



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