

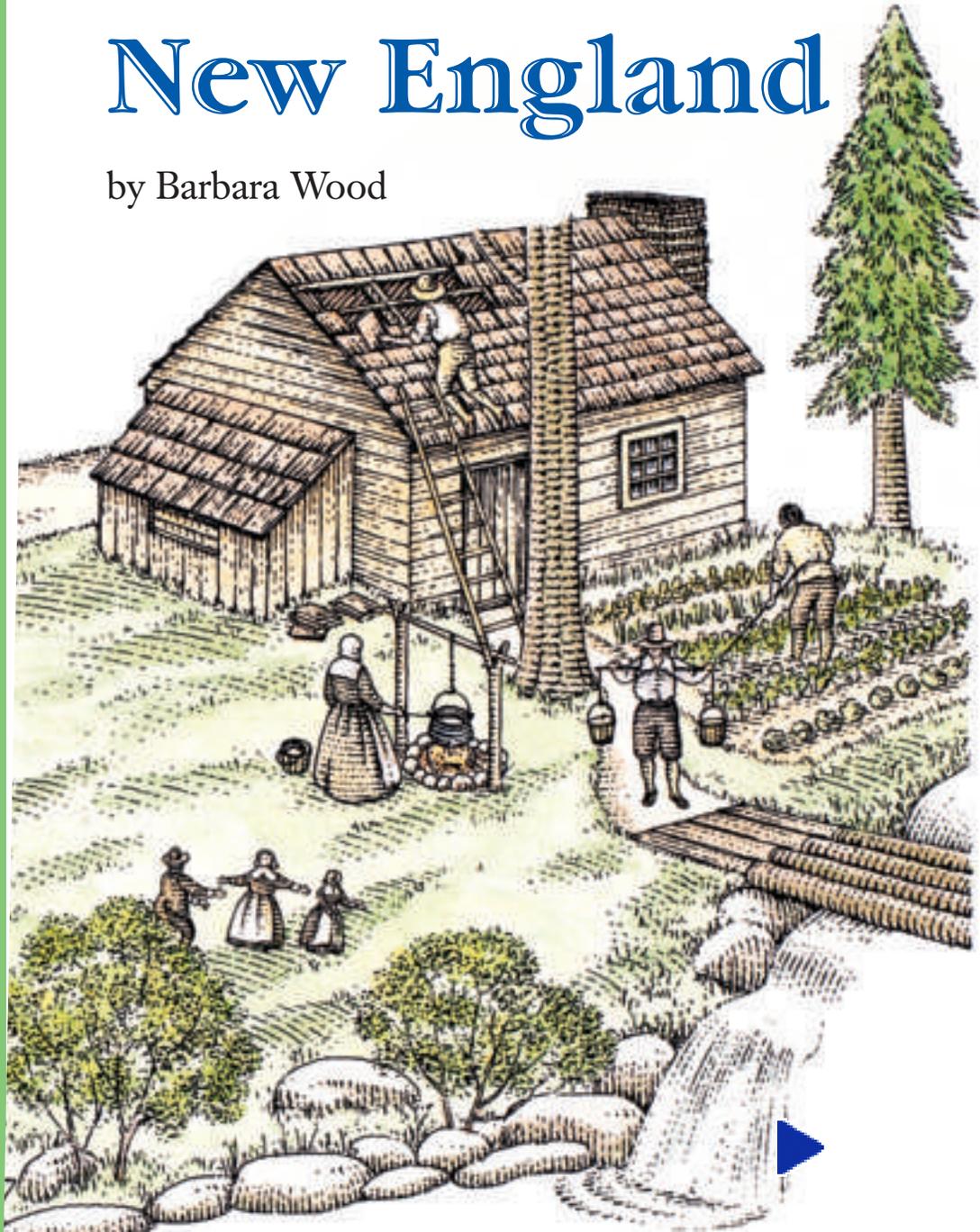
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Social Studies

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Colonial New England

by Barbara Wood



Genre	Comprehension Skills and Strategy	Text Features
Expository nonfiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Draw Conclusions• Compare and Contrast• Ask Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Labels

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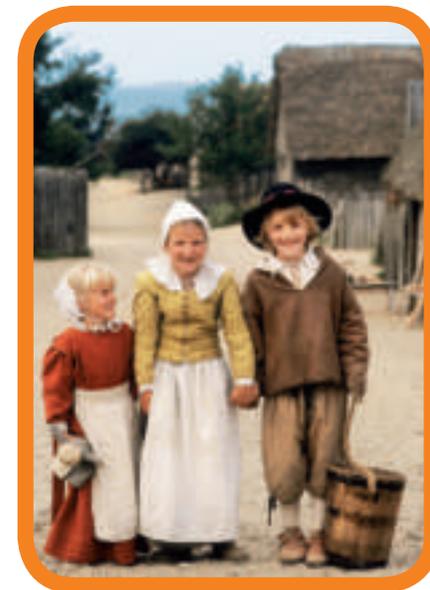


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In the year 1607 the first English colonists came to Jamestown, Virginia. Let's travel north from Virginia and farther ahead in time.

It is 1650. We are in colonial New England. Most of the settlers have come from England by ship. To them, this place is a "new" England.



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New England colonists have to make almost everything themselves. When they need clothes, they make yarn from sheep's wool. Next they weave the yarn into wool cloth. Then they sew the cloth into clothing.



Men and boys in colonial New England wear short pants, called breeches. They wear long stockings that go to their knees.

Girls and women wear long wool skirts and aprons. Outdoors and indoors, they wear caps called coifs.

Colonial women sewing and visiting



Clothes in colonial New England





Most of the homes in colonial New England are like the cottages that the colonists lived in back in England. They are made of wood boards. They have steep, thatched roofs.

An English cottage



The cottage has only one room. It is called a keeping room. The family cooks, eats, works, and sleeps in the keeping room. There is a fireplace for warmth and for cooking.

In most families everyone sits on rough benches or small barrels. They hang their clothes from pegs on the wall. The children's beds are bags filled with straw.



A keeping room





The colonists grow corn and other vegetables. Much of the corn is ground into cornmeal for making cornbread.

Colonial families drink milk from their goats. They eat bacon and ham from their pigs. They get their eggs from the chickens they raise.



There is no refrigerator in 1650. Meat must be salted or smoked so that it does not spoil. Apples are sliced and hung to dry. Vegetables are stored in a cool, dirt cellar under the ground.

Preparing a meal in colonial New England





There is always much to be done here in colonial New England. Farm animals need food. Fields need clearing before corn can be planted. Candles must be made.

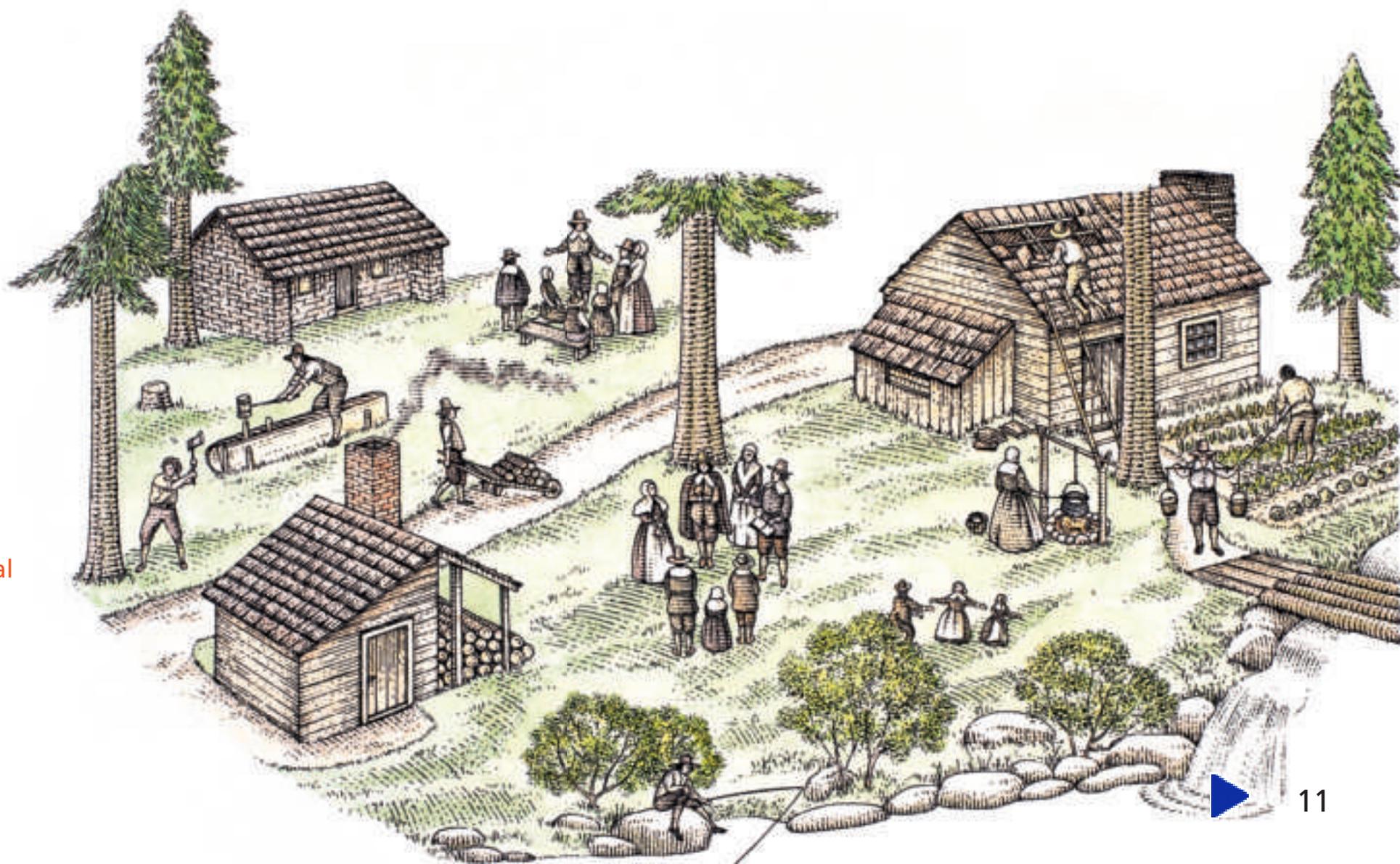
Older children help clean the home, weed the gardens, and carry wood. They are in charge of scaring the crows away in the cornfields.



Colonial boys and girls learn to read and write. Boys learn job skills by working with craftsmen. Girls are taught other skills at home such as sewing and cooking.

Children in the New England colonies might have fewer toys than you do. But they play games and have fun, just as you do!

A busy colonial village





Let's return to the present and think about our visit to the past. If you had been a colonial child, you would have worked hard. You would have learned some different skills than you are learning today.

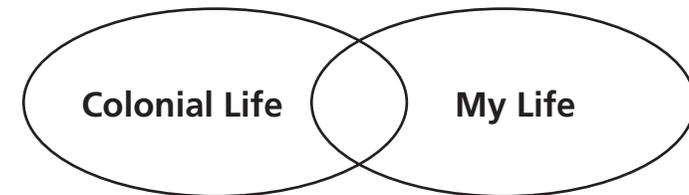
Do you think you would have liked living in colonial times? It's interesting to think about living at a different time in our country's history.

Traveling back in time at
Plimoth Plantation



Reader Response

1. How were the lives of children in colonial New England different from yours? How were they the same? Use a Venn diagram like the one below to explain your answer.



2. What questions about colonial life did you have as you read this selection?
3. What do you think the word *clearing* means on page 10? Why would the settlers need to clear fields?
4. Find the photograph of the keeping room. How are the room and the cottage different from your home?

