

Complete the text with *one* word that best suits the gap.

The Pilgrims survived in the Plymouth Colony thanks _____ 1 the compassion of Tisquantum (or “Squanto”), a Native American who showed the people how to _____ 2 crops.

The colonists responded with such thankfulness that they unintentionally founded the American national _____ 3 of Thanksgiving! The Pilgrims are some of the most iconic colonists in America, and their journey on the Mayflower is part of the Thanksgiving tradition every year.

Even _____ 4 most people think of the first Thanksgiving when they think of the Pilgrims, these people brought many other things to America in their search for a land to practice their religion _____ 5 peace without outside influences. The Pilgrims were part of the Separatists in England, a religious group _____ 6 opposed the Church of England. Even though England broke away from the Catholic Church, King Henry VIII did _____ 7 do this for religious reasons. Instead, he wanted the freedom to divorce his wives without needing approval from the pope. The Church of England was still very similar _____ 8 the Catholic Church, and the Protestant people in England were displeased with this change. As England wrestled with the Reformation and the line of succession, religious persecution became the norm, so people like the Pilgrims began to _____ 9 the country.

At first, the Pilgrims were only looking for somewhere that they could practice their Christianity in peace. They believed their more straightforward form of

worship and life was purer and closer to the Bible's original purpose. The Puritans wanted to purify the Church of England; the Separatists wished to separate _____ 10 the Church of England and form their own church. In the early 1600s, the Pilgrims left England and moved to the Dutch Republic, _____ 11 of the few countries in Europe that was relatively safe for Protestants at that time. At last, the Pilgrims _____ 12 found the religious freedom they were looking for.

However, the Dutch Republic was not the paradise they wanted. The Pilgrims had difficulty getting jobs – mainly _____ 13 they did not speak Dutch. They were also worried that their children were slipping away from the faith; as the kids grew up, they began assimilating into the Dutch culture.

The Pilgrims began looking for somewhere else where they could build their own church, practice their faith, and separate themselves from outside influences. With all this to balance, they finally turned their sights _____ 14 the New World. After a fair amount of negotiating, the Pilgrims obtained permission from the English Crown to build a colony and received the necessary financing from a merchant company. They leased the Mayflower, a typical merchant vessel, and boarded it in 1620. The Pilgrims weren't the only people _____ 15 board the Mayflower; the merchant company had sold tickets to anyone who could _____ 16 for the passage. So the Pilgrims found themselves sailing for the New World with a host of people who did not share their Separatist beliefs.

The ship _____ 17 crammed well beyond capacity, and the journey was long and filled with dangerous storms.

The Mayflower had set out long _____ 18 the summer sailing season, so the Pilgrims found themselves battling the autumn storms, which pitched the ship on swells and dips that could reach one hundred feet tall! The people were wet, cold, and constantly thrown across the boat as the Mayflower struggled across the ocean, threatening to _____ 19 apart at any moment.

Despite the perilous journey, only one person died, and the one person who fell overboard survived. The Pilgrims had _____ 20 on board the Mayflower for several months by the time land came into view, but there was a big problem before they even set foot on land – much less planned the first Thanksgiving.