Mayflower Compact - In July, 1620, a small ship called the Mayflower set sail from Plymouth, England. The 102 men, women and children, called the Pilgrims, planned to sail to the New World for a better life. They were called Pilgrims because of their journey to practice their religion free from government control. The Mayflower was accompanied by another ship called the Speedwell. In a short time, the two ships turned back for repairs to the leaky Speedwell. It is thought by later Americans to have had an influence on the writing of the Declaration of Independence. The original document is not in existence, but a copy was found in a brochure written soon after. In 1669, Nathaniel Morton included the text in his book, New England's Memorial. American History 1. Native American Society on the Eve of British Colonization a. Diversity of Native American Groups b. The Anasazi c. The Algonkian Tribes d. The Iroquois Tribes 2. Britain in the New World a. Early Ventures Fail b. Joint-Stock Companies c. Jamestown Settlement and the "Starving Time" d. The Growth of the Tobacco Trade e. War and Peace with. Powhatan's People f. The House of Burgesses 3. The New England Colonies a. The Mayflower and Plymouth Colony b. William Bradford and the First Thanksgiving c. Massachusetts Bay — "The City Upon a Hill" d. Puritan The Mayflower set sail once again under the direction of Captain Christopher Jones. Because of the delay caused by the leaky Speedwell, the Mayflower had to cross the Atlantic at the height of storm season. As a result, the journey was horribly unpleasant. It was the first document to establish self-government in the New World and this early attempt at democracy set the stage for future colonists seeking independence from the British. The First Thanksgiving. The Mayflower Compact was a set of rules for self-governance established by the English settlers who traveled to the New World on the Mayflower. When Pilgrims and other settlers set out on the ship for America in 1620, they intended to lay anchor in northern Virginia. But after ...read more. The Pilgrims.