I. Plymouth

- November, 1620, the Puritans landed in New England in the Cape Cod area, then moved to Plymouth (after city they had sailed from)
- Pilgrims--radical group of Puritans
  - Followers of Calvin--called themselves Congregationalists
  - This group belonged to Separtists, who believed that only by separating from Church of England could they find a pure religion
  - Many had lived in Holland before coming to America
    - feared that Catholic Spain may try to take Holland
    - did not want their children to grow up Dutch
  - Decided to form a settlement with English people in New World
- Settlement
  - 100 people on Mayflower, only 30 Separtists
  - To ease worries of non-Separtists, Mayflower Compact signed while on board ship--established a "Civil Body Politic" and a simple system of legal authority
  - Settlers landed and had to face harsh conditions immediately
    - Set about building shelter and storage for provisions
    - Only about half of the settlers survived the first winter
  - Help from the Pokanokets
    - Tribe had already suffered an epidemic from contact with Europeans
    - Sought to protect themselves from powerful Narragansett Indians by allying with settlers
    - Supplied settlers with foodstuffs to help them get through the first lean years--also showed them what and how to plant
    - Squanto--had been captured and taken to England--became a "good" Indian by helping English translate and showing them how to survive
- Discuss William Bradford

II. New England Towns

- Puritan mission to New World
  - Who were the Puritans?
    - dissenters within the Church of England--wanted to purify the church
    - King James I bitterly opposed Puritan efforts
combination of royal opposition and poor economic situation in England led Puritans to look toward New England as place to build a godly community

- 1628, group of Puritan merchants buy Virginia Company's claims to part of New England, form Massachusetts Bay Company
- first settlers come in 1629
- John Winthrop and "City upon a Hill"
  - 1630, John Winthrop came as head of 700 settlers to New England--most settlers came from middling merchant or farm families
  - While on board ship, he preached a sermon titled "A Model of Christian Charity"--which sets out his vision for the new colony
    - Winthrop wanted to build a godly community which would stand as a city on a hill, thus shaming England's church people to reform
    - the model called for an end to destructive economic competition--everyone was to be virtuous and had an obligation to others
    - in economic matters, charity was to moderate the drive for profit--concept of just price (compare with growing ideas about capitalism in England and Europe)

- Control of New England communities
  - Under Puritan vision, the center of their communities would be the Congregational church
    - membership in church required being recognized as a "Revealed Saint"--explain the process of the conversion relation
    - everyone required to attend services and pay tithes even if not a member (banishment from church services basically put a person outside of acceptable society)
    - control of the church in hands of all male "saints"
      - unlike Virginia churches where power usually rested in hands of wealthy
      - Puritan churches more democratic--all "saints" allowed to participate in control
  - Puritan control extends beyond the church
    - public meetings (including the county court) normally held at the church
    - public officials were members of the church
    - little separation between civil law and canon (church) law
    - technically, church and state were separate, but Puritans strongly believed in cooperation between church and state

- "The Little Commonwealth"
  - Physical layout
    - Villages in New England originally established around meeting house (church)--most dwellings within one mile
    - residents of a town were allotted certain plots of land further out for
farming--each family given enough land to provide for their needs
- purpose of this layout was to force people to intermingle with each other, thus increasing sense of community and interdependence

- Puritan families
  - the husband was to be the head of the nuclear family in New England--wife, children, and servants subject to his authority
  - marriage was not a private affair--it was a contract governed by the state, and could thus be regulated (both church and state could examine details of family life and interfere if deemed necessary)
  - women given no property rights in New England society unless husband specifically granted them in writing (pre-nuptial agreement or will)
  - education of children seen as important aspect of child-rearing among Puritans--needed to raise children who could take part in church

- Growth of New England population
  - the settlers who came to New England usually did so as part of a family group--unlike Virginia
  - as a result, the relatively even numbers of males to females meant a more rapid natural population growth
  - New England's population grew rapidly, even though only about 20,000 Puritans came over during the period from 1630-1649 (explain why 1649 cutoff date)
  - Part of New England's growth attributable to fact region relatively free of disease--compared to England or Virginia--thus people lived longer and had more children

- Relations with native peoples
  - Pequot Wars--1633--came from expansion into Connecticut River valley
    - Pequots resisted the expansion
    - English reacted with a campaign of extermination, with the few survivors taken as captives or slaves
  - After Pequot War, Indians try to accommodate white settlers
  - New England settlers attempted to keep Native peoples under control by creating "praying towns"
  - King Philip's War--1675
    - Wampanoags led by Metacom--King Philip--fought to avenge insults, murders, and the theft of land
    - had almost 3,000 killed during the fighting, over 600 colonists died

- Religious dissenters
  - Roger Williams and Rhode Island
    - Williams dissented from the tying of civil government to the church--the two should remain absolutely separate
    - he also opposed mandatory church attendance and tithes, especially when it interfered with a person's individual religious beliefs
Puritan authorities saw Williams as a subversive and banished him from the colony.

Williams and a number of followers purchased land from the Narragansett Indians, and founded a new settlement to the south called Providence.

Providence became center of the new Rhode Island colony.

Anne Hutchinson
- Follower of John Cotton - stressed salvation of grace
- Thought women should play major role in public
- Banished from Massachusetts Bay
- On her death, Puritan authorities claimed she was pregnant by the Devil

Quakers, Baptists, and other radicals
- banishment
- execution

Connecticut and Rhode Island offshoots of the Bay Colony
- Connecticut an attempt to reproduce Massachusetts' vision of an ideal world
- Rhode Island grew as more people in New England rejected the Puritan's ideal society

III. Salem Witchcraft Trials -- case study in colonial life

Salem in place and time
- Location
  - Mass. Bay colony -- 15 miles north of Boston
  - caught between "civilized" world of Boston and frontier with hostile native peoples
- When
  - Late 17th century
  - time of upheaval in Britain and Colonies
  - 1688, Glorious Revolution in Britain
  - 1689-97, King William's War (War of the League of Augsburg) -- heavy fighting along the frontier, many families destroyed

Chronology of events
- Dec. 1691 -- Tituba tells girls in Parris household's fortunes, girls begin to behave strangely
- Early 1692, girls begin to denounce some women in Salem Village as witches
- Trials begin in April, number of people denounced as witches grow -- some of the accused begin to point finger at others
- By end of the summer, 20 people had been executed
October, 1692 -- Governor William Phips (newly arrived from Britain) puts an end to trials, pardoning 100 in jail and 200 accused

- Reasons behind Witchcraft crisis--one or many?
  - Economic reasons (Proctors vs. Putnams)
  - Religion
    - "half-way covenant"
    - Puritanism's dominance under attack
  - Indian wars -- discuss history of girls
  - Political instability
  - Gender
    - life on frontier -- general uncertainty
    - Personal gain -- "Devil's Disciples"

- Interpreting history and its causes and consequences.
- Could this happen again?