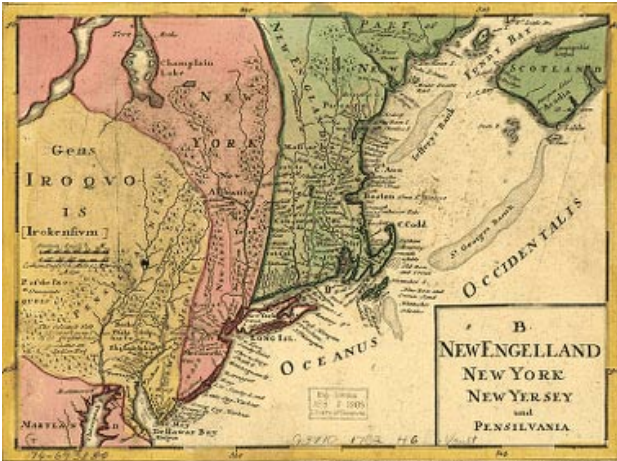


## « New England, America's birthplace »

### 1. Geography



New England map published in Germany, 1759  
Library of Congress Geography and Map Division



**N**ew England is a region in the northeastern corner of the United States, bordered by the Atlantic Ocean, Canada and the state of New York.

There are 6 states in New England.

*The smallest state is Rhode Island and the biggest is Maine, whose capital is Augusta. Connecticut and Massachusetts are Indian names.*

*Vermont is of course a French word, which means "Green Mountain";*

*Maine is also probably of French origin, after the region of Maine of France.*

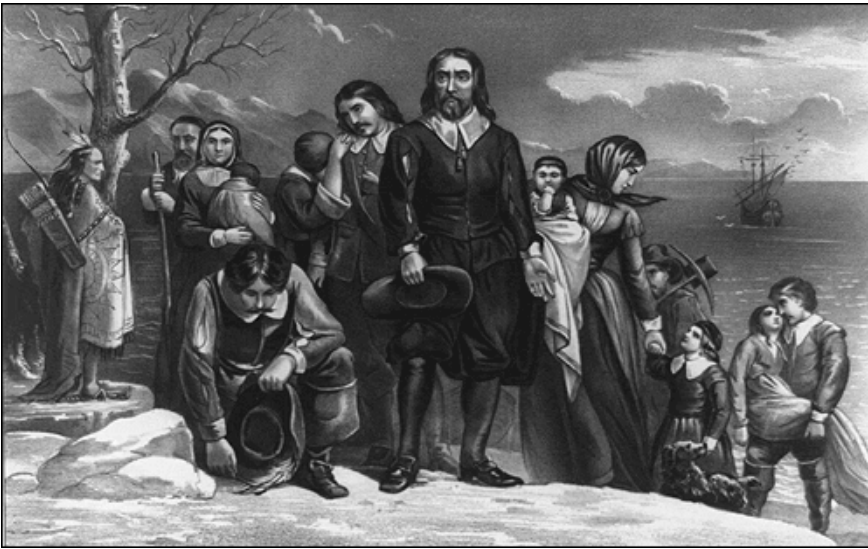
*The capital of Vermont was named after Montpelier in southern France. So the first settlers were probably French.*

*There were a lot of French settlers in the north of New England and in Canada.*

*Each 6 state of New England has a nickname:*

- ⇒ **Constitution State** is the nickname for **Connecticut** ("beside the long tidal river")
- ⇒ **Ocean State** is **Rhode Island**
- ⇒ **Bay State** is **Massachusetts** ("Big hill place")
- ⇒ **Granite State** is **New Hampshire**
- ⇒ **Green Mountain State** is **Vermont**
- ⇒ **Pine Tree State** is **Maine**

## 2. Who were the Pilgrims?



The pilgrims were a small group of people who sailed to North America in order to start a new life. They sailed on the Mayflower ship and landed on Plymouth Rock.

They wanted religious freedom. King Henry VIII of England made himself the head of the new Church of England in 1534. Some English people did not like the new Church of England. They created a new church and they were called "Separatists." Some of the Separatists were treated poorly because of their beliefs. They moved to Holland to find religious freedom. Some Separatists settled in the town of Leiden (or Leyden) in Holland for the next 11 or 12 years. The Separatists decided to leave Holland because they had a hard time finding good jobs and they were afraid their children were losing their English ties. The Separatists wanted to start a colony in the northern part of Virginia Colony (near present day New York City). This was at the mouth of the Hudson River.



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The group had little money, but wanted to be able to worship freely in a colony in the New World. The Separatists (or colonists) joined with a group of investors to form a joint stock company. The investors provided the colonists with supplies and a way to get to the New World. The colonists agreed to send fish, timber and fur back to England for seven years to pay off their debts. They were about to start over again...