



## CHAPTER 1

### LIFE IN HOLLAND

Did you know that God had a special plan for America? He helped a **unique** group of people cross a great ocean so they could start a new country for His glory. In this new country called America, God could be freely worshipped and laws from the Bible would show these people how to live together as good neighbors.

We call this special group of people Pilgrims. They called themselves Pilgrims because they were **wanderers** and travelers to a new land. They also called themselves First-Comers as they were one of the first groups to come over from the Old World to the New World. From our early history books, we learn that these Pilgrims were the best of English men and women, **devoted** to God, and lovers of freedom.

Although the Pilgrims were from England, they chose to leave their homeland because they were not free to worship God as they believed was true to the Bible. Because the large church of England would not give them that freedom, many wanted to **separate** from it and set up their own church. Thus, in their early

efforts to leave that church, they were called **Separatists**.

By moving to the nearby country of Holland, these gentle Christians could do just that. So they sold their homes and lands and moved to Holland in 1608. There they stayed for the next twelve years.

While in the bustling city of Leyden, they worked very hard for a living. This helped them to become strong and **independent**. They learned from the Bible how to set up their own church and choose its leaders. But for all their toil and labor, they were getting old before their time. Even little children worked all day, side by side with their parents. The **teenagers** were being drawn into the world system of false values around them.

Soon the Pilgrims knew that they must leave Holland. They prayed about their problems and felt that God was calling them to leave for the New World. There they could spread the Good News about His Son, Jesus Christ, to all those who had never heard about Him.

One of their leaders, William Bradford, wrote in his **diary** that they wanted to be like “stepping stones” – making a pathway for others to live as American Christians.

### Words to Know

unique   wanderers   devoted   separate  
independent   teenagers   diary   Separatists

## Pilgrim I Study Skills

(\*Simplify or reduce for the younger or slower reader)

### Questions

1. Who were the first travelers to come to America?\*
2. Describe these people.
3. Why did they leave their church in England?\*
4. To where did these travelers first move?\*
5. What were some of the lessons they learned in Holland?
6. Give two good reasons why they decided to leave Holland?
7. Where did God lead them?\*
8. For what purpose?
9. Name the two leaders of the Pilgrims.\*
10. What did Bradford mean by “stepping stones?”

Extra: Why did they call themselves Pilgrims?

