# The Families, The Voyage, and The Founding of America

#### The Pilgrim Families

The Pilgrims were a group of English Puritans who left their homeland in search of religious freedom. They were deeply devout and believed that the Church of England was corrupt and had strayed from the true teachings of the Bible. They wanted to establish their own church where they could worship as they pleased.



The Mayflower: The Families, the Voyage, and the Founding of America by Rebecca Fraser
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ▲ 4.5 out of 5

Language	:	English
File size	:	51560 KB
Text-to-Speech	:	Enabled
Screen Reader	:	Supported
Enhanced typesetting	:	Enabled
X-Ray	:	Enabled
Word Wise	:	Enabled
Print length	:	368 pages



The Pilgrims were not the only group of people who were dissatisfied with the Church of England. In the early 17th century, there were many different religious groups in England, each with its own beliefs and practices. The Pilgrims were just one of these groups, but they were one of the most radical. In 1608, a group of Pilgrims left England and traveled to the Netherlands, where they hoped to find a place where they could live in peace and practice their own religion. They stayed in the Netherlands for 12 years, but they eventually decided to leave because they were afraid that their children would be influenced by the Dutch culture.

In 1620, the Pilgrims left the Netherlands and sailed to America on the Mayflower. The journey was long and difficult, and many of the Pilgrims died along the way. When they finally arrived in America, they were weak and sick, but they were determined to build a new life for themselves.

#### The Mayflower Voyage

The Mayflower was a small ship, only about 100 feet long. It was crowded with 102 passengers and a crew of 30. The passengers were a mix of men, women, and children. They came from different parts of England and had different backgrounds, but they were all united by their common goal: to find religious freedom in America.

The Mayflower set sail from Plymouth, England, on September 6, 1620. The journey was long and difficult. The ship was often battered by storms, and the passengers were cramped and uncomfortable. Many of them got sick, and some even died.

After 66 days at sea, the Mayflower finally arrived at Cape Cod, Massachusetts. The Pilgrims were grateful to be on land, but they soon realized that they were not alone. The area was already inhabited by Native Americans, who were not always friendly.

#### The Founding of Plymouth Colony

The Pilgrims spent the winter of 1620-1621 at Cape Cod. During that time, they explored the area and made contact with the Native Americans. They also began to build a settlement, which they called Plymouth.

Plymouth was a small settlement, but it was the first permanent English settlement in America. The Pilgrims faced many challenges in the early years, but they persevered. They learned to grow crops, build houses, and defend themselves against the Native Americans.

By the 1630s, Plymouth Colony was a thriving community. The Pilgrims had established a stable government, a thriving economy, and a strong sense of community. They had also played a key role in the founding of America.

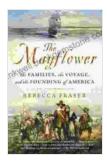
#### The Legacy of the Pilgrims

The Pilgrims' legacy is still felt today. They were a group of ordinary people who had the courage to leave their homeland in search of a better life. They faced many challenges along the way, but they never gave up. They persevered and built a new life for themselves in America.

The Pilgrims' story is a reminder that anything is possible if you have the courage to follow your dreams. They are an inspiration to us all, and their legacy will continue to inspire generations to come.

The families, the voyage, and the founding of America are all part of a larger story: the story of the human spirit. The Pilgrims were a group of ordinary people who did extraordinary things. They left their homeland in search of a better life, and they faced many challenges along the way. But they never gave up, and they eventually achieved their goal.

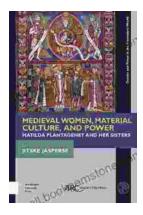
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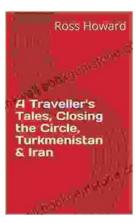
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