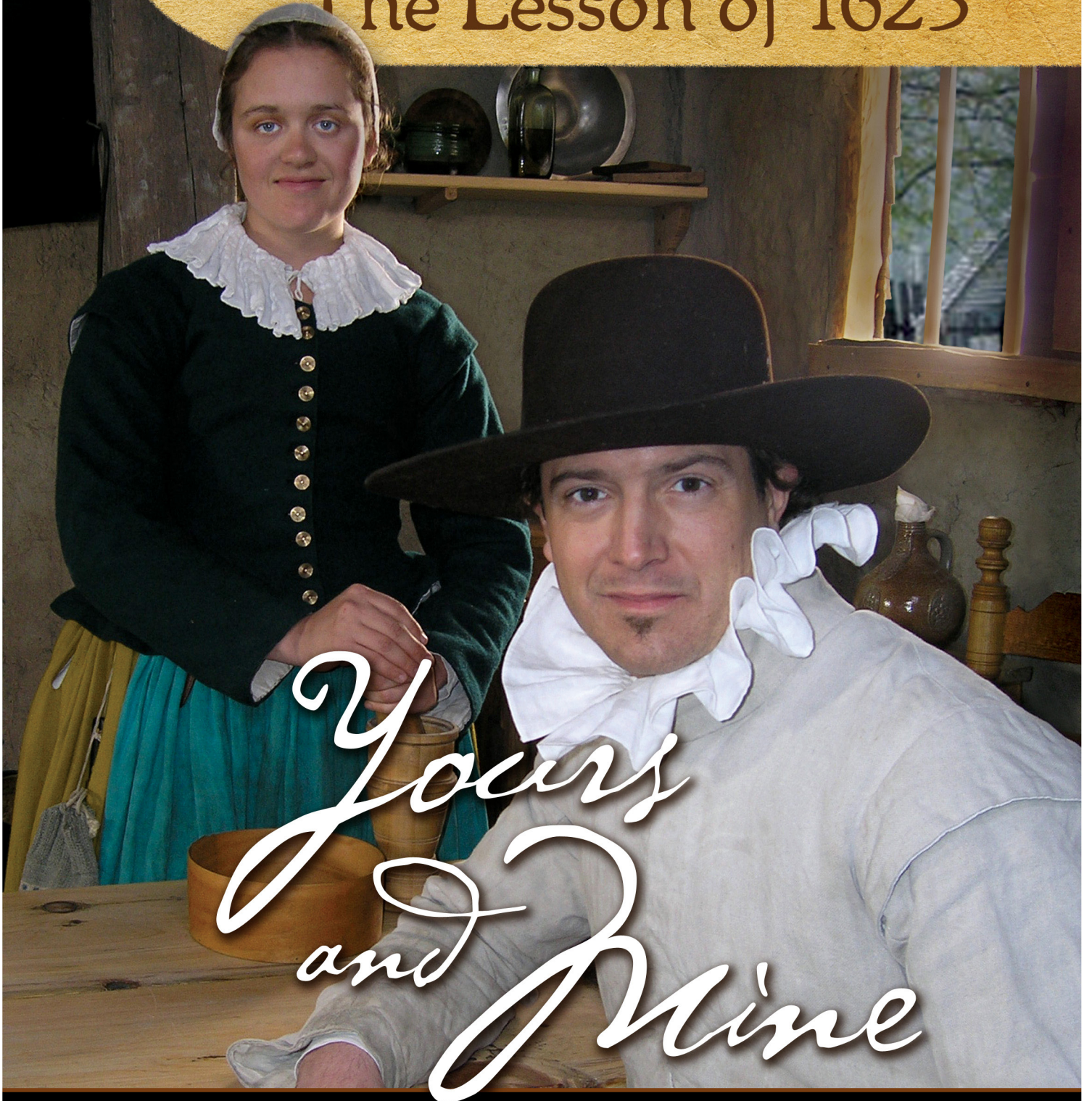


The Lesson of 1623



*Yours
and Mine*

Video Page



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Yours and Mine: The Lesson of 1623

Introduction, Page 1

This Teacher's Guide provides the following:

- **Sample worksheets for easy photocopying**
- **Class discussion questions**
- **Post-video quiz**
- **Extra credit ideas and post-viewing activities**

A suggested lesson plan progression...

- Discuss the historical background of the Plimoth Plantation by reviewing the information found on pages 3 and 4.
- Distribute the page titled "Worksheet" and view the program. Worksheet questions are designed to help students focus on the video and make notes. Discuss students' responses.
- Cover "Additional Discussion Questions" for a more in-depth review of the program and concepts.
- Assign as homework or class project a "Post-Viewing Activity."
- Administer the "Quiz" found on page 8.

(This guide was designed with the help of Andrew Jobson. Mr. Jobson is the Social Studies Department Head at Riverside Military Academy in Gainesville, GA.)

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Introduction, Page 2

For most of us, the story of the Pilgrims' colony at Plymouth seems intimately familiar. However, as our video host, Carra, reminds us, much of what we think we 'know' isn't necessarily true. Here is a brief overview.

In the late 1500s, several factors were working together to encourage a group like the Pilgrims to leave their home in England. A religious revolution had been growing ever since Martin Luther's bold act in 1519 of posting a list of 95 criticisms against the Catholic Church on the doors of the Wittenburg Cathedral. In England, Henry VIII had gone so far as to break with the Catholic Church. Although his reasons were as much personal/political as spiritual (if not more so), many Englishmen took the idea even further and sought to "purify" the church. Many did so within the parameters of Henry's Anglican Church, but others (Separatists) believed that only a clean break would suffice.

By the early 1600s, a tolerant Queen Elizabeth had been succeeded by King James I, who feared the consequences of subjects defying his authority as head of the Church. He made life difficult for the Separatists and many emigrated to Holland. In 1608, a small group from Scrooby, Nottinghamshire, along with William Bradford from nearby Austerfield, Yorkshire, made the move to Holland. After a year in Amsterdam they settled in Leiden, found whatever work was available and enjoyed religious freedom. They did not prosper. The work was hard. Bradford wrote that no others would join them from England, preferring prison there to "this libertie in Holland, with these afflictions." And their children were leaving the religious community to embrace the Dutch language and ways. They decided to leave Holland for economic reasons and to "save their children," not for reasons of religious freedom, which they had already acquired.

They sent a representative to London to negotiate an agreement with a group of business men, called Adventurers, who had a patent from the Virginia Company to settle in the northern regions of Virginia. Believing the New World would offer them a better chance to prosper as well as religious freedom, the Pilgrims (who called themselves "Saints") agreed to build a settlement and share the profits with the Adventurers. One hundred and two people left England on the *Mayflower* in September, 1620. Of this group, less than half (41) were members of the church (Separatists*) – the rest were hired servants or people seeking to make their fortune. (*This number is debated in various sources.)

The voyage across was difficult, but only one servant died – which was quite remarkable for the time – and one child was born. They had planned to settle in what is now New York, but storms drove them north and they landed first at what is now Provincetown, MA. After some scouting, they chose to settle at Plymouth Bay where there were cleared fields that had been abandoned by the indigenous people, most of whom had died from small pox and other diseases contracted from earlier European explorers. They went ashore in November.

The first winter was incredibly harsh; only 44 survived. Nevertheless, through their efforts and advice from a friendly native, they managed to grow a good harvest in 1621. But by 1623, with the arrival of more settlers and the failure of some to do their fair share of the work, a serious food shortage was threatening the existence of the colony. According to the original plan, all property (including produce from farming, hunting and fishing) would be treated as common property and divided equally, regardless of the amount of work put forth by individuals. This was thought unfair and the cause of the shortages. The problem was solved when families were given their own farm land. As Governor William Bradford noted in his diary, allotting plots of land to individuals and families, "led to good content," after which they had plenty of food.

Yours and Mine: The Lesson of 1623

Preview Activities

1. Ask students what they know about the Pilgrims. On the board, make a concept map (word web) of their ideas.

Students will probably say very little about the economic issues facing the Pilgrims. If they have not already brought up the topic, remind them that while some reformers wanted to change or purify the church, the Pilgrims – one of many groups of Separatists – wanted to end church bureaucracies, with each congregation electing their own leaders.

2. Are students aware of a correlation between the Pilgrims and the property rights of today? If so, what is the correlation?
3. For those students who own cars, ask if they share ownership. Why or why not would they want to share their car with someone?
4. Ask how many students own i-Pods? How many download music without paying a royalty? Do they think performers would continue to produce songs if everyone did that?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Yours and Mine: The Lesson of 1623 **Worksheet**

1. Some people came to Plimoth Plantation for religious reasons. Why did others come?
2. Who were the Adventurers?
3. Prior to 1623, what was the system used for growing food?
4. What year did Mrs. Fuller come over?
5. Why does the tourist (economist) want to meet the Fullers so badly?
6. The actress portraying Bridget Fuller says they are at the Plimoth Plantation to “dispel myths, not propagate them.” What does she mean, and what myths can you identify?
7. What were the results of property-sharing at the Plimoth Plantation in 1623? Why did this happen?
8. Why doesn't the actor portraying Samuel Fuller want to swap cars with the tourist (economist)? Why does he take such good care of his car? Do you think he would take care of someone else's car in the same way?
9. How did the Pilgrims obtain black pepper for cooking? How did they obtain parsley?
10. Who proposed allotting plots of land to individuals and families so that each would be responsible for their own harvest?
11. Is sharing always bad? Explain.
12. Why is private property essential to innovation and a better standard of living?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Yours and Mine: The Lesson of 1623 **Additional Discussion Questions**

1. What myths about the Pilgrims did the program dispel for you?
2. Did the Pilgrims wear all black/white clothing? What color clothing did you notice the actors wearing on the Plimoth Plantation?
3. Would you buy an i-Pod, cell phone, or car if you knew you would have to share it with every one of your classmates? Why not?
4. Do you think there would be i-Pods or cell phones without property rights?
5. Why do the makers of automobiles provide such a variety of models to choose from?
6. Is there anyone with whom you'd like to swap cars? Why?
7. Is it fair for your classmates to copy your homework without compensating you or without your permission to do so? How does this relate to music piracy?
8. Would there be songs to download if performers didn't have some way to get paid for performing?
9. How different would your life be if you weren't able to own your current possessions?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Your and Mine: The Lesson of 1623 **Post Viewing Activities**

1. Visit <http://www.plimoth.org> for a virtual tour of the Plimoth Plantation, online activities, historical facts and other educational material.
2. Research and construct your family tree. What do you know about your ancestors? What factors contributed to their decision of coming to present-day America? Are you related to any of the 102 *Mayflower* passengers?
3. Using a dictionary, provide definitions to the words below.

Samp –

Stereotype -

Saint –

Stranger –

Hearth –

Maize –

Pilgrim –

Thanksgiving –

Bulrush –

Name: _____

Date: _____

Yours and Mine: The Lesson of 1623

Quiz

Part I. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate terms:

1. The inept actor is portraying Samuel Fuller, the town _____.
2. The Pilgrims used _____ to clean wounds and clear infectious tissue.
3. The Pilgrims did not own _____ prior to the year 1623.
4. Governor William _____ proposed that each family be responsible for their own plot of land at the Plimoth Plantation.
5. _____ was the primary food source for the Pilgrims.
6. Without _____ _____ it is unlikely there would be such items as i-Pods or cell phones.

Part II: Answer in a few sentences.

1. How does sharing in the ownership of property detract from the incentive to take care of it?
2. What were the flaws of the system used by the Pilgrims prior to 1623? What were the consequences?
3. List three myths about the Pilgrims the video dispelled for you.

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Answer Key

Part I:

1. Surgeon
2. Leaches
3. Land
4. Bradford
5. Corn/maize/Indian corn
6. Property rights

Part II:

1. If the property is not owned by an individual, that individual will not feel the personal responsibility to take care of it. If ownership is shared, one partner may rely on the other to take care of the property, not putting in his/her “fair share” of work.
2. In the system used by the Pilgrims prior to 1623, all property was shared equally, regardless of the amount of work put forth by individuals. The failure of some to do their fair share of the work resulted in serious food shortages.
3. Not all Pilgrims came to American soil for religious freedom. Many came in hopes of making money.
The Pilgrims did not wear all black/white clothing. Their clothing was quite colorful, as shown today at the Plimoth Plantation Living History Museum.
Sharing property caused major food shortages for the Pilgrims. This problem was solved after moving toward a system of private property ownership, laying the foundation for today’s practices of private property rights.

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