Lesson 2: Plymouth and the First Winter

Younger readers (ages 6-8): read aloud together

Name _____ Date _____

Read

For weeks the men explored Cape Cod in a small boat called a **shallop**. In December 1620 they found a place with a good harbor, fresh water and fields that were already cleared. They named it **Plymouth**.

Winter had come, so they started building houses right away. Many people kept living on the Mayflower while the work went on.

That first winter was terribly hard. People were cold, hungry and sick. About half of the Mayflower passengers died before spring. The survivors kept going. In the spring of 1621 they planted crops, and in April the Mayflower sailed home to England without them.

Draw it

Draw a picture of something from the reading.

Tell it back

1. Why was Plymouth a good place to build?

2. What made the first winter so hard?

3. What did the colonists do when spring came?

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