

**After reading the texts, answer the questions.**

## **Week 1. – Colonial Period**

### **W. Bradford: "Of Plymouth Plantation"**

Of Their Voyage, How They Passed the Sea, Their Safe Arrival at Cape Cod, Indian Relations

#### **Reading Check**

*Who was the first person to die on the Mayflower Voyage?*

*What danger did the crew and passengers face from the main beam?*

*Why did the Mayflower return to Cape Cod?*

*During the first winter, how many of the pilgrims survived?*

### **M. Rowlandson: "A Narrative of Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson" (1, 2, 3, 12, 20<sup>th</sup> Remove) in: Norton Anthology, pp.72-89.**

*a. How does she describe the attack?*

*b. What words does she use to describe the Indians?*

*c. What gives her strength during her captivity?*

*d. Why does she say that the Indians make use of their tyrannical power?*

*e. Do you notice any sign of white man corrupting the Indians?*

*f. What does the 'wilderness' stand for in her journal?*

*g. When finishing her journal, she writes the following sentence: "The Lord hath showed me the vanity of these outward things." What does she mean by saying that?*

### **Crèvecoeur: "Letters from an American Farmer"**

#### **Reading Check**

In the first paragraph, Crèvecoeur describes the experience of European immigrants to America.

*a. Why, in his view, are they glad to leave Europe?*

*b. What happens to them when they begin living in America?*

*c. Crèvecoeur concludes his letter by posing a famous question: "What then is the American, this new man?"*

- a. *How does he answer the question – that is, what does he take to be the essential meaning of “American”?*
- b. *In what sense is the American a “new man”?*