

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Betty Alden and the Puritans

By and by, more colonists came over to Virginia. These colonists had better success. Soon, there was a pretty little village with many fine farms round about it.

Then other English people, called Puritans, thought that they would like to found a colony in America. So one day another ship, the *Mayflower*, started out from England. For days and days it sailed, and by and by, a storm drove it in upon the coast of Massachusetts.



It was mid-winter, and ice and snow were piled up high along the coast.

The picture above shows what the shore looked like at that time. Today, it is covered with houses, churches, and big buildings.

**1. What was the name of the Puritans' ship?**

- a. *Lusitania*
- b. *Mayflower*
- c. *Nina*
- d. *Titanic*

Massachusetts

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"Shall we land here?" said the captain.

"It is God's will," said the people.

Then the boats were lowered in Plymouth Bay, and the people sprang out upon the rock that we now call Plymouth Rock.

## Plymouth Bay

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These colonists set to work at once to build their log houses, and soon they had a comfortable little village.

**2. The Puritan colonists built their first houses out of \_\_\_\_.**

- a. bricks
- b. logs
- c. mud
- d. stone

One day, a Native American walked into the village. He stared at the English people, and the English people stared at him.

"The Englishmen's hats are very strange," the Native American thought.

"The Native American's feathers are very strange," the Englishmen thought.

By and by the Native American said, "Welcome, Englishmen!" To be sure, he said these words in a very strange way to English ears, but the colonists understood. They were glad enough to find the Native American so friendly.

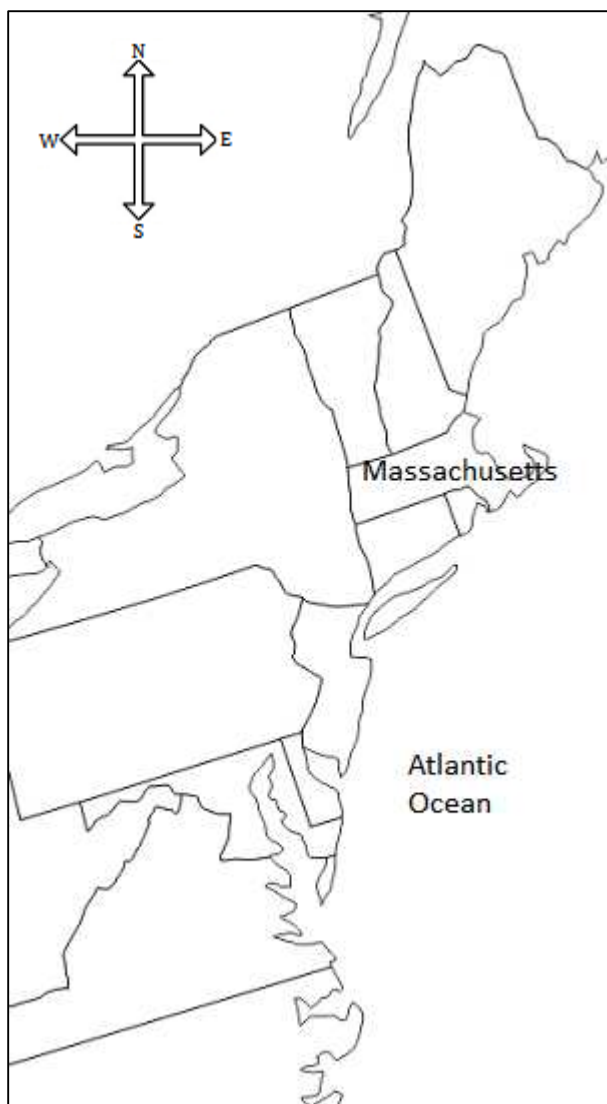
They invited him into their homes. They gave him presents. By and by, they sent him to bring his chief.

The chief came, and the Englishmen and the chief talked together a long time. They agreed that there should be no fighting between them. And as long as this chief lived, there was no trouble between the Native Americans and English colonists.

**3. The Puritans and Native Americans got along at this time.**

- a. True
- b. False

One day, a little baby girl was born in this Plymouth colony. Her name was Betty Alden, and she grew to be the roundest-faced, reddest-cheeked, happiest little girl that ever was.



**4. Color Massachusetts blue on the map above.**

**5. Massachusetts borders what ocean?**

- a. Atlantic**
- b. Indian**
- c. Pacific**
- d. Southern**

Betty was less than a week old when she was taken to the meeting-

house to be christened. Colonial babies were always taken to the meeting-houses to be christened on their first Sunday, no matter what the weather was.

christened

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After this first Sunday, Betty did not go to the meeting-house for some time. Then a little cage was made for her to sit in, while her father and mother listened to the long sermon.

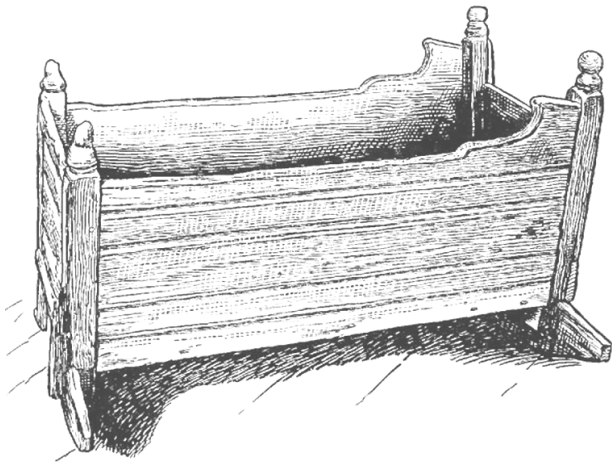
Sometimes Betty cried, and it was often so cold that her tears froze upon her little cheeks. Betty's mother was sorry for her baby, but it could not be helped. There was no way to heat the meeting-houses, and it was not the custom for babies to sit with their mothers during sermon time.

sermon

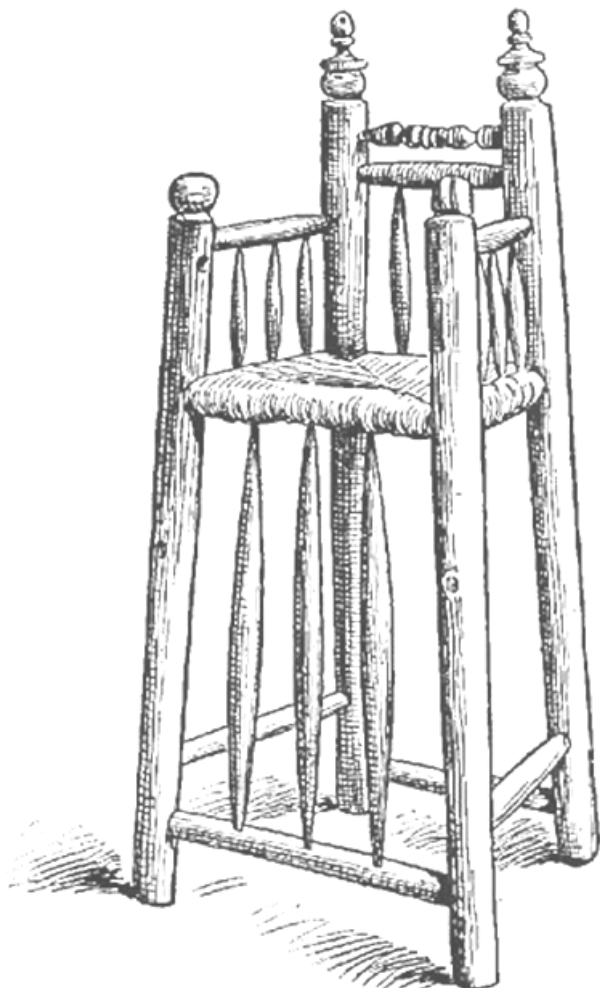
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Betty was rocked in a cradle made just like the one you see in the picture above. When she grew older, she sat up to the table in a chair just like the one below.



Then, she was taught to walk in a funny little go-cart like that shown below. And the cradle, the chair, and the go-cart have been copied for this book from old ones which have been kept all these hundreds of years.



Now, the people in this English colony were very strict. They were called Puritans. They thought it wicked to laugh very much, and they tried to bring up their children to be quiet and sober like their fathers and mothers. But little Betty could not keep quiet, no matter how hard she tried.

## Puritans

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"Betty Alden is a sad romp," the people would often say. Then Betty would try to behave as the people

thought she should; but sadly, she did not succeed very well.

Betty went to the village school. It was an odd little school, and it was held in the big kitchen of one of the houses.

She learned to read from the Bible which her father had brought from England. A long time after, when Betty was an old, old lady, a reading book was printed in the colony. It was called *The New England Primer*.

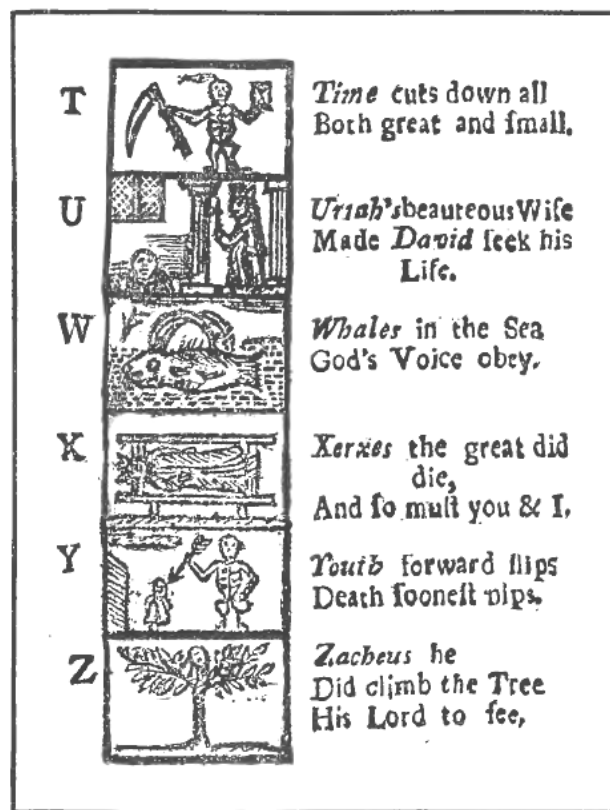
You may think that these pages are not very beautiful, but Betty's grandchildren thought that their primer was the most beautiful book ever printed. Very soon they learned to read it through, and with their eyes shut, too.

## New England Primer

But if Betty had no reading book in her school days, she had an old spelling book. This she studied very faithfully, and she was taught also to make a needlework sampler.

Betty thought this sampler was very beautiful. When it was done, her mother put it in a frame and hung it on the wall.

Then the people said, "Perhaps Betty will grow to be a sober, quiet child, after all. See how nicely she has made her sampler."



6. Can you read this page from *The New England Primer*?

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There were no steel or plastic pens in Betty's school days. Each child brought a goose feather to school, and the teacher cut this feather so that it was pointed like a pen. This was called a quill, and Betty wrote the copies her teacher made for her with a quill like the one you see in the boy's hand in the picture.



quill

Sometimes, Betty's schoolmates did not do right. But the teacher had ways of teaching them to behave properly. When they did not learn their catechisms, there were dunce stools for them to sit upon. There were dunce caps, too, which they must wear upon their heads until the lessons were learned.

dunce cap

Sometimes the teacher put pinchers on the idle children's ears, and sometimes rhubarb was put on their tongues. These punishments, the teacher said, helped the children to learn.

**7. Do you think these were good punishments? Why or why not?**

## punishment

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Whether or not any of these things happened to Betty, I do not know. Very likely not, for Betty was not an idle child.

"A good child, a good child!" the kind old parson used to say. "Betty is a good child, but a little too frolicsome."

Once Betty was ill, but she got well as soon as she could. She hoped she should never be ill again; for the doctor gave her some very bad-tasting medicine, made of senna, snails, and earthworms.

Betty was seldom allowed to eat candy. Indeed, candy was very rare in those days. This is the story Betty's father always told her when she teased for candy: "Once a ship came over from England with a great deal of candy on board. The candy was sold in Boston, but it made the children so ill that the next time the ship came over it brought only senna and rhubarb for the sick children."

There is a story, but it may not be really true, that there was in a

neighboring colony another happy, frolicsome little girl, very like Betty Alden. This little girl's name was Ruth. Ruth had to sit very still and listen to sermons that were hours long, and often the poor little girl fell asleep. Once, so the story said, Ruth laughed aloud in the middle of the sermon. The preacher stopped and looked at her. The tithing-man came and tapped her on the head with his long pole, and Ruth's mother nearly fainted away, she was so ashamed.

"Alas, alas!" said Ruth's mother, "I shall never hold up my head again. To think that a child of mine should laugh in church!"

## church

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When Ruth went home from church, her father took her upon his knee to scold her. But what do you suppose happened? Poor, tired Ruth fell asleep, while her father was talking.

"Perhaps it is rather hard for a little girl to sit still so long," Ruth's

father thought. So when Ruth awoke, he said to her, "Ruth, you may wear these gold beads every Sabbath that you are a good girl in church."

## Sabbath

How beautiful the beads were!  
Ruth wore them the very next Sabbath.

Sometimes Ruth grew tired, and felt like laughing again during sermon time. But when she looked down at her beautiful gold beads, the laugh would go away.

**8. The *Mayflower* landed in Massachusetts in 1620. How many years ago was this?**

**9. Would you like to have grown up as a Puritan child? Explain your answer.**



## Word Search Puzzle

**Directions:** Find the terms below in the word search puzzle.



christened

church

cradle

dunce cap

frolicsome

Massachusetts

*Mayflower*

*New England Primer*

Plymouth

punishment

Puritans

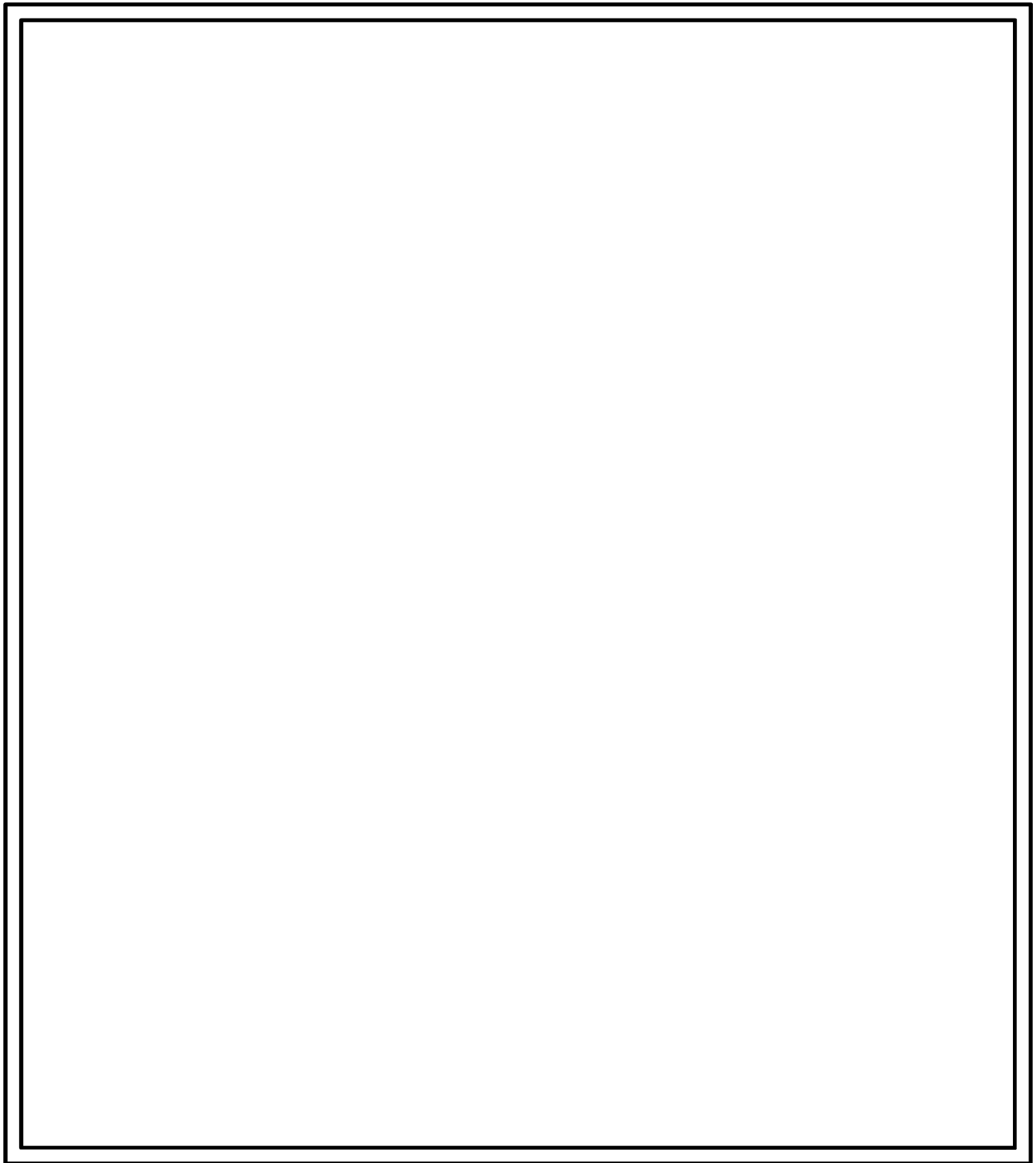
quill

Sabbath

sermon

strict

**Draw a scene from the life of Betty or Ruth.**



Click here for the answer key and other titles in this series: <http://bit.ly/ShcsLQ>