

Suggested levels for Guided Reading, DRA™, Lexile®, and Reading Recovery™ are provided in the Pearson Scott Foresman Leveling Guide.

# The Colonial Adventure

by J. Matteson Claus • illustrated by Burgandy Beam



Genre	Comprehension Skills and Strategy
Historical fiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Draw Conclusions</li><li>• Setting</li><li>• Ask Questions</li></ul>

Scott Foresman Reading Street 3.2.5



scottforesman.com





# The Colonial Adventure

by J. Matteson Claus  
illustrated by Burgandy Beam



Editorial Offices: Glenview, Illinois • Parsippany, New Jersey • New York, New York  
Sales Offices: Needham, Massachusetts • Duluth, Georgia • Glenview, Illinois  
Coppell, Texas • Ontario, California • Mesa, Arizona





Elizabeth stood on the dock and looked at the huge ship. Her family was about to leave for their new home across the ocean. They were going to live in the New England colony called Massachusetts.

Elizabeth was eleven. It was her job to look after her five younger brothers and sisters. Elizabeth had never left England. She was nervous about the trip ahead. She and her family would start a whole new life in a land that they knew very little about.

Every effort has been made to secure permission and provide appropriate credit for photographic material. The publisher deeply regrets any omission and pledges to correct errors called to its attention in subsequent editions.

Unless otherwise acknowledged, all photographs are the property of Scott Foresman, a division of Pearson Education.

Photo locators denoted as follows: Top (T), Center (C), Bottom (B), Left (L), Right (R), Background (Bkgd)

Illustrations by Burgandy Beam

ISBN: 0-328-13350-7

Copyright © Pearson Education, Inc.

All Rights Reserved. Printed in the United States of America. This publication is protected by Copyright, and permission should be obtained from the publisher prior to any prohibited reproduction, storage in a retrieval system, or transmission in any form by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or likewise. For information regarding permission(s), write to: Permissions Department, Scott Foresman, 1900 East Lake Avenue, Glenview, Illinois 60025.

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 V0G1 14 13 12 11 10 09 08 07 06 05



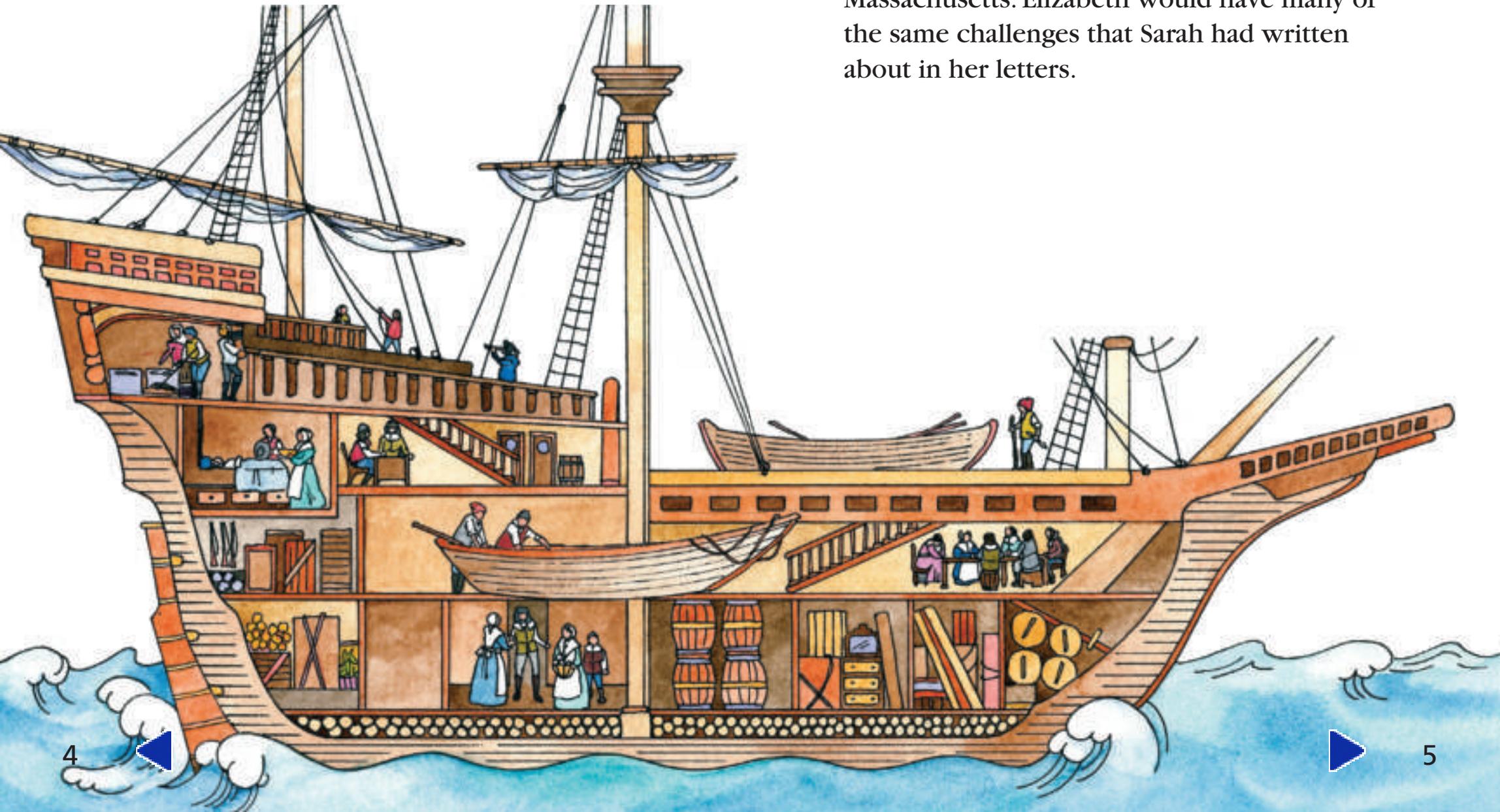


Soon Elizabeth and her family boarded the ship and began the long voyage to New England. Huge barrels of food and water had been brought aboard so they would have enough to eat during the trip. Still, there were many things that could go wrong while the ship was sailing on the open sea.



There was very little room on board the ship. The trip lasted for two months, and Elizabeth grew bored on the journey. To fight the boredom, she read letters she had kept from her cousin Sarah.

Sarah's family had moved to Jamestown, Virginia, a colony far to the south of Massachusetts. Elizabeth would have many of the same challenges that Sarah had written about in her letters.





Elizabeth smoothed open a letter and read:

Dear Cousin Elizabeth,

After many delays, we finally set sail in late January. It was a bumpy ocean crossing! There was a big storm in the middle of our voyage. All the grown-ups were very worried. Fortunately, we arrived safely in the Jamestown colony and started building our new home.



Everything here is so different, even the weather! You cannot imagine how hot the summers are in Virginia. They're worse than anything in England! We have to be careful that there is enough food and that none of it will spoil in the heat. To keep the food cool, we store as much of it as we can in the underground cellar.

I must go do my chores now. I promise to write again.  
Your cousin,  
Sarah



Finally, the day arrived when their ship reached land. Elizabeth was excited. She couldn't wait to start her new life.

She stepped onto the ship's main deck and looked over the ship's railing. Elizabeth stared in wonder. Her new home was huge! The forest and fields stretched far into the distance. She could see a few houses peeking through the trees where the first colonists had settled.



“Come along, Elizabeth,” her mother said. “There’s work to be done.” Now that they had arrived, the first thing that had to be done was the laundry! Their family and the other settlers had lived for two months aboard the ship without being able to clean their clothes.

Elizabeth and her brothers and sisters helped their mother with the washing. At the same time, Elizabeth’s father went with the other men to look for land that would be good for settling.





Soon her father came back. "I have found a clearing where we can build a new home," he said. "It's on top of a steep hill. There's a river close by with fresh water."

Elizabeth's mother hugged her husband. Elizabeth and her brothers and sisters began to shout and dance. A house of their very own! In England, Elizabeth's family had rented their house. In Massachusetts they would own their own farm!

It took several months to build the house. Elizabeth's family continued to live aboard the ship while they worked on the land.



During that long, cold winter, many people became sick. Even worse, there wasn't enough food to eat. Elizabeth was often hungry.

When she started to feel cold and hungry, Elizabeth took out her letters from Sarah. One of them began:

*Dear Cousin,*

*Sometimes this New World can be difficult. The land here is very different from England. Jamestown is filled with swamps. It is not always easy to find clean, fresh water for drinking.*

*The people of our settlement are trying to make friends with the native people. There is little that they understand about us or that we understand about them. That makes talking with them difficult. Papa says that we should work with them and respect their ways.*





*We have a farm now. Papa has begun growing wheat and a plant called tobacco. Already the crops have grown very high. We look forward to selling them!*

*Papa says your family will sail to the New World this autumn. Your new home in Massachusetts will be wonderful, I'm sure. We have heard about the forests, fish, and wildlife there.*

*Love,  
Sarah*

Elizabeth smiled, folded her letter carefully, and put it away.



By the end of winter, Elizabeth's family was ready to move off the ship and into their new home. Now that they had a house to live in, the real work began. Each morning, Elizabeth went to school for a few hours in the village. There she practiced reading and writing. When Elizabeth returned home from school in the afternoon, she hung her coat on its peg and went to help her mother. She and her sisters helped with the cooking, cleaning, sewing, and, of course, the laundry. She was always busy. Keeping up with all the chores that needed to be done was hard!





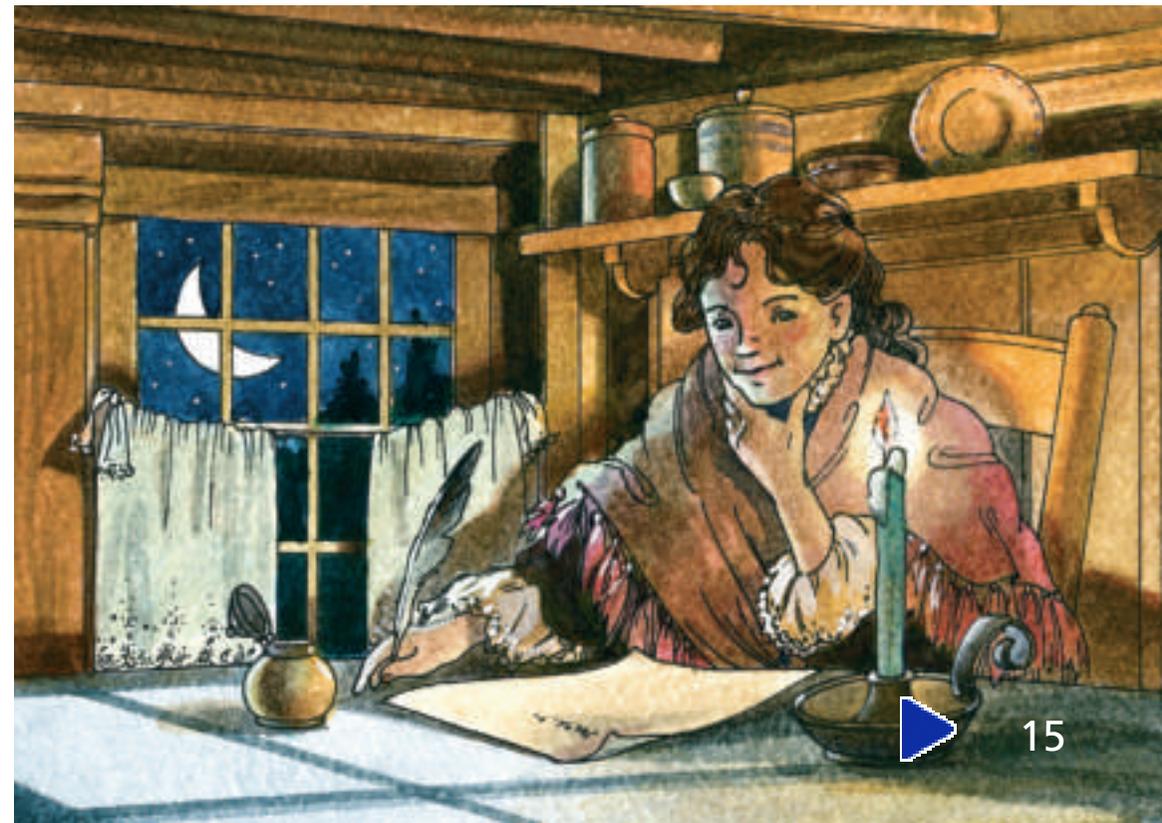
Her brothers went with their father to help plant the farm. While the land in Jamestown was swampy, the Massachusetts soil was rocky. Instead of planting wheat and tobacco, Elizabeth's father planted fields of corn.

The colonists worked hard to learn what they could from the native people. They learned how to plant pumpkin, squash, and corn. They learned where to hunt and fish.



One night, at the beginning of the next winter, Elizabeth counted the months her family had been in Massachusetts. Twelve months had passed! Elizabeth was amazed as she thought about the exciting year it had been. She was happy in her new home.

Elizabeth picked up a pen and began to write to her cousin Sarah. She had a whole year of adventures to write about!



## Did You Know?



The first permanent English settlement in North America was founded in Jamestown, Virginia, in the year 1607. Many of the settlers who came to Jamestown thought they would discover gold and silver there.

In 1630 the English Puritan settlers sailed into Massachusetts Bay and founded the city of Boston. The Puritans moved to Massachusetts to begin a new life where they could practice their religion freely.



Families in colonial times often lived in houses with only one room. It was called a keeping room. They cooked, ate, slept, and worked there.

In 1647 the Massachusetts Bay colony passed a law requiring every town with more than fifty families to have a school. Soon, other colonies adopted this law. Today in the United States, all children are required to go to school.



## Reader Response

1. What were the major differences between the Massachusetts and Virginia colonies?
2. Your English family is going to move to either colonial Massachusetts or Virginia. What questions would you ask Elizabeth and Sarah to help your family decide which colony to choose? Write your questions on a chart like the one below.

Ask Elizabeth	Ask Sarah

3. Use a dictionary to find three meanings of the word *spoil*. Then write *spoil* in three complete sentences to show the three different meanings.
4. After having read this book, do you think you would have chosen to start a new life in the colonies? Why or why not?