

UNIT 1 Shaping the New World
Origins of the American Tradition to 1800



COMPARING TEXTS

THE
GENERAL HISTORY
OF VIRGINIA

OF
PLYMOUTH
PLANTATION

WITH
JIM SOTO



SPEAK YOUR MIND

Would you move to a “strange land” knowing you’d have to survive hostile conditions?

What would you need to believe to keep on going and not give up?

Take a minute to consider and answer these questions.

In 1587, a group of 117 English settlers, led by Sir Walter Raleigh and John White, landed on Roanoke Island off the coast of North Carolina.

Conditions were rough for the colonists, and the natives in the area were largely unwilling to help them. When the colonists ran short of supplies, White returned to England for supplies. However, his return was delayed by several years due to England's war with Spain. In 1590, White returned to Roanoke Island there was no trace of the settlers left behind. The fate of the colonists remains a mystery to this day.



The General History of Virginia and *Of Plymouth Plantation* are both **first-hand accounts** of the first two permanent British colonies in North America after the Roanoke failure. One was written by John Smith and the other by William Bradford. Both share significant similarities but also have pronounced differences. We'll be reading and comparing excerpts of both.



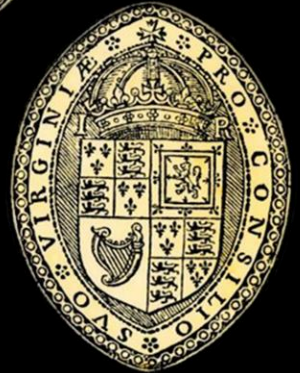


Both *The General History of Virginia* and *Of Plymouth Plantation* are considered **foundational texts**, that is documents of enormous historical significance in the history of the United States. They provide first-hand accounts of the experiences of Smith and Bradford during the establishment and early years of their respective colonizing efforts.

from THE GENERAL HISTORY OF VIRGINIA

In *The General History of Virginia*, John Smith presents a detailed account of events in the Virginia Colony from 1607, the year of its founding, to 1609, the year he left.

Smith was hired by the Virginia Company of London to assist in a project that would return great profit for great risk. Smith clashed with the leaders of the colonists “*that understood not at all what they undertook.*”



from OF PLYMOUTH PLANTATION

William Bradford wrote *Of Plymouth Plantation*, which describes how the Separatists (later Pilgrims) settled in the Dutch Republic as exiles, the 1620 Mayflower voyage, until 1647; the 27th anniversary of the colony. It's considered the single most authoritative story of the Pilgrims and their early years in the colony they founded.

While the colonists hoped that life in the New World would be profitable, their primary motive for leaving England was to escape religious persecution. They were sometimes discouraged by the hardships they endured, but they persevered, sustained by their belief that "God's providence" would protect them.

LITERARY ELEMENTS

Nonfiction Accounts

Also known as creative nonfiction or literary nonfiction, is a true story written in the style of a fiction novel. The narrative nonfiction form contains factual prose that is written in a compelling way—facts told as a story.



LITERARY ELEMENTS

Point of View

In literature and storytelling, a point of view or narrative mode is the related experience or account of the narrator — not that of the author.

Literary narration can occur from the omniscient, first-person, second-person or third-person limited point of view.



AS YOU READ



John Smith and William Bradford undertook similar journeys but with quite different purposes and results. As you read each man's account of his experiences, trace the use of **point of view**. Consider how the use of point of view affects the telling of each account.

ASSESSMENT

After reading pages 24-29, 33 in & E11 your book, complete the activities:

1. REFER TO TEXT &
2. REASON WITH TEXT
3. & COMPARE LITERATURE
 - **Point of View** - What point or points of view does each writer use? What effect does the writer's choice have on the telling of the story? Consider which story seems more real or compelling.

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