Letter from Plymouth

*Standards: 8.3*

**William Hilton to cousin, 1621**

Dear Cousin,

When we arrived at new Plymouth, in New England, we found all our friends who had come before us to be in good health. The Indians who live around us are peaceable and friendly. The climate here is mild and good for planting. There are many fruits that grow here naturally. Trees like those in England cover the land. The forests are full of animals of all sorts. There are great flocks of wild turkeys, quails, pigeons and partridges. There are many great lakes filled with fish, water birds, beavers, and otters. The sea provides us with plenty of all kinds of excellent fish. We all own land here. Most of the settlers here are very religious and honest people. We have church services every Sunday. We have everything a person needs to be happy here. Please send my wife and children to be with me here.

Your loving relative,

William Hilton

Questions

1. How does William Hilton describe New England?

2. Why do you think he left his wife and children behind with his cousin in England?

3. If you read this letter do you think that you would be willing to leave your home and settle in New England? Why or why not.