

Pre-reading Vocabulary

Word List A

affirmed [uh FERMD] *v.* declared to be true

The witness affirmed that the car did not stop at the light.

calamity [kuh LAM uh tee] *n.* disaster; deep trouble; misery

Losing that factory will be a real calamity for this town.

consultation [kahn suhl TAY shun] *n.* discussion; conversation

My mother had a long consultation about my grades with my teacher.

certify [SERT uh fy] *v.* guarantee to be true or accurate

This document will certify that you are a French citizen.

encountered [en KOWN terd] *v.* met; faced

On our trip we encountered many remarkable people.

entangled [en TAN guhld] *v.* caught in; to be involved in something that will be difficult to escape

The rabbit was entangled in the wire fence.

omit [oh MIT] *v.* leave out; fail to include

Answer the first five questions but omit the last one.

perceiving [per SEEV ing] *v.* taking note of; grasping mentally

Mary was very good at perceiving the truth behind what people said.

Word List B

commodities [kuh MAWD uh teez] *n.* useful things; products

The store sold all the basic commodities we needed.

comprised [kuhm PRYZD] *v.* made up of; made the contents clear

Our country is comprised of fifty states.

mercy [MER see] *n.* kindness or forgiveness shown to someone

The queen showed mercy to the traitors.

relent [ri LENT] *v.* become less severe

We waited over an hour for the storm to relent.

resolved [ri ZAWLVD] *v.* determined; decided

She resolved not to give up, no matter how difficult it became.

rogue [ROHG] *n.* scoundrel; someone who is dishonest

Every club member was such a rogue that no one trusted any of them.

scoff [SKAWF] *v.* mock; show contempt

It is unwise to scoff at the warnings of health officials.

staunch [STAWNCH] *adj.* steadfast; strong; faithful

He is a staunch supporter of equal rights.

from Of Plymouth Plantation by William Bradford
Vocabulary Warm-up Exercises

Exercise A *Fill in the blanks, using each word from Word List A only once.*

I saw a great adventure movie last night. It was about a plane that crashed in the Amazon jungle and how the passengers survived such a terrible [1] _____. Radio messages [2] _____ that the plane had indeed gone down, but authorities were unable to [3] _____ the exact location. Luckily, the plane made a relatively soft landing, as it was [4] _____ in vines and trees. However, just when the people realized they were okay, they [5] _____ all kinds of troubles—wild animals, extreme heat, and incredible hunger and thirst. After some [6] _____ among themselves, they decided to stay in one spot, [7] _____ that this would make it easier for the rescuers to find them. I don't want to spoil it for you, so I'll [8] _____ a description of the ending, but the climax is a real surprise.

Exercise B *Decide whether each statement below is true or false. Circle T or F, and explain your answer*

1. It is always a good idea to do business with a rogue.
T / F _____
2. If you scoff at danger, you are full of fear and anxiety.
T / F _____
3. If a teacher gives too much homework, you might ask him to relent.
T / F _____
4. Someone who resolved to quit a bad habit decided to continue it.
T / F _____
5. A general store is a good place to find all types of commodities.
T / F _____
6. If you told what a dessert is comprised of, you have revealed the ingredients.
T / F _____
7. If you are a staunch member of a group, you support the group completely.
T / F _____
8. To beg for mercy means you accept a harsh punishment.
T / F _____

from Of Plymouth Plantation by William Bradford

Reading Warm-up A

Read the following passage. Then, complete the activities.

One of the mysteries of early America is the fate of the Lost Colony of Roanoke. In 1587, a group of English settlers built a village on Roanoke Island off the coast of what is now North Carolina. The Roanoke colonists encountered all manner of hardship. They faced starvation, fear, discouragement, and Native Americans who did not trust them. The governor, John White, found it necessary to return to England for supplies, and the colonists agreed that if they left the site, they would carve their destination on a tree.

When White returned in 1590, everyone in the colony had vanished. “Cro” was carved on a tree, and “Croatan” was etched on a fence. But why did the colonists omit any further information, leaving out some idea of their plan? Croatan was a nearby island, but no evidence has ever been found to certify that the colonists arrived there.

History, science, legend, and guesswork have become entangled, caught in a web of possibilities. One possible theory is that the colonists, perceiving danger, set out for Chesapeake Bay, but that this journey met with disaster. Another theory is that Spanish soldiers wiped out the colonists. The truth is that no one knows what calamity brought about the settlers’ end.

Today, the Fort Raleigh National Historic Site oversees the area. Over the years, people have uncovered objects that affirmed the existence of the colony at the site and supported the historical claims. However, remains of the actual settlement have not been found. After consultation and examination of the evidence, some scientists think that the site may now be under water. Archaeologists hope to continue to excavate in the area and eventually solve the mystery of the Lost Colony of Roanoke.

1. Circle the word that means the same as encountered. Use *encountered* in a sentence about a situation that you’ve found challenging.
2. Underline the words that explain omit. If you write your initials, what do you *omit*?
3. Underline the word that helps explain certify. How do you *certify* that you agree to a contract?
4. Circle the word that helps explain entangled. Use *entangled* in a sentence.
5. Underline the word that identifies what the colonists were perceiving. Give some words that mean the same thing as *perceiving*.
6. Underline the words that tell what the calamity did to the settlers. Name a *calamity* that has been in the news recently.
7. Circle the words that tell what the objects affirmed. Use *affirmed* in a sentence.
8. Give a word that means the same as consultation. Briefly explain something you might have a *consultation* about with your friends.

from Of Plymouth Plantation by William Bradford

Reading Warm-up B

Read the following passage. Then, complete the activities.

Americans are familiar with the early events described by William Bradford in his magnificent chronicle, *Of Plymouth Plantation*—the voyage, the Mayflower Compact, the landing, the Starving Time, the First Thanksgiving. However, Bradford's book did not end with the events of 1621. It is comprised of records of Plymouth up to 1647, including tales of remarkable privation and danger. For all the commendations that history has given Bradford, even more praise should be given to him for dealing with such adversity over so many years.

In 1623, for example, some sailors staying in Plymouth resolved to fight the cold by building a huge fire, deciding to burn down a number of houses. The fire was set next to the communal storehouse, which housed the people's basic commodities, such as grain, vegetables, and meat. Only with tremendous effort was the colony's food supply saved. Bradford admits that if the storehouse had been destroyed, the colony would not have survived.

In 1633, an outbreak of smallpox ravaged the community, followed by an attack of locusts that ate everything in sight. Even the most staunch and devoted of the colonists began to doubt they could survive plagues of such biblical proportions. Some perhaps began to question divine mercy in the face of such cruel disasters. However, misfortune did not relent. In 1635 a hurricane struck, and in 1638 an earthquake shook the area.

Three ships full of pirates landed in Plymouth in 1646. Each pirate was such a rogue that he would show contempt for the rule of law and scoff at the attempts of the villagers to keep them under control. Bradford had great difficulty in maintaining order. After six weeks, the pirates sailed away to find richer plunder than in Bradford's fragile but iron-willed community.

1. Underline the word that helps explain comprised. The U.S. Congress is *comprised* of two governing bodies; name them.
2. Circle the words that tell what the sailors resolved to do. Name something that people have often *resolved* to do on New Year's Day.
3. Underline the words that identify commodities. Name three *commodities* you would find in a supermarket.
4. Circle the word that means the same as staunch. How would you expect a *staunch* friend to act in a crisis?
5. Tell why the colonists began to doubt divine mercy. Have you ever asked for *mercy* from someone? Tell about it.
6. Circle the words that show that nature did not relent. Use *relent* in a sentence of your own.
7. Underline the word that tells who was a rogue. Give another word that means the same as *rogue*.
8. Underline the words that explain scoff. Define *scoff* in your own words.