

profit: (n.) money earned

separatist: (n.) Pilgrims

The cost of maintaining a colony in the New World could cost as much as \$22,000. So to pay for these expeditions, people created joint stock companies. This is similar to the stock market of today. People who bought shares in the joint stock company would get a share of the *profits*. The *Separatists* had a business agreement with a group of London adventurers (investors). The Separatists were given shares in the company. The colonists were suppose to pay off the price of their trip and earn their shares by working entirely for the company. The company promised to send over food and supplies. The Separatists agreed to fish, cut wood for lumber, and grow crops for sale to England. This agreement was suppose to last for 7 years then the colonists would receive their own shares in the colony.

1. What was the business agreement?
2. Why would the people in London invest their money in Plymouth? Cite evidence from the text.
3. Why would the Separatists agree to this plan?
4. How would the colonists pay back their debt?
5. According to the text, what was the main reason for establishing Plymouth?
6. Why is the purpose of the colony important?