

before the mayflower

before the mayflower, the tapestry of African American history was already rich, complex, and deeply rooted in the lands that would become the United States. This article explores the significant events, cultures, and societal contributions that shaped African American heritage long before the arrival of the Mayflower in 1620. By delving into ancient African civilizations, early transatlantic encounters, and the lasting impact of these histories on modern society, readers will gain a comprehensive understanding of the depth and resilience of a people whose story began centuries before European colonization. Topics covered include pre-colonial African societies, early African presence in the Americas, and the enduring legacy of these historical foundations. Engaging and fact-based, this guide invites readers to discover the true roots of African American culture and history, providing insight that challenges conventional narratives and broadens perspectives.

- Pre-Colonial African Civilizations
- Early African Presence in the Americas
- Transatlantic Encounters Before the Mayflower
- Cultural Contributions and Legacies
- Influence on Modern African American Identity

Pre-Colonial African Civilizations

Before the Mayflower, the history of Africa was marked by the rise and fall of powerful civilizations that contributed to world culture, science, and commerce. These societies present a vibrant tableau of achievement and innovation, contradicting misconceptions about Africa prior to European contact.

The Kingdoms of West Africa

The West African kingdoms, such as Ghana, Mali, and Songhai, flourished from the 7th to the 16th centuries. These empires were renowned for their wealth, advanced governance, and intellectual centers, such as Timbuktu. The region was pivotal in global trade, exchanging gold, salt, and other valuable resources with North Africa and the Mediterranean. The legacy of these kingdoms is evident in the sophisticated social organization and artistic traditions that continue to influence African American culture.

Achievements in Science and Learning

Pre-colonial African societies excelled in various fields, including mathematics, astronomy, metallurgy, and medicine. Timbuktu's libraries contained thousands of manuscripts, illustrating the scholarly pursuits of African academics. The architectural marvels of Great Zimbabwe and the pyramids of Nubia further highlight the ingenuity and resourcefulness of these civilizations.

Social Structures and Traditions

African communities were organized into intricate social systems, with a strong emphasis on family, kinship, and communal responsibility. Oral traditions, music, and dance played central roles in preserving history and fostering social cohesion. These elements later became foundational aspects of African American cultural identity.

- Ghana Empire: Center of gold trade and governance
- Mali Empire: Known for Mansa Musa, scholarship, and prosperity
- Songhai Empire: Military strength and administrative efficiency
- Nubia and Kush: Early pyramids and ironworking
- Great Zimbabwe: Stone architecture and trade networks

Early African Presence in the Americas

Long before the Mayflower, evidence suggests that people of African descent may have made contact with the Americas. While mainstream academia debates the extent and nature of these encounters, historical and archaeological findings indicate a presence that predates European colonization.

Ancient Maritime Expeditions

Some scholars propose that West African navigators, using advanced boat-building techniques, reached the shores of the Americas as early as the 13th century. Artifacts and cultural similarities found in pre-Columbian sites hint at transatlantic interactions and exchanges. These theories, while controversial, have sparked renewed interest in the global movements of ancient peoples.

Evidence from Archaeology and Oral Tradition

Archaeological discoveries, such as African-styled sculptures and botanical remains in South America and the Caribbean, provide tantalizing clues about early African presence. Oral histories from indigenous tribes also recount encounters with seafaring strangers, possibly from Africa, who brought new knowledge and customs to their communities.

Transatlantic Encounters Before the Mayflower

The transatlantic slave trade is often cited as the first major point of contact between Africa and the Americas, but exchanges occurred centuries before the Pilgrims set sail. These interactions laid the groundwork for the complex social and economic networks that would shape the New World.

Portuguese and Spanish Exploration

By the late 15th century, Portuguese and Spanish explorers began trading and enslaving Africans, transporting them to the Iberian Peninsula and eventually to the Americas. Africans were among the earliest non-indigenous settlers in regions such as Florida, Mexico, and the Caribbean, contributing labor, agricultural expertise, and cultural practices.

Early African Communities in the New World

Africans established communities and played significant roles in colonial societies. They participated in building infrastructure, cultivating crops, and defending settlements. In places like St. Augustine, Florida, free and enslaved Africans formed the backbone of the nascent colonies, shaping the demographic and cultural landscape long before the arrival of the Mayflower.

Cultural Contributions and Legacies

African civilizations contributed rich cultural legacies to the Americas, long before the English Pilgrims arrived. These legacies continue to influence music, language, religion, cuisine, and art in contemporary society.

Music, Dance, and Spirituality

African rhythms, instruments, and dance traditions became integral to the cultural fabric of the Americas. These elements fused with indigenous and European forms, creating new

genres and expressions such as jazz, blues, gospel, and hip-hop. Spiritual beliefs and practices, rooted in African cosmology and ancestor worship, also shaped religious traditions across the continent.

Culinary Traditions

The introduction of African crops, cooking techniques, and foodways enriched the culinary landscape of the Americas. Dishes such as gumbo, rice-based recipes, and spicy stews reflect the enduring influence of African heritage on American cuisine.

Language and Storytelling

African languages and oral storytelling techniques blended with indigenous and European traditions, giving rise to unique dialects, folklore, and literary forms. The resilience of African American storytelling continues to be a vital means of preserving history and transmitting values across generations.

Influence on Modern African American Identity

The history before the Mayflower serves as a cornerstone for understanding modern African American identity. Recognizing the achievements, struggles, and contributions of African peoples prior to European colonization fosters a deeper appreciation of cultural heritage and resilience.

Reclaiming Historical Narratives

Efforts to uncover and teach the true history of African Americans before the Mayflower empower communities to challenge stereotypes and reclaim agency over their stories. This process involves scholarly research, cultural revitalization, and educational initiatives aimed at highlighting the significance of African civilization in world history.

Heritage and Legacy Today

Modern African American culture reflects the enduring legacies of pre-colonial African societies, early transatlantic encounters, and the adaptation of traditions under challenging circumstances. Celebrations of heritage, such as Kwanzaa, and the preservation of oral histories reinforce the importance of these roots in shaping contemporary identity and values.

Questions and Answers About Before the Mayflower

Q: What does "before the Mayflower" refer to in African American history?

A: "Before the Mayflower" refers to the history, societies, and cultural contributions of African peoples prior to the arrival of the Pilgrims in 1620, highlighting their presence and influence in the Americas and beyond.

Q: Which African kingdoms were prominent before the Mayflower?

A: The Ghana, Mali, and Songhai Empires were among the most prominent African kingdoms, known for their wealth, scholarly achievements, and intricate social systems.

Q: Did Africans arrive in the Americas before Europeans?

A: Evidence suggests that Africans may have made contact with the Americas before European colonization, through maritime expeditions and as part of early Spanish and Portuguese settlements.

Q: What are some cultural contributions from Africa to the Americas before the Mayflower?

A: African contributions include music, dance, culinary traditions, agricultural knowledge, and spiritual beliefs that have shaped the cultural landscape of the Americas.

Q: How did pre-colonial African societies influence modern African American identity?

A: The achievements and traditions of pre-colonial African societies provide a foundation for modern African American identity, instilling pride and resilience through the preservation of heritage and storytelling.

Q: What role did Africans play in early colonial settlements?

A: Africans played key roles in building infrastructure, cultivating crops, and defending early colonial settlements, particularly in regions like Florida and the Caribbean.

Q: Why is it important to study history before the Mayflower?

A: Studying history before the Mayflower is essential for understanding the true origins and contributions of African peoples, challenging incomplete narratives and celebrating the depth of African American heritage.

Q: What are some achievements of ancient African civilizations?

A: Ancient African civilizations excelled in governance, trade, scholarship, architecture, and the arts, with centers like Timbuktu serving as hubs of intellectual activity.

Q: How has African oral tradition shaped American culture?

A: African oral tradition has influenced American storytelling, folklore, and literary forms, ensuring the transmission of history and values across generations.

Q: Are there archaeological findings supporting African presence in the Americas before the Mayflower?

A: Yes, archaeological findings such as African-styled artifacts and botanical remains suggest early African presence in regions of South America and the Caribbean, supporting theories of pre-Columbian contact.

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Before the Mayflower: Unveiling the Untold Story of North America

Before the iconic Mayflower arrived on Plymouth Rock in 1620, shaping the narrative of American colonization, a rich and complex history unfolded across the North American continent. This blog post delves into the captivating story of the land before the Pilgrims, exploring the diverse cultures,

sophisticated societies, and dramatic events that shaped the landscape long before the arrival of European settlers. We'll uncover the lives of the indigenous peoples, their intricate social structures, and the significant impact of their presence on the land that would eventually become the United States. Get ready to rewrite your understanding of American beginnings!

The Indigenous Peoples: A Tapestry of Cultures

Before the arrival of Europeans, North America was home to a vast array of Indigenous peoples, each with its own unique language, customs, and societal structures. It wasn't a single homogenous group, but rather a mosaic of distinct nations, spread across diverse geographical regions.

Diverse Societies and Lifestyles:

From the nomadic hunter-gatherer societies of the Great Plains to the sophisticated agricultural civilizations of the Southwest, the diversity of Indigenous life was astounding. The Iroquois Confederacy, for instance, with its complex political system and powerful alliances, stands as a testament to the advanced social structures present long before European contact. Similarly, the Mississippian culture, known for its impressive earthworks and hierarchical social organization, flourished in the southeastern United States. These societies were not primitive; they were vibrant, complex, and deeply connected to their environment.

Advanced Agricultural Practices:

Many Indigenous communities developed highly sophisticated agricultural techniques, adapting to the unique characteristics of their environments. The Three Sisters farming method – cultivating corn, beans, and squash together – was a testament to their agricultural ingenuity, providing a sustainable food source for generations. Irrigation systems, intricate terracing, and carefully managed forests all demonstrate their deep understanding of and respect for the land.

The Impact of European Contact: A Precursor to Colonization

While the Mayflower's arrival marked a pivotal moment in American history, the story of European contact with North America begins long before 1620. Early explorers, traders, and missionaries established initial interactions, often marked by both collaboration and conflict.

Early Explorations and Trade:

The voyages of Norse explorers, such as Leif Erikson, predate the arrival of Columbus by centuries. While their impact was limited, these early explorations laid the groundwork for future European incursions. Subsequent voyages by Spanish, French, and English explorers brought increasing contact with Indigenous populations, leading to the establishment of trading networks and, unfortunately, the spread of devastating diseases.

The Columbian Exchange: A Double-Edged Sword:

The Columbian Exchange, the widespread transfer of plants, animals, culture, human populations, technology, and ideas between the Americas, West Africa, and the Old World in the 15th and 16th centuries, had a profound impact on both sides of the Atlantic. While introducing new crops to Europe, it also devastatingly introduced diseases like smallpox, measles, and influenza to the Americas, decimating Indigenous populations. This ecological and demographic upheaval fundamentally altered the landscape and set the stage for future colonization.

Warfare and Displacement:

As European powers sought to establish colonies, conflicts with Indigenous peoples intensified. Competition for resources, land, and power resulted in numerous wars and massacres, leading to the displacement and dispossession of Indigenous communities. The narrative of peaceful coexistence is often oversimplified; the reality was a far more complex and often violent encounter.

Reframing American History: The Importance of Understanding "Before the Mayflower"

Understanding the period before the Mayflower is crucial for a complete and accurate understanding of American history. It allows us to move beyond a Eurocentric narrative, recognizing the richness and complexity of Indigenous cultures and the significant impact of their presence on the land. It also forces us to confront the difficult legacy of colonization and its ongoing consequences.

Conclusion

The story of North America before the Mayflower is a story of resilience, innovation, and profound loss. It is a narrative that deserves to be told, understood, and incorporated into the broader understanding of American history. By acknowledging the contributions and experiences of Indigenous peoples, we can build a more accurate, nuanced, and inclusive narrative of the nation's past.

FAQs

1. What were some of the major technological achievements of Indigenous societies before European contact? Indigenous societies developed sophisticated agricultural techniques, including irrigation systems, terracing, and the Three Sisters farming method. They also created intricate tools, weapons, and dwellings adapted to their environments.
2. How did different Indigenous groups interact with each other? Interactions varied widely. Some groups formed alliances and trading networks, while others engaged in conflict over resources or territory. The Iroquois Confederacy is a prime example of a powerful political alliance between different nations.
3. What were the long-term effects of the Columbian Exchange? The Columbian Exchange drastically altered the demographics and ecology of both the Americas and Europe. While introducing new crops and animals, it also brought devastating diseases that decimated Indigenous populations and reshaped the landscape.
4. How can we learn more about the lives of Indigenous peoples before European contact? Archaeological research, oral histories, and the study of Indigenous languages and traditions provide crucial insights into the lives of Indigenous peoples before European contact. Museums, historical societies, and academic institutions are valuable resources for this research.
5. Why is it important to learn about the period before the Mayflower in the context of contemporary American society? Understanding this period helps us to recognize the ongoing legacy of colonization and the need for reconciliation. It fosters a more inclusive understanding of American identity and promotes respect for Indigenous cultures and perspectives.

before the mayflower: Before the Mayflower Lerone Bennett, 2018-08-09 This book grew out of a series of articles which were published originally in Ebony magazine. The book, like the series, deals with the trials and triumphs of a group of Americans whose roots in the American soil are deeper than those of the Puritans who arrived on the celebrated "Mayflower" a year after a "Dutch man of war" deposited twenty Negroes at Jamestown. This is a history of "the other Americans" and how they came to North America and what happened to them when they got here. The story begins in Africa with the great empires of the Sudan and Nile Valley and ends with the Second Reconstruction which Martin Luther King, Jr., and the "sit-in" generation are fashioning in the North and South. The story deals with the rise and growth of slavery and segregation and the continuing efforts of Negro Americans to answer the question of the Jewish poet of captivity: "How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?" This history is founded on the work of scholars and specialists and is designed for the average reader. It is not, strictly speaking, a book for scholars; but it is as scholarly as fourteen months of research could make it. Readers who would like to follow

the story in greater detail are urged to read each chapter in connection with the outline of Negro history in the appendix.

before the mayflower: Before the Mayflower Lerone Bennett, 1969

before the mayflower: **Indian New England Before the Mayflower** Howard S. Russell, 1983-06-01 Provides a history of the New England Indians and examines their food, housing, and lifestyle

before the mayflower: **Mayflower** Nathaniel Philbrick, 2006-05-09 Vivid and remarkably fresh...Philbrick has recast the Pilgrims for the ages.--The New York Times Book Review Finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in History New York Times Book Review Top Ten books of the Year With a new preface marking the 400th anniversary of the landing of the Mayflower. How did America begin? That simple question launches the acclaimed author of *In the Hurricane's Eye* and *Valiant Ambition* on an extraordinary journey to understand the truth behind our most sacred national myth: the voyage of the Mayflower and the settlement of Plymouth Colony. As Philbrick reveals in this electrifying history of the Pilgrims, the story of Plymouth Colony was a fifty-five year epic that began in peril and ended in war. New England erupted into a bloody conflict that nearly wiped out the English colonists and natives alike. These events shaped the existing communities and the country that would grow from them.

before the mayflower: Before the Mayflower Lerone Bennett (Jr.), 1969 The black experience in America-- starting from its origins in western Africa up to the present day-- is examined in this seminal study from a prominent African American figure. The entire historical timeline of African Americans is addressed, from the Colonial period through the civil rights upheavals of the 1960s and 1970s. The most recent scholarship on the geographic, social, economic, and cultural journeys of African Americans, together with vivid portraits of key black leaders, complete this comprehensive reference.

before the mayflower: **Before the Mayflower** J. L. Rose, 2018-11-03 The product of three decades of research, this brilliant novel reveals the story (1587-1620), before the famous Atlantic crossing. Rich with details of 16th & 17th century England and Holland, the dramatic path to the Mayflower is illuminated, filled with risk and romance. Who will board the ship? Was it for love, land, or religious freedom?

before the mayflower: A History of Black America Howard O. Lindsey, 1994

before the mayflower: **The Mayflower** Rebecca Fraser, 2017-11-07 From acclaimed historian and biographer Rebecca Fraser comes a vivid narrative history of the Mayflower and of the Winslow family, who traveled to America in search of a new world. "There is nothing sleep-inducing about the chronicle crafted by Ms. Fraser . . . There is more to the Pilgrims' story—more to American identity and character—than our Thanksgiving rituals and reveries." —Wall Street Journal The voyage of the Mayflower and the founding of Plymouth Colony is one of the seminal events in world history. But the poorly-equipped group of English Puritans who ventured across the Atlantic in the early autumn of 1620 had no sense they would pass into legend. They had eighty casks of butter and two dogs but no cattle for milk, meat, or ploughing. They were ill-prepared for the brutal journey and the new land that few of them could comprehend. But the Mayflower story did not end with these Pilgrims' arrival on the coast of New England or their first uncertain years as settlers. Rebecca Fraser traces two generations of one ordinary family and their extraordinary response to the challenges of life in America. Edward Winslow, an apprentice printer, fled England and then Holland for a life of religious freedom and opportunity. Despite the intense physical trials of settlement, he found America exotic, enticing, and endlessly interesting. He built a home and a family, and his remarkable friendship with King Massasoit, Chief of the Wampanoags, is part of the legend of Thanksgiving. Yet, fifty years later, Edward's son Josiah was commanding the New England militias against Massasoit's son in King Philip's War. The Mayflower is an intensely human portrait of the Winslow family written with the pace of an epic. Rebecca Fraser details domestic life in the seventeenth century, the histories of brave and vocal Puritan women and the contradictions between generations as fathers and sons made the painful decisions which determined their future in America.

before the mayflower: The Mayflower Libby Romero, 2020-08-18 Discover the real history behind the Mayflower in this illustrated nonfiction storybook for kids ages 7 to 9, timed to coincide with the 400th anniversary of the Pilgrims' famous voyage to the Americas. Step on board the Mayflower and meet the amazing crew and passengers, from burly sailors to pilgrims, servants, orphaned children, and animals. Discover who the pilgrims were and why they chose to risk their lives to make the treacherous journey across the Atlantic, relive the ferocious storms as the Mayflower crested gigantic waves, find out what life was really like on board for the 102 passengers, and discover the secret history of the second ship, the Speedwell. Learn the real story of the Pilgrims' fateful landing on the shores of what is now Massachusetts. What happened when they met the tribes native to the area and how much truth is there in the Thanksgiving legend? Discover the hardships faced by the Pilgrims on their quest for a new life, and appreciate the sad reality of what happened in the devastating winter that followed their long and dangerous voyage. Beautifully illustrated with incredible cutaway diagrams of the ship, comprehensive maps, storylike narrative, and detailed timelines, this ebook brings the history of the Mayflower to life for a whole new generation. This stunning ebook makes the perfect gift to commemorate one of the most famous adventures in history in what will be an important year of remembrance.

before the mayflower: The Shaping of Black America Lerone Bennett (Jr.), 1975 A developmental history of the African-American struggle for autonomy and power discusses black slaves and white indentured servants, the black founding fathers, the relationship between African-Americans and native Americans, and other issues.

before the mayflower: *Inventing American Tradition* Jack David Eller, 2018-09-15 What really happened on the first Thanksgiving? How did a British drinking song become the US national anthem? And what makes Superman so darned American? Every tradition, even the noblest and most cherished, has a history, none more so than in the United States—a nation born with relative indifference, if not hostility, to the past. Most Americans would be surprised to learn just how recent (and controversial) the origins of their traditions are, as well as how those origins are often related to such divisive forces as the trauma of the Civil War or fears for American identity stemming from immigration and socialism. In pithy, entertaining chapters, *Inventing American Tradition* explores a set of beloved traditions spanning political symbols, holidays, lifestyles, and fictional characters—everything from the anthem to the American flag, blue jeans, and Mickey Mouse. Shedding light on the individuals who created these traditions and their motivations for promoting them, Jack David Eller reveals the murky, conflicted, confused, and contradictory history of emblems and institutions we very often take to be the bedrock of America. What emerges from this sideways take on our most celebrated Americanisms is the realization that all traditions are invented by particular people at particular times for particular reasons, and that the process of “traditioning” is forever ongoing—especially in the land of the free.

before the mayflower: Mayflower Lives Martyn Whittock, 2019-08-06 Leading into the 400th anniversary of the voyage of the Mayflower, Martyn Whittock examines the lives of the “saints” (members of the Separatist puritan congregations) and “strangers” (economic migrants) on the original ship who collectively became known to history as “the Pilgrims.” The story of the Pilgrims has taken on a life of its own as one of our founding national myths—their escape from religious persecution, the dangerous transatlantic journey, that brutal first winter. Throughout the narrative, we meet characters already familiar to us through Thanksgiving folklore—Captain Jones, Myles Standish, and Tisquantum (Squanto)—as well as new ones. There is Mary Chilton, the first woman to set foot on shore, and asylum seeker William Bradford. We meet fur trapper John Howland and little Mary More, who was brought as an indentured servant. Then there is Stephen Hopkins, who had already survived one shipwreck and was the only Mayflower passenger with any prior American experience. Decidedly un-puritanical, he kept a tavern and was frequently chastised for allowing drinking on Sundays. Epic and intimate, *Mayflower Lives* is a rich and rewarding book that promises to enthrall readers of early American history.

before the mayflower: Four Hundred Souls Ibram X. Kendi, Keisha N. Blain, 2021-02-02 #1

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • A chorus of extraordinary voices tells the epic story of the four-hundred-year journey of African Americans from 1619 to the present—edited by Ibram X. Kendi, author of *How to Be an Antiracist*, and Keisha N. Blain, author of *Set the World on Fire*. FINALIST FOR THE ANDREW CARNEGIE MEDAL • NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY The Washington Post, Town & Country, Ms. magazine, BookPage, She Reads, BookRiot, Booklist • “A vital addition to [the] curriculum on race in America . . . a gateway to the solo works of all the voices in Kendi and Blain’s impressive choir.”—The Washington Post “From journalist Hannah P. Jones on Jamestown’s first slaves to historian Annette Gordon-Reed’s portrait of Sally Hemings to the seductive cadences of poets Jericho Brown and Patricia Smith, *Four Hundred Souls* weaves a tapestry of unspeakable suffering and unexpected transcendence.”—O: The Oprah Magazine The story begins in 1619—a year before the Mayflower—when the White Lion disgorges “some 20-and-odd Negroes” onto the shores of Virginia, inaugurating the African presence in what would become the United States. It takes us to the present, when African Americans, descendants of those on the White Lion and a thousand other routes to this country, continue a journey defined by inhuman oppression, visionary struggles, stunning achievements, and millions of ordinary lives passing through extraordinary history. *Four Hundred Souls* is a unique one-volume “community” history of African Americans. The editors, Ibram X. Kendi and Keisha N. Blain, have assembled ninety brilliant writers, each of whom takes on a five-year period of that four-hundred-year span. The writers explore their periods through a variety of techniques: historical essays, short stories, personal vignettes, and fiery polemics. They approach history from various perspectives: through the eyes of towering historical icons or the untold stories of ordinary people; through places, laws, and objects. While themes of resistance and struggle, of hope and reinvention, course through the book, this collection of diverse pieces from ninety different minds, reflecting ninety different perspectives, fundamentally deconstructs the idea that Africans in America are a monolith—instead it unlocks the startling range of experiences and ideas that have always existed within the community of Blackness. This is a history that illuminates our past and gives us new ways of thinking about our future, written by the most vital and essential voices of our present.

before the mayflower: The 1619 Project Nikole Hannah-Jones, The New York Times Magazine, 2024-06-04 #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • NAACP IMAGE AWARD WINNER • A dramatic expansion of a groundbreaking work of journalism, *The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story* offers a profoundly revealing vision of the American past and present. “[A] groundbreaking compendium . . . bracing and urgent . . . This collection is an extraordinary update to an ongoing project of vital truth-telling.”—Esquire NOW AN EMMY-NOMINATED HULU ORIGINAL DOCUSERIES • FINALIST FOR THE KIRKUS PRIZE • ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR: The Washington Post, NPR, Esquire, Marie Claire, Electric Lit, Ms. magazine, Kirkus Reviews, Booklist In late August 1619, a ship arrived in the British colony of Virginia bearing a cargo of twenty to thirty enslaved people from Africa. Their arrival led to the barbaric and unprecedented system of American chattel slavery that would last for the next 250 years. This is sometimes referred to as the country’s original sin, but it is more than that: It is the source of so much that still defines the United States. The New York Times Magazine’s award-winning 1619 Project issue reframed our understanding of American history by placing slavery and its continuing legacy at the center of our national narrative. This book substantially expands on that work, weaving together eighteen essays that explore the legacy of slavery in present-day America with thirty-six poems and works of fiction that illuminate key moments of oppression, struggle, and resistance. The essays show how the inheritance of 1619 reaches into every part of contemporary American society, from politics, music, diet, traffic, and citizenship to capitalism, religion, and our democracy itself. This book that speaks directly to our current moment, contextualizing the systems of race and caste within which we operate today. It reveals long-glossed-over truths around our nation’s founding and construction—and the way that the legacy of slavery did not end with emancipation, but continues to shape contemporary American life. Featuring contributions from: Leslie Alexander • Michelle Alexander • Carol Anderson • Joshua Bennett • Reginald Dwayne Betts • Jamelle Bouie • Anthea Butler • Matthew Desmond • Rita Dove •

Camille T. Dungy • Cornelius Eady • Eve L. Ewing • Nikky Finney • Vievee Francis • Yaa Gyasi • Forrest Hamer • Terrance Hayes • Kimberly Annece Henderson • Jeneen Interlandi • Honorée Fanonne Jeffers • Barry Jenkins • Tyehimba Jess • Martha S. Jones • Robert Jones, Jr. • A. Van Jordan • Ibram X. Kendi • Eddie Kendricks • Yusef Komunyakaa • Kevin M. Kruse • Kiese Laymon • Trymaine Lee • Jasmine Mans • Terry McMillan • Tiya Miles • Wesley Morris • Khalil Gibran Muhammad • Lynn Nottage • ZZ Packer • Gregory Pardlo • Darryl Pinckney • Claudia Rankine • Jason Reynolds • Dorothy Roberts • Sonia Sanchez • Tim Seibles • Evie Shockley • Clint Smith • Danez Smith • Patricia Smith • Tracy K. Smith • Bryan Stevenson • Nafissa Thompson-Spires • Natasha Trethewey • Linda Villarosa • Jesmyn Ward

before the mayflower: 100 Amazing Facts About the Negro with Complete Proof J. A. Rogers, 2012-07-25 White supremacy-busting facts that ran in the black publication the Pittsburgh Courier, written by the renowned African American author and journalist. First published in 1934 and revised in 1962, this book gathers journalist and historian Joel Augustus Rogers' columns from the syndicated newspaper feature titled Your History. Patterned after the look of Ripley's popular Believe It or Not the multiple vignettes in each episode recount short items from Rogers's research. The feature began in the Pittsburgh Courier in November 1934 and ran through the 1960s. "I have been intrigued by this book, and by its author, since I first encountered it as a student in an undergraduate survey course in African-American history at Yale . . . Sometimes, [Rogers] was astonishingly accurate; at other times, he seems to have been tripping a bit, shall we say." —Henry Louis Gates, Jr., The Root "Rogers made great contribution to publishing and distributing little known African history facts through books and pamphlets such as 100 Amazing Facts About the Negro with Complete Proof and The Five Negro Presidents . . . The common thread in Roger's research was his unending aim to counter white supremacist propaganda that prevailed in segregated communities across the United States against people of African descent." —Black History Heroes

before the mayflower: Pilgrim Children on the Mayflower Ida DeLage, 1980 The voyage of the Mayflower is recounted through the eyes of the children on board.

before the mayflower: 1620 Peter W. Wood, 2020-11-10 Was America founded on the auction block in Jamestown in 1619 or aboard the Mayflower in 1620? The controversy erupted in August 2019 when the New York Times announced its 1619 Project. The Times set to transform history by asserting that all the laws, material gains, and cultural achievements of Americans are rooted in the exploitation of African-Americans. Historians have pushed back, saying that the 1619 Project conjures a false narrative out of racial grievance. This book sums up what the critics have said and argues that the traditional starting point for the American story--the signing of the Mayflower Compact aboard ship before the Pilgrims set foot in the Massachusetts wilderness--is right. A nation as complex as ours, of course, has many starting points, including the Declaration of Independence in 1776. But if we want to understand where the quintessential ideas of self-government and ordered liberty came from, the deliberate actions of the Mayflower immigrants in 1620 count much more than the near accidental arrival in Virginia fifteen months earlier of a Portuguese slave ship commandeered by English pirates. Schools across the country have already adopted The Times' radical revision of history as part of their curricula. The stakes are high. Should children be taught that our nation is, to its bone, a 400-year-old system of racist oppression? Or should we teach children that what has always made America exceptional is its pursuit of liberty and justice for all?

before the mayflower: Mayflower Rebecca Siegel, 2020-08-18 Join the Pilgrims on their perilous journey across the ocean, as they start a new life in North America. This stunning book marks the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower's voyage, with edge-to-edge illustrated scenes, interspersed with detailed maps, inventories and cutaways, along with engaging, narrative text to make this a history book to treasure and pour over time and again. Learn about the perilous journey, the crew and passengers, the cargo on board and what happened when they finally dropped anchor in Cape Cod. Meet the Wampanoag people and learn about how the Pilgrims' arrival changed their way of life. Atmospheric artwork and detailed scenes will spark your imagination as you discover the amazing true story behind the birth of a nation. Find out as if you were there: Who were the

Pilgrims? Why did they want to leave England? Why was the journey so perilous? What was the Mayflower Compact? Who are the Wampanoag? How did the Pilgrims interact with the Wampanoag? What happened at the first Thanksgiving? What became of the Mayflower? This fact-packed children's book includes a comprehensive timeline of events, an author's note, plus a glossary and ideas for further learning.

before the mayflower: A Voyage Long and Strange Tony Horwitz, 2008-04-29 The bestselling author of *Blue Latitudes* takes us on a thrilling and eye-opening voyage to pre-Mayflower America. On a chance visit to Plymouth Rock, Tony Horwitz realizes he's mislaid more than a century of American history, from Columbus's sail in 1492 to Jamestown's founding in 1606-something. Did nothing happen in between? Determined to find out, he embarks on a journey of rediscovery, following in the footsteps of the many Europeans who preceded the Pilgrims to America. An irresistible blend of history, myth, and misadventure, *A Voyage Long and Strange* captures the wonder and drama of first contact. Vikings, conquistadors, French voyageurs—these and many others roamed an unknown continent in quest of grapes, gold, converts, even a cure for syphilis. Though most failed, their remarkable exploits left an enduring mark on the land and people encountered by late-arriving English settlers. Tracing this legacy with his own epic trek—from Florida's Fountain of Youth to Plymouth's sacred Rock, from desert pueblos to subarctic sweat lodges—Tony Horwitz explores the revealing gap between what we enshrine and what we forget. Displaying his trademark talent for humor, narrative, and historical insight, *A Voyage Long and Strange* allows us to rediscover the New World for ourselves.

before the mayflower: Beheld TaraShea Nesbit, 2020-03-17 A New York Times Notable Book of the Year A Publishers Weekly Best Fiction Book of 2020 Most Anticipated Books of 2020 - Vogue, Medium, LitHub Honoree for the 2021 Society of Midland Authors Prize Finalist for the 2021 Ohioana Book Award in fiction A Massachusetts Book Awards "Must Read Book" From the bestselling author of *The Wives of Los Alamos* comes the riveting story of a stranger's arrival in the fledgling colony of Plymouth, Massachusetts—and a crime that shakes the divided community to its core. Ten years after the Mayflower pilgrims arrived on rocky, unfamiliar soil, Plymouth is not the land its residents had imagined. Seemingly established on a dream of religious freedom, in reality the town is led by fervent puritans who prohibit the residents from living, trading, and worshipping as they choose. By the time an unfamiliar ship, bearing new colonists, appears on the horizon one summer morning, Anglican outsiders have had enough. With gripping, immersive details and exquisite prose, TaraShea Nesbit reframes the story of the pilgrims in the previously unheard voices of two women of very different status and means. She evokes a vivid, ominous Plymouth, populated by famous and unknown characters alike, each with conflicting desires and questionable behavior. Suspenseful and beautifully wrought, *Beheld* is about a murder and a trial, and the motivations—personal and political—that cause people to act in unsavory ways. It is also an intimate portrait of love, motherhood, and friendship that asks: Whose stories get told over time, who gets believed—and subsequently, who gets punished?

before the mayflower: U.S. History P. Scott Corbett, Volker Janssen, John M. Lund, Todd Pfannestiel, Sylvie Waskiewicz, Paul Vickery, 2024-09-10 *U.S. History* is designed to meet the scope and sequence requirements of most introductory courses. The text provides a balanced approach to U.S. history, considering the people, events, and ideas that have shaped the United States from both the top down (politics, economics, diplomacy) and bottom up (eyewitness accounts, lived experience). *U.S. History* covers key forces that form the American experience, with particular attention to issues of race, class, and gender.

before the mayflower: The Romantic Story of the Mayflower Pilgrims, and Its Place in the Life of To-day A. C. Addison, 2023-09-17 In 'The Romantic Story of the Mayflower Pilgrims, and Its Place in the Life of To-day' by A.C. Addison, readers are taken on a captivating journey through the historical events surrounding the Mayflower Pilgrims. Addison's literary style is both informative and engaging, providing readers with a vivid portrayal of the struggles and triumphs of this iconic group. The book is rich in historical detail, offering a unique perspective on the impact of the

Mayflower Pilgrims on modern society. It is a must-read for history enthusiasts and anyone interested in the roots of American culture. Throughout the book, Addison skillfully weaves together historical facts with a touch of romanticism, making it an enjoyable read for all audiences. A.C. Addison's deep knowledge of the subject matter is evident in his detailed descriptions and well-researched narrative. His passion for history shines through in every page, making this book a valuable contribution to the field of historical literature. I highly recommend 'The Romantic Story of the Mayflower Pilgrims, and Its Place in the Life of To-day' to anyone looking to delve into the fascinating story of the Mayflower Pilgrims and their enduring legacy.

before the mayflower: The Journey to the Mayflower Stephen Tomkins, 2021-10-12 An authoritative and immersive history of the far-reaching events in England that led to the sailing of the Mayflower. 2020 brought readers the 400th anniversary of the sailing of the Mayflower—the ship that took the Pilgrim Fathers to the New World. It is a foundational event in American history, but it began as an English story, which pioneered the idea of religious freedom. The illegal underground movement of Protestant separatists from Elizabeth I's Church of England is a story of subterfuge and danger, arrests and interrogations, prison and executions. It starts with Queen Mary's attempts to burn Protestantism out of England, which created a Protestant underground. Later, when Elizabeth's Protestant reformation didn't go far enough, radicals recreated that underground, meeting illegally throughout England, facing prison and death for their crimes. They went into exile in the Netherlands, where they lived in poverty—and finally to the New World. Historian Stephen Tomkins tells this fascinating story—one that is rarely told as an important piece of English, as well as American, history—that is full of contemporary relevance: religious violence, the threat to national security, freedom of religion, and tolerance of dangerous opinions. This is a must-read book for anyone interested in the untold story of how the Mayflower came to be launched.

before the mayflower: *Bound in Time* D. F. Jones, 2019-03-21 Modern man's most persistent and powerful dream is about to come true. He is ready to travel through time. And who better to take the leap than Mark Elverson, a man with an inoperable heart condition? The far future can only be an improvement for him ... or can it?

before the mayflower: Making Haste from Babylon Nick Bunker, 2010-04-13 At the end of 1618, a blazing green star soared across the night sky over the northern hemisphere. From the Philippines to the Arctic, the comet became a sensation and a symbol, a warning of doom or a promise of salvation. Two years later, as the Pilgrims prepared to sail across the Atlantic on board the Mayflower, the atmosphere remained charged with fear and expectation. Men and women readied themselves for war, pestilence, or divine retribution. Against this background, and amid deep economic depression, the Pilgrims conceived their enterprise of exile. Within a decade, despite crisis and catastrophe, they built a thriving settlement at New Plymouth, based on beaver fur, corn, and cattle. In doing so, they laid the foundations for Massachusetts, New England, and a new nation. Using a wealth of new evidence from landscape, archaeology, and hundreds of overlooked or neglected documents, Nick Bunker gives a vivid and strikingly original account of the Mayflower project and the first decade of the Plymouth Colony. From mercantile London and the rural England of Queen Elizabeth I and King James I to the mountains and rivers of Maine, he weaves a rich narrative that combines religion, politics, money, science, and the sea. The Pilgrims were entrepreneurs as well as evangelicals, political radicals as well as Christian idealists. *Making Haste from Babylon* tells their story in unrivaled depth, from their roots in religious conflict and village strife at home to their final creation of a permanent foothold in America.

before the mayflower: *The Last Pilgrim* Noelle Granger, 2020-03-30 This book captures and celebrates the grit and struggle of the Pilgrim women, specifically Mary Allerton Cushman, who stepped off the Mayflower in the winter of 1620 to an unknown world - one filled with hardship, danger and death. The Plymouth Colony would not have survived without them. Mary's life is set against the real background of that time. What was a woman's life like in the Plymouth Colony? *The Last Pilgrim* will show you.

before the mayflower: Of Plymouth Plantation, 1620-1647 William Bradford, 1952 Records the

history of Plymouth Plantation as written by Bradford in his journals of 1620-1647.

before the mayflower: The Boy Who Fell Off the Mayflower, or John Howland's Good Fortune P. J. Lynch, 2018-10-02 "This feast of a book . . . will captivate readers from its opening double-page spread. . . . Sweeping and grand, this personal take on a familiar story is an engaging success." — Kirkus Reviews (starred review) Leaving the docks of London on the Mayflower as an indentured servant to Pilgrim John Carver, John Howland little knew that he was embarking on the adventure of a lifetime. By his great good fortune, John survived falling overboard on the crossing of the Atlantic Ocean, and he earned his keep ashore by helping to scout a safe harbor and landing site for his bedraggled and ill shipmates. Would his luck continue to hold amid the dangers and adversity of the Pilgrims' lives in New England? P.J. Lynch captures this pivotal moment in American history in precise and exquisite detail, from the light on the froth of a breaking wave to the questioning voice of a teen in a new world.

before the mayflower: *Between Two Worlds* Malcolm Gaskill, 2014-11-11 In the 1600s, over 350,000 intrepid English men, women, and children migrated to America, leaving behind their homeland for an uncertain future. Whether they settled in Jamestown, Salem, or Barbados, these migrants -- entrepreneurs, soldiers, and pilgrims alike -- faced one incontrovertible truth: England was a very, very long way away. In *Between Two Worlds*, celebrated historian Malcolm Gaskill tells the sweeping story of the English experience in America during the first century of colonization. Following a large and varied cast of visionaries and heretics, merchants and warriors, and slaves and rebels, Gaskill brilliantly illuminates the often traumatic challenges the settlers faced. The first waves sought to recreate the English way of life, even to recover a society that was vanishing at home. But they were thwarted at every turn by the perils of a strange continent, unaided by monarchs who first ignored then exploited them. As these colonists strove to leave their mark on the New World, they were forced -- by hardship and hunger, by illness and infighting, and by bloody and desperate battles with Indians -- to innovate and adapt or perish. As later generations acclimated to the wilderness, they recognized that they had evolved into something distinct: no longer just the English in America, they were perhaps not even English at all. These men and women were among the first white Americans, and certainly the most prolific. And as Gaskill shows, in learning to live in an unforgiving world, they had begun a long and fateful journey toward rebellion and, finally, independence

before the mayflower: History Smashers: Women's Right to Vote Kate Messner, 2020-07-07 Myths! Lies! Secrets! Smash the stories behind famous moments in history and expose the hidden truth. Perfect for fans of *I Survived* and Nathan Hale's *Hazardous Tales*. In 1920, Susan B. Anthony passed a law that gave voting rights to women in the United States. RIGHT? WRONG! Susan B. Anthony wasn't even alive when the Nineteenth Amendment was ratified. Plus, it takes a lot more than one person to amend the constitution. The truth is, it took millions of women to get that amendment into law. They marched! They picketed! They even went to jail. But in the end, it all came down to a letter from a state representative's mom. No joke. Through illustrations, graphic panels, photographs, sidebars, and more, acclaimed author Kate Messner smashes history by exploring the little-known details behind the fight for women's suffrage. Don't miss *History Smashers: The Mayflower!*

before the mayflower: The 1619 Project Book University Press, 2021-11-03 University Press returns with another short and captivating book - a brief history of The 1619 Project. In August of 1619, a pirate ship sailed its way through the still-warm waters of The Atlantic Ocean, heading north along the coast of North America, a continent that was then known to most Europeans as the New World. The ship arrived at Jamestown in the British colony of Virginia, carrying an expensive cargo that the pirates hoped to sell to the colonists - Africans. The ship's crew had stolen the 20 or 30 Africans from a Portuguese slave ship. And that slave ship had captured the men and women from an area of west Africa that would one day be Angola. Thus began a 250-year history of slavery in a land that would later become the United States of America. In August of 2019, on the 400-year anniversary of the introduction of African slavery to America, *The New York Times Magazine*

released a 100-page spread called *The 1619 Project*, a collection of essays and profiles that discusses the history and legacy of slavery in America and, in the words of its authors, aims to reframe the country's history by placing the consequences of slavery and the contributions of Black Americans at the very center of the United States' national narrative. But this bold reframing of America's history has attracted withering criticism, generated intense controversy, and stimulated a fierce national debate. This short book peels back the veil and provides a clear-eyed glimpse into the explosive history of *The 1619 Project* - a glimpse that you can read in about an hour.

before the mayflower: Teaching White Supremacy Donald Yacovone, 2022-09-27 A powerful exploration of the past and present arc of America's white supremacy—from the country's inception and Revolutionary years to its 19th century flashpoint of civil war; to the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s and today's Black Lives Matter. "The most profoundly original cultural history in recent memory." —Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Harvard University "Stunning, timely . . . an achievement in writing public history . . . Teaching White Supremacy should be read widely in our roiling debate over how to teach about race and slavery in classrooms. —David W. Blight, Sterling Professor of American History, Yale University; author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom* Donald Yacovone shows us the clear and damning evidence of white supremacy's deep-seated roots in our nation's educational system through a fascinating, in-depth examination of America's wide assortment of texts, from primary readers to college textbooks, from popular histories to the most influential academic scholarship. Sifting through a wealth of materials from the colonial era to today, Yacovone reveals the systematic ways in which this ideology has infiltrated all aspects of American culture and how it has been at the heart of our collective national identity. Yacovone lays out the arc of America's white supremacy from the country's inception and Revolutionary War years to its nineteenth-century flashpoint of civil war to the civil rights movement of the 1960s and today's Black Lives Matter. In a stunning reappraisal, the author argues that it is the North, not the South, that bears the greater responsibility for creating the dominant strain of race theory, which has been inculcated throughout the culture and in school textbooks that restricted and repressed African Americans and other minorities, even as Northerners blamed the South for its legacy of slavery, segregation, and racial injustice. A major assessment of how we got to where we are today, of how white supremacy has suffused every area of American learning, from literature and science to religion, medicine, and law, and why this kind of thinking has so insidiously endured for more than three centuries.

before the mayflower: The Shaping of Black America Lerone Bennett, 2007

before the mayflower: *Mayflower Maid* Sue Allan, 2005-07-01

before the mayflower: Plymouth Colony: Narratives of English Settlement and Native Resistance from the Mayflower to King Philip's War (LOA #337) Lisa Brooks, Kelly Wisecup, 2022-06-21 Four centuries after the Mayflower's arrival, a landmark collection of firsthand accounts charting the history of the English newcomers and their fateful encounters with the region's Native peoples For centuries the story of the Pilgrims and the Mayflower has been told and retold--the landing at Plymouth Rock and the first Thanksgiving, and the decades that followed, as the colonists struggled to build an enduring and righteous community in the New World wilderness. But the place where the Plymouth colonists settled was no wilderness: it was Patuxet, in the ancestral homeland of the Wampanoag people, a long-inhabited region of fruitful and sustainable agriculture and well-traveled trade routes, a civilization with deep historical memories and cultural traditions. And while many Americans have sought comfort in the reassuring story of peaceful cross-cultural relations embodied in the myth of the first Thanksgiving, far fewer are aware of the complex history of diplomacy, exchange, and conflict between the Plymouth colonists and Native peoples. Now, Plymouth Colony brings together for the first time fascinating first-hand narratives written by English settlers--Mourt's Relation, the classic account of the colony's first year; Governor William Bradford's masterful *Of Plimouth Plantation*; Edward Winslow's *Good News from New England*; the heterodox Thomas Morton's irreverent challenge to Puritanism, *New English Canaan*; and Mary Rowlandson's landmark captivity narrative *The Sovereignty and Goodness of God*--with a selection of

carefully chosen documents (deeds, patents, letters, speeches) that illuminate the intricacies of Anglo-Native encounters, the complex role of Christian Indians, and the legacy of Massasoit, Weetamoo, Metacom (King Philip), and other Wampanoag leaders who faced the ongoing incursion into their lands of settlers from across the sea. The interactions of Plymouth Colony and the Wampanoag culminated in the horrors of King Philip's War, a conflict that may have killed seven percent of the total population, Anglo and Native, of New England. While the war led to the end of Plymouth's existence as a separate colony in 1692, it did not extinguish the Wampanoag people, who still live in their ancestral homeland in the twenty-first century.

before the mayflower: They Knew They Were Pilgrims John G. Turner, 2020-04-07 An ambitious new history of the Pilgrims and Plymouth Colony, published for the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower's landing In 1620, separatists from the Church of England set sail across the Atlantic aboard the Mayflower. Understanding themselves as spiritual pilgrims, they left to preserve their liberty to worship God in accordance with their understanding of the Bible. There exists, however, an alternative, more dispiriting version of their story. In it, the Pilgrims are religious zealots who persecuted dissenters and decimated the Native peoples through warfare and by stealing their land. The Pilgrims' definition of liberty was, in practice, very narrow. Drawing on original research using underutilized sources, John G. Turner moves beyond these familiar narratives in his sweeping and authoritative new history of Plymouth Colony. Instead of depicting the Pilgrims as otherworldly saints or extraordinary sinners, he tells how a variety of English settlers and Native peoples engaged in a contest for the meaning of American liberty.

before the mayflower: *Mourt's Relation Or Journal of the Plantation at Plymouth ...* , 1865

before the mayflower: The Pilgrims Captivating History, 2021-06-18 Did you know that Plymouth was named by the explorer John Smith in 1608? Twelve years later, in 1620, the Pilgrims started their journey from Plymouth, England, and were blown off course, landing in Plymouth, North America. As if it was a sign from God, the Pilgrims decided not to continue their journey but to settle right where they landed, starting one of the earliest American communities. This book traces the journey of the Pilgrims before the Mayflower even set sail. To understand what drove the Pilgrims into a form of self-exile, one must look further back to when King Henry VIII of England ruled. Religion was very important to the American settlers, and when they were not allowed to practice it the way they wanted, the Separatists emerged, demanding their religious rights and freedoms. England wasn't ready to allow the Separatists the freedoms for which they asked, and they started thinking about leaving. Holland was a natural choice because it was one of the rare countries in Europe that allowed religious practice, at least in the way the Separatists saw as suitable. But even there, this religious community didn't find what they were looking for. They remained there for only a decade and decided to move once more. It was then that they realized they were Pilgrims. They were travelers in search of their holy place, a land they could call home and shape it to their needs. At that time, the American continent was being explored, and it called to all those who needed a new life, a new adventure, and new opportunities. The Pilgrims rushed to the New World only to discover it wasn't so new, as there were native cultures there who were more or less willing to share their world with strangers. Read The Pilgrims and find out: How did the Separatists come to be What was their life in Leiden like The Mayflower's journey across the ocean How did the Pilgrims survive the first winter How Squanto, a Native American, deserved the Pilgrims' respect and friendship The origins of Thanksgiving How the Native Americans accepted the settlers How the Puritans joined the Pilgrims What the great wars against the Native Americans were like How religious intolerance among the early settlers almost destroyed them And much more So if you want to learn more about the Pilgrims, scroll up and click the add to cart button!

before the mayflower: Forced Into Glory Lerone Bennett, 2007 Beginning with the argument that the Emancipation Proclamation did not actually free African American slaves, this dissenting view of Lincoln's greatness surveys the president's policies, speeches, and private utterances and concludes that he had little real interest in abolition. Pointing to Lincoln's support for the fugitive slave laws, his friendship with slave-owning senator Henry Clay, and conversations in which he

entertained the idea of deporting slaves in order to create an all-white nation, the book, concludes that the president was a racist at heart--and that the tragedies of Reconstruction and the Jim Crow era were the legacy of his shallow moral vision.

before the mayflower: *It's a Southern Thing* Kelly Kazek, 2020-11 Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house, We were sticky and sweaty 'cause this is the South. This is how the night before Christmas begins in the South. The weather may be balmy sometimes, but Southerners can still put on a Christmas celebration like no other. No matter the weather or the state, there's no mistaking Santa loves the South. This fun, whimsically illustrated version of the traditional Night Before Christmas is perfect for families to read aloud at their annual celebrations. Merry Christmas, y'all! As he flew overhead, he exclaimed in delight: 'Blessed Christmas to y'all and to y'all a good night!' - 28 Pages

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