

## “Massachusetts Bay”

*Anne Boleyn never did give him the son that he wanted;  
She had a girl who changed the world for all the people on it.*

*The Protestant wind in '88 wrecked the Spanish Armada,  
And Francis Drake and his pirates would take anything that they wanted.*

*But it was crowded back home and the king wouldn't leave us alone  
You know James was a bit of a Catholic  
So we sailed away*

*(Chorus)*

*To Massachusetts Bay call it New England Boston Town  
A city on the hill we found for all the world to see*

*We were Puritan, Calvinist, Congregationalist  
We caught endless pounds of fish and build thousands of the world's best ships  
And sold them back to England  
And in our first decade more than twenty thousand people came*

*(Chorus)*

*And we sent all the malcontents like Hutchinson and Williams south to Providence Rhode  
Island*

*And west to the Connecticut River valley shore and with the help of the Narragansett we  
won the Pequot war and now were here to stay*

*In Massachusetts Bay, Massachusetts Bay*

### **Historical Background:**

Henry VIII's daughter, Elizabeth, oversaw England's rise to power, which was exemplified by the English destroying the Spanish Armada in 1588. This ushered in a period of world dominance and the building of a colonial empire by England.

Massachusetts Bay was founded by a radical group of reformers who called themselves Puritans. In the early 1600s they criticized and rebelled against the religious practices that occurred under Elizabeth's successors, James I and Charles I. The Puritans were persecuted under James and Charles's reign, and this, coupled with overcrowding in England, motivated them to found a colony in North America, far north of Jamestown, where the city of Boston is currently located.

Unlike Jamestown, which was primarily a colony of single men looking to get rich quick and return to England, the Puritans crossed the ocean with their entire extended families. They were fishermen, shipbuilders and subsistence farmers. They wanted to set up a society that would be a model for the rest of the world to emulate. Tens of thousands came to this region in the 1630's and they spread out to form the four New England colonies of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New Hampshire.

