

A detailed illustration of the Mayflower sailing through a storm. The ship is a three-masted vessel with a red and white striped flag on the mainmast and a yellow flag on the foremast. It is navigating through dark, choppy blue waves under a dark blue sky with heavy rain falling diagonally. The ship's hull is brown with red and green decorative patterns. Several figures are visible on the deck. The overall mood is dramatic and perilous.

You
Wouldn't
Want to...

SAIL ON

THE

MAYFLOWER

Storms,
sickness and
the voyage
that changed
the world!

Written by Peter Cook • Illustrated by Kevin Whelan

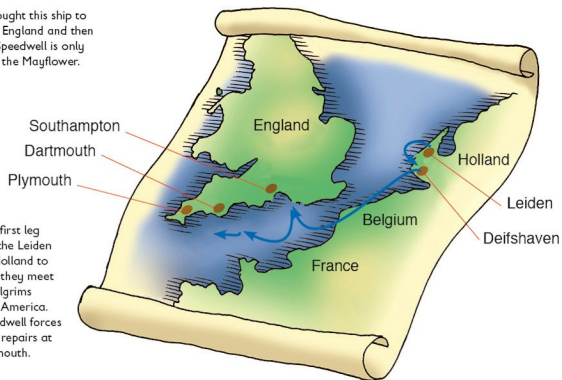
Departure from Plymouth



The group you're in joins the Pilgrims from Leiden in the port of Southampton. They have already sailed from Holland aboard the Speedwell. With your family and fellow Pilgrims, you board the Mayflower and, on 15 August 1620, the two ships set sail carrying 120 passengers between them. But the Speedwell begins to leak and has to make for port to be repaired. At Plymouth the leaders decided to abandon the Speedwell and move all of the passengers onto the Mayflower. A number of upset Pilgrims give up at this point. The Mayflower holds 102 passengers when she finally departs on September 16th.

THE SPEEDWELL

The Leiden group bought this ship to sail from Holland to England and then on to America. The Speedwell is only a third of the size of the Mayflower.



THE FIRST LEG

This map shows the first leg of the journey, with the Leiden group sailing from Holland to Southampton. There they meet with other English Pilgrims before departing for America. But the leaking Speedwell forces the ships to stop for repairs at Dartmouth and Plymouth.

Loading the Mayflower

The Pilgrims have to take with them all of the clothes, tools and equipment they would need in the New World – there are no shops there to buy new goods from. Your father is a boot and shoe maker and dealer, and he loaded 250 shoes and 13 pairs of boots onto the Mayflower.



The Mayflower

The 180-tonne vessel is roughly 27 metres long, 8 metres wide and carries sails across 3 masts and a bowsprit. Along with the rest of the passengers, you are berthed on the gun deck, which provides protection

from the weather. It is a crowded space and you and your parents use simple dividers to make a small 'cabin' to give you some privacy. You spend your time preparing food and helping your mother and other mothers with young children.

POOP HOUSE

Living quarters for the captain and some of the higher ranking crew.

STEERAGE

Where the pilot steers the ship using a 'whipstaff' (a stick that is moved back and forth to control the rudder).

GUN DECK (LIVING QUARTERS)

This is where the passengers live on the Mayflower. It has bunks fitted to accommodate them and most family groups use blankets to make dividers. These provide some privacy, but it is impossible to escape from the noise and the smells of the other passengers.

MAIN DECK

In good weather the passengers can exercise on the deck. This is a welcome relief from the dark, damp and smelly conditions of the gun deck.

HOLD

Located at the bottom of the ship, this is where the Pilgrims store food, tools and supplies.

Handy Hint

Watch out for large waves when you use the facilities on the beakhead!

FORECASTLE

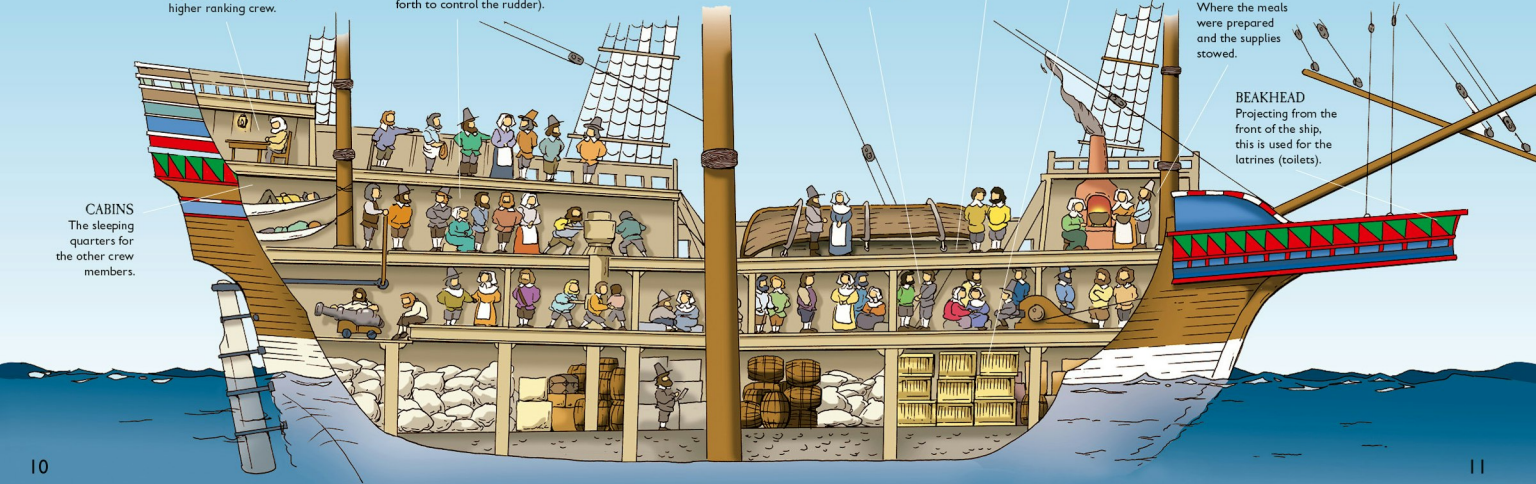
Where the meals were prepared and the supplies stowed.

BEAKHEAD

Projecting from the front of the ship, this is used for the latrines (toilets).

CABINS

The sleeping quarters for the other crew members.



The Crew

The Mayflower has a crew of about 30 (only a few of whom are now known by name). The ship's master (captain) is Christopher Jones, an experienced sailor about 50 years of age. He has a stake in the voyage, as he is part-owner of the Mayflower. The master's mates, John Clarke and Robert Coppin, have both sailed to Virginia and New England on earlier voyages. Giles Heale is the ship's surgeon and 21-year-old John Alden is the ship's cooper (barrel maker). Young and handsome, Alden catches your eye early on in the voyage. Later he would decide to join the Pilgrims and eventually becomes your husband.

Important Crew Members



NAVIGATOR
Responsible for plotting the ship's course.



HELMSMAN
Steers the Mayflower using the whipstaff.



SURGEON
Responsible for the health of everyone on board.



THE SAILMAKER
Responsible for maintaining and repairing the ship's sails.



A GUNNER
Maintains and fires the ship's cannon if under attack.

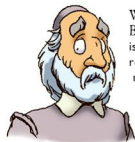


COOPER
Makes and repairs barrels for storing water.



The Passengers

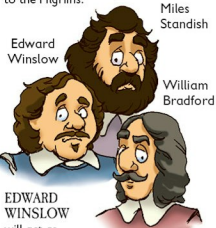
Who's Who:



William Brewster

WILLIAM BREWSTER is the Pilgrims' religious leader, responsible for approval from the London Virginia Company, who agreed to resettle them in America.

MILES STANDISH is a professional soldier, who was hired as a military advisor to the Pilgrims.



Edward Winslow

Miles Standish

William Bradford

EDWARD WINSLOW will act as a diplomat, negotiating with the Native Americans and suppliers in England.

WILLIAM BRADFORD will eventually become the governor of the Plymouth Colony, re-elected 30 times.

The 102 passengers live in close contact with one another for 66 days. They are formed from two groups, now known as the Leiden Contingent and the London Contingent. The 41 passengers from Leiden are led by William Brewster, Edward Winslow and William Bradford. Many of the men are adventurers, such as Miles Standish, who is travelling to America to make his fortune rather than to escape religious persecution.



Wives and children

Eighteen of the men have brought their wives with them, while several left wives behind, concerned about the dangers and hardship involved in settling in a new colony. That proves to be a wise decision, for three-quarters of the women will die by the end of the harsh, first winter in the colony.

Many families brought their children with them, but others left them behind with relatives, planning to send for them once the colony is set up. There are 32 children and young people on board. Aged around 17, you are the eldest of the girls. All 11 girls survive the voyage, but a couple won't make it through the first winter.

