

Part 1: Mayflower Travellers

400 years ago people left their lives in England to settle in America. Why did they do this and who did they meet when they got there? Find out more about those who set sail on the *Mayflower* in September 1620.

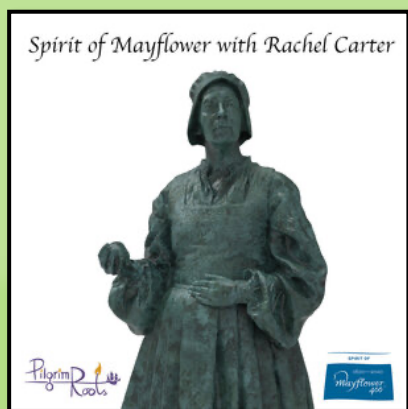
Part 1:

You will meet the travellers who made this famous journey.

Part 2:

You will meet the Wampanoag tribe & explore their art and culture linked to the exhibition: 'Wampum: Stories from the Shells of Native America' [Click here](#) to find out more.

Listen



[Click here](#) to hear about Artist Rachel Carter's journey in the footsteps of the Mayflower pilgrims.

Research



[Click here](#) to find out more about Mayflower 400

Have a go ...

Meet the Mayflower Travellers



Why did they make this dangerous journey across the ocean?

Who did they meet when they arrived?

What was life like when they settled in America?

Read their stories...

Start by reading the **background information** on the next page and then read the extracts about the different passengers on the *Mayflower*. If you want to read more they are in the separate **Mayflower Biographies** resource. Choose a family group and tell their story.

Have a go...



Create a storyboard to tell the story of what happened to your chosen group as they sailed on the *Mayflower* and landed in America.

Share Your Creations!

We would love to see your storyboard! Please send us your photos or tag us.

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At bit of background information...

2020 is a very important anniversary! It is 400 years since the *Mayflower* sailed from England to America. On board the ship were men, women and children who were sailing to a new home across the Atlantic Ocean. As they travelled and settled they met the **Native American tribes** who had been living in North America for thousands of years.

Some of the *Mayflower* passengers came from Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire. They wanted to break away from the Church of England and so they created a new group called the **Separatists**. They had to worship in secret to avoid being arrested. They managed to flee England and travelled to Leiden, in Holland, where they lived for 12 years.

Some of the *Separatists* wanted to find a land where they could live and worship freely. They chose America and were given permission to set up a colony in Virginia. Two ships started the voyage to the eastern coast of America. The *Speedwell* set sail from Leiden, Holland, to meet the *Mayflower* at Southampton, England. Unfortunately, the *Speedwell* twice developed a leak and the journey became too risky. Some of the passengers dropped out and the rest boarded the *Mayflower* and set sail on 16th September 1620. The journey was to take them 66 days!

On 9th November 1620 they landed in what is now Provincetown Harbour. They decided to build their new homes in an abandoned Native American **Patuxet** village. It was given the name Plymouth on a map drawn by an earlier traveller John Smith. They set up a **colony** known as the **Plimoth Plantation**. The new settlers probably knew little about the Native Americans living there.

The Wampanoag tribe were one of many **tribes** living along the east coast. They are known as the 'People of the First Light' and have lived there for 12,000 years.

They helped the settlers to survive. Today there are 5,000 people living in two **Wampanoag** tribal reservations, **Mashpee** and **Aquinnah**, along with several small bands. These all make up the Wampanoag Nation. 400 years ago there were many more Wampanoag but the settlers brought diseases with them!

There were many more people who sailed in the years after the *Mayflower*. There was conflict, war and peace and this had a big impact upon both the settlers and the Wampanoag tribe.

What else can you find out?
Research the words in green to find out more about why people sailed on the *Mayflower* and what happened after they arrived in America.

Mayflower Biographies

On 16th September 1620 the Mayflower set sail with 102 passengers plus crew (between 30 & 40). They spotted land in America on 9th November.

William Bradford's writings...

William Bradford travelled on the *Mayflower* and he has left us some fantastic details about about the passengers and settlers. The next few pages have some extracts from his writings. If you want to read more see the separate **Mayflower Biographies**.

Bradford wrote:

'The names of those which came over first, in the year 1620, and were by the blessing of God the first beginners and in a sort the foundation of all the Plantations and Colonies in New England; and their families.'

He ended the writings with the words:

'From William Bradford, Of Plimoth Plantation, 1650'

Portrait of Edward Winslow

This portrait is in the collections of the Pilgrim Hall Museum. Edward is the only one of the 102 pilgrims whose image we have.

This portrait is in the collections of the Pilgrim Hall Museum.



[Click here](#) to link to the website

Read their stories...

Read their stories...

William Bradford and Dorothy his wife, having but one child, a son left behind who came afterward.

William was baptised in Austerfield in Yorkshire, on 19th March 1589/90, and was orphaned by the age of seven. He was brought up by an uncle and by the age of about 18 in 1608, he had joined the Separatists in Amsterdam. He worked there as a silk weaver until he moved with the congregation to Leiden.

Dorothy May was born in about 1597 and was from Wisbech in Cambridgeshire. She was 16 when they married in Amsterdam in 1613. The Bradfords left their young son (John, about three years old) in Leiden when they sailed on the Mayflower.

In December 1620, whilst the ship was anchored in Provincetown Harbour, Dorothy fell overboard and drowned.

*After the death of John Carver, Bradford became the colony's governor overseeing its finance, justice and historic record. He married again on the 16th August 1623, to Alice Southworth, and began writing his history *Of Plymouth Plantation* in 1630, completing it in 1651. He died in 1657 leaving one of the most extensive libraries of the first colonists (valued at £14 3s) including two bibles, 30 books or sets of books and 53 small books.*

Their son John did come to America and lived in Duxbury, just outside the original colony.

Read more accounts in the separate
Mayflower Biographies resource.

Read their stories...

Mr. William Brewster, Mary, his wife, with two sons, whose names were **Love** and **Wrestling**. And a boy was put to him called **Richard More**, and another of his brothers. The rest of his children were left behind and came over afterwards.

William was born in Scrooby, Nottinghamshire in about 1566 and, like his father, served as the postmaster there. He went to Peterhouse, Cambridge in 1580 but didn't graduate. He married Mary by 1593.

William was instrumental in establishing the Separatist church. He left for Amsterdam in 1608 and then for Leiden in 1609. There he became a church elder and teacher, preaching to the congregation regularly, and publishing religious materials (with Edward Winslow and Thomas Brewer), which were illegally sent into England.

William and Mary's three eldest children - Jonathan (born in 1593), Patience (born in 1603) and Fear (born in 1605) did not travel on the Mayflower, but did go to the colony later. Their youngest sons, Love (aged about 13) and Wrestling (aged 9) travelled with their parents in 1620.

Mary died in the colony on 17th April 1627. William died in April 1644 aged about 80. He left nearly 400 books in his library.

Richard More was one of the four More children from Shipton, Shropshire. Following their parents' divorce, they travelled without either their mother or father. Richard was baptised in November 1614, so was about six when the Mayflower sailed. He became a mariner, making several return trips to England in the 1630s and 1640s, but was a tavern keeper by the 1670s.

Read more accounts in the separate
Mayflower Biographies resource.

Read their stories...

Mr. William White and Susanna his wife and one son called Resolved, and one born a-shipboard called Peregrine, and two servants named William Holbeck and Edward Thompson.

William was born by about 1590 and Susanna in about 1595. They married in 1615. There were two William Whites living in Leiden before the sailing of the Mayflower. One was a wool-comber and one was a tobacco merchant. It is possible that neither travelled to America and this William White boarded the ship in England.

The Whites' son, Resolved, was about five when they travelled. Susanna gave birth to another son, Peregrine (meaning traveller), while the Mayflower was anchored off Cape Cod.

William died during the first winter. Susanna was one of only four women to survive it. She remarried Edward Winslow. Theirs was the first marriage at the new colony in 1621.

Resolved survived and fought against the Wampanoag in King Philips War of 1676. He died in 1690.

Peregrine lived until he was over 80, dying in 1704.

William Holbeck may have been from Norwich and is believed to have been part of the Leiden community. He was one of nine men who did not sign the Mayflower Compact, when the ship arrived in 1620.

Edward Thompson was the first Mayflower passenger to die after the ship had anchored off Cape Cod.

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Read their stories...

James Chilton and his wife, and Mary their daughter; they had another daughter that was married, came afterward.

James Chilton was born in about 1556 and was from Canterbury, Kent. He was married by 1596. Although his wife's name is not known, she was excommunicated from St Peter Sandwich in Kent.

The family was living in Leiden in 1619, where he worked as a tailor. They had 11 children, but only James, his wife and their youngest daughter Mary, travelled on the Mayflower.

At 64, James was the oldest known passenger to make the voyage, but died on 8th December 1620 whilst the ship was anchored in Provincetown harbour. His wife died during the first winter, but their 13 year old daughter Mary survived.

Edward Fuller and his wife, and Samuel their son.

Edward was baptised in Redenhall in Norfolk in 1575. He was the brother of Samuel, who also travelled on the Mayflower. His wife may have been called Ann. They were living in Leiden before the sailing, and travelled with their son, Samuel, who was about 12.

Edward and his wife died during the first winter.

Samuel survived and had nine children. He died in 1683. His will gave a Native American called Joel to his son.

Read more accounts in the separate
Mayflower Biographies resource.