



0. TO AMERICA - Story Preface

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10. THE MAYFLOWER COMPACT

As the *Mayflower* and her passengers crossed the Atlantic, during the fall of 1620, they encountered bad weather. This image, by Mike Haywood, imagines how such a scene could have appeared during a storm. Copyright, Mike Haywood, all rights reserved. Image provided here as fair use for educational purposes and to acquaint new viewers with [Haywood's work](#).

Before both ships left [Southampton](#), there had been too few passengers to make the voyage to America. Additional people (referred to in primary sources as "strangers") joined the Separatists for the journey.

Who can imagine the depths of their collective disappointment when good sailing weather was given up to reach [Plymouth, England](#)? Instead of reaching the New World, they landed at the Old Barbican ([from which](#) they also [departed](#) a week later).

This time, however, the *Speedwell* would not attempt an Atlantic crossing. The [ship's log](#) (for [August 29/September 8](#)) notes:

*At conference of officers of ship [the Mayflower] and consort [the Speedwell] and the chief of the Planters, it was decided to send the SPEEDWELL back to London with some 18 or 20 of her passengers, transferring a dozen or more, with part of her lading, to the MAY-FLOWER.*

The *Mayflower* was "a bark of one hundred and eighty tuns burden." What, exactly, does *that* mean? During the 17th century, ships were described, among other things, by the amount of cargo they could carry. A "tun" was a large barrel which could hold about 265 gallons of wine. The *Mayflower*, at "one hundred and eighty tuns burden" could carry 180 of those barrels.

Once [passengers](#) and [cargo](#) were transferred from the *Speedwell*, she left Plymouth for London. Four days later, [flying both](#) the new "[Union Flag](#)" (created in 1606 to [signify](#) a united England and Scotland) and "[St. George's Cross](#)," (the flag of England), the [Pilgrims](#) sailed [out of](#) [Plymouth Harbor](#). Their destination?

*Laid course W.S.W. for northern coasts of Virginia.*

(Ship's Log: Wednesday, September 6/September 16)

Of the 102 [Mayflower passengers](#) (including paid servants, hired men and "strangers"), forty-one were Leiden Separatists. (The rest of *that* group, discouraged by all the delays and problems, had decided to remain behind.) [Thirty-two](#) passengers were children or young adults.

They were about to experience the difficulties of a late-fall ocean crossing.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/TO-AMERICA-Pilgrims-to-America-A-Pictorial-History>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/TO-AMERICA-Pilgrims-to-America-A-Pictorial-History>

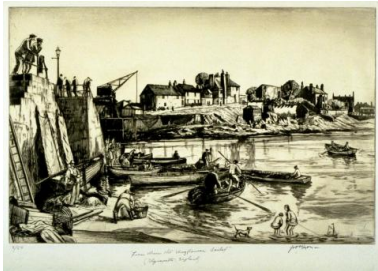


### Plymouth - Location of British Port

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Plymouth-Location-of-British-Port>



### Plymouth, England - Pilgrims Leave

Image, U.S. Library of Congress.

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Plymouth-England-Pilgrims-Leave>



### Tun Barrel - Illustration

Illustration of sailors carrying a tun barrel in 1597

By Duane A. Cline, courtesy *The Pilgrims & Plymouth Colony: 1620*

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Tun-Barrel-Illustration>



### Pilgrim Furniture - Early Days

Illustration of Pilgrim Furniture

By Duane A. Cline, courtesy *The Pilgrims & Plymouth Colony: 1620*

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Pilgrim-Furniture-Early-Days>



### Mayflower Flag - The Union Flag

Information and quoted passage, from the Royal Monarchy web site's page on *Ceremony and Symbol*.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Mayflower-Flag-The-Union-Flag>



### Plymouth, England - Pilgrim Departure Scene

Image, and description, online courtesy Michael Keating via the RevJohnRobinson website. (Rev. Robinson was a leader of the Pilgrims, while they lived in Leiden but died before he could personally make the journey to America.)

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Plymouth-England-Pilgrim-Departure-Scene>



### Mayflower Flag - St. George's Cross

Quoted passages, from the referenced works above, online courtesy Google Books.

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### Plymouth, England - Pilgrim Departure Pier

Image online, courtesy the dominey.biz website.

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### Plymouth, England - Pilgrim Departure Harbor

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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### TO AMERICA

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