

Mayflower 400 Teacher's Notes **A1+**

In September 2020 the United States will be celebrating the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the *Mayflower*, which left Plymouth in the south of England for America on 16 September 1620 and landed in what is now Massachusetts. This A1+ article gives very basic information, which consequently is not perfectly accurate, particularly as far as the actual date of the first Thanksgiving is concerned. Another point that could be discussed is who the Pilgrim Fathers were, and why they left England. Keep in mind the fact that this worksheet is meant for young learners. Building up a cultural competence is not an easy task, and starting with a few clichés can mean opening the way to questioning them later on, once you have acquired the general knowledge and the language to discuss them. Obviously the relationship between the Indians and the Europeans landing in their country will be a good point to question when pupils reach a B1 level.

Vocabulary and grammar

- the simple past. Regular endings and some irregular forms.
- the comparative.
- *enough* + noun
- vocabulary of travel: *ship, passenger, voyage, travel, leave*
- numbers and dates

Pronunciation

- word stress
- pronunciation of *museum, celebrate, voyage, Massachusetts, pneumonia, enough, die, finally, invite...*
- minimal pairs: *ship / sheep*

Reading, speaking, writing.

We suggest starting with the photo of the *Mayflower* replica and the crowds on the quay. Once your pupils have been able to name the flags, let them say and/or write what they think, so that they can check their answers later on. In a classroom conversation, make sure you don't give any answers yourself at this stage, as it is essential for students to express their own

opinions when no obvious information is given. The following activities are meant to have pupils gradually understand the story of the *Mayflower* and the Pilgrims in order to be able to tell it in their own words.

Learning

This could be set as homework or done in class once the reading activities have been completed. In both cases, the pairwork quiz should be carried on in class.

Solutions

A. 1. the United States of America, the United Kingdom, England

2. This is an **old** ship.

Flags: there's a flag of England/English flag. *Maybe this ship is English. Pupils will be able to check their answers towards the end of the worksheet, once they have learnt enough to be sure.*

People: there are **lots of** people.

I think it's ... *As above.*

B. 1.

Places: Atlantic, England, the New World, Massachusetts

People: passengers, Pilgrims, Squanto, Indians

Dates: 16 September 1620, 9 November 1620, March 1621, November 1621

Numbers: 102, 52, 90

2. **a.** England **b.** the New World = America **c.** Massachusetts **d.** the Atlantic **e.** England/ the United Kingdom/Britain and the United States

3. **a.** England **b.** America. He is an American Indian/Native American.

4. The sixteenth of September sixteen twenty / the ninth of November sixteen twenty / March sixteen twenty-one / November sixteen twenty-one

5. A hundred and two / fifty-two / ninety

6.

1 st syllable	2 nd syllable	3 rd syllable
Pilgrims	Atlantic	Massachusetts
Squanto	America	
England	September	
passengers	November	
Indians		

C. 3, 5, 1, 4, 7, 2, 6

The problems.

1. The conditions were very **hard/difficult** for the Pilgrims.

2. In winter, it was **colder** in Massachusetts **than** in the south of England.

3. There wasn't a lot of **food** and **clean water**.

The consequences.

1. They had to **stay / live** on the *Mayflower* because they didn't have **houses**.

2. A lot of them **died**.

So, we can say that the first winter was very **difficult** for the Pilgrims.

That's why they needed **help**.

The origins of Thanksgiving.

The Indians **helped** the Pilgrims. To say thank you, the **Pilgrims invited them to a big party/ had / organised a big party for them**.

E. This ship is..... I was right wrong. It's a I was right wrong.

The answers to these questions depend on the pupil's answers to A.

1620-2020: this year is the four hundredth anniversary of the *Mayflower*.

F. Learning

1. **a.** England / the south of England.

b. America. **c.** the *Mayflower* / a ship called the *Mayflower* **d.** in winter it was colder in America than in England and they didn't have enough food or clean water.

e. an Indian called Squanto / the Indians.

2. *This is only an example of what your pupils might be able to say.*

On the left of the picture there's a group of Indians. I think Squanto is the first one. On the right there are some Pilgrims. A woman is giving / offering the Indians some food. This is the first Thanksgiving. The Pilgrims invited the Indians to a big party to thank them for their help in their first winter in Massachusetts.

3. *These are only a few examples.*

questions	answers
When did the <i>Mayflower</i> leave England?	On 16 September 1620
How many people travelled on the ship?	102
When did the ship arrive in America?	On 9 November 1620
How many Pilgrims died the first winter?	52
Why did they die?	It was very cold, they didn't have a house, they didn't have enough food.