

Significant Mayflower dates

1620 Date	Event	Anniversary
15-Jul	65 passengers on board Mayflower leave Rotherhithe	25-Jul
19-Jul	Mayflower reaches Southampton	29-Jul
22-Jul	Speedwell leaves Delfshaven, with 31 passengers from Leiden	01-Aug
26-Jul	Speedwell rendezvous with Mayflower in Southampton	05-Aug
05-Aug	(Probable date) Both ships depart together from Southampton	15-Aug
12-Aug	(Perhaps 13th) Both ships put in to Dartmouth	22-Aug
Speedwell repaired in Dartmouth		
23-Aug	Both ships depart together from Dartmouth	02-Sep
	Past Lands End, Speedwell leaking again, both ships turn back	
28-Aug	Both ships anchor in Plymouth Harbour in Devon	07-Sep
Speedwell deemed unseaworthy, plan changed to Mayflower-only		
06-Sep	Mayflower alone departs from Plymouth Devon	16-Sep
	On board: 41 Saints (11 from Speedwell), 40 Strangers, 21 Servants, approx 30 Crew, 2 dogs, probably a few chickens, & goats.	
		continued

Allegedly - stop at Newlyn, Cornwall to take on drinking water

Death of 1 member of the crew, birth of Oceanus Hopkins
John Howland hauled back on board after being swept overboard

Allegedly - stop at Renews in Newfoundland, for fresh water & food

Death of William Button

09-Nov	Land sighted	19-Nov
11-Nov	Mayflower drops anchor at Cape Cod / Compact signed	21-Nov
66 days to cross the Atlantic (approx 3000 miles, about 45 miles/day)		
Birth of Peregrine White, 4 more deaths, including Dorothy Bradford		
16-Dec	Mayflower drops anchor in Plymouth harbour in north America	26-Dec
19-Dec	Settlement site chosen	29-Dec
1621		
05-Apr	1621 Mayflower sets sail on return journey to England	15-Apr
06-May	Mayflower docks at Rotherhithe	16-May
November 1621 The Fortune arrives with more settlers.		
		continued

Explanation of the Anniversary dates

In 1620, UK and its colonies used the Julian calendar, set up in the era of Julius Caesar. This had a leap year every 4 years, every time the year (number) was divisible by 4. However, it has been recognised that this is too frequent, so nowadays, in the Gregorian calendar, the century years are not leap years, unless divisible by 400.

The residents of UK, and the new colony in America, would thus have commemorated the centenary of the Mayflower's journey in 1720, as starting on 6 Sept, ending on 16 Dec. However, that would be 1 day late, in error, because of wrongly having 29 Feb 1700.

In 1752, there was a change, from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian Calendar. 11 days were dropped from September. In America, Benjamin Franklin noted that it was nice for him, as a 46-year-old man, to go to bed on 2nd September, and not have to get up again until the 14th.

Dates today are "shifted", so anniversaries occur on higher-numbered dates than in 1620, taking account of the extra day in 1700, and the "removed" 11 days in 1752.