



A DAY OF WELCOME

Friday 13th June 2025



*A day of solidarity
and learning in
schools*

*Building a culture of
welcome for
refugees and asylum
seekers*

All aboard
The
Mayflower!

*Why did a group
of English people
leave their homes
in 1608 to find a
new home across
the world?*



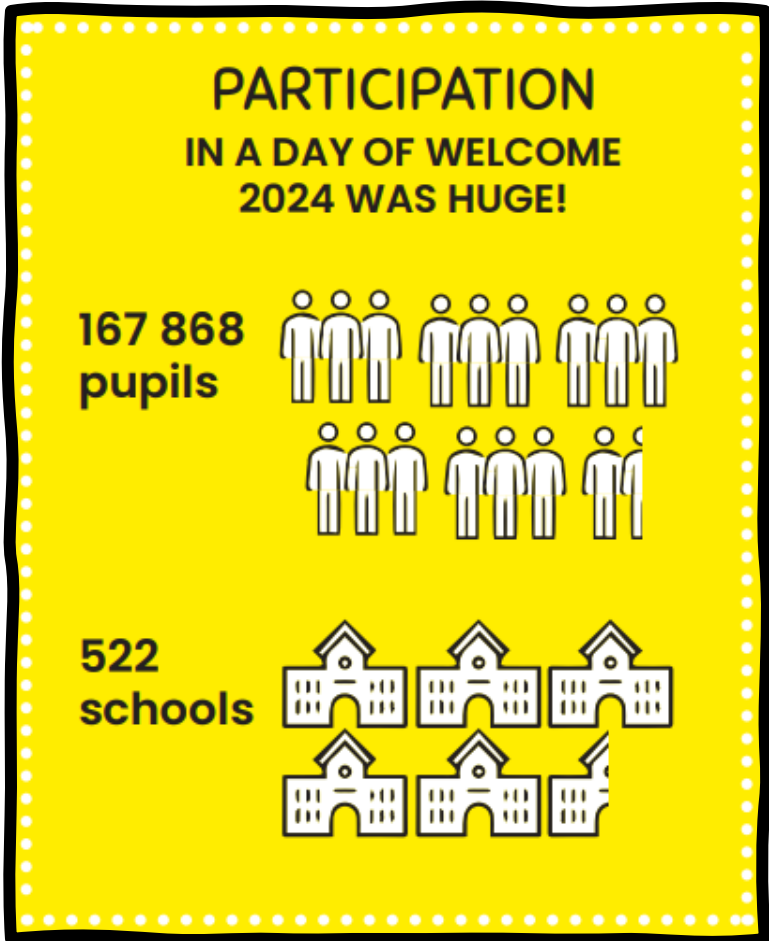
Today we are joining with schools across the country for **A Day of Welcome**.

It will show how our community can be a powerful and welcoming place.



It will help us to understand and share stories of migration, especially those of people who have been forced to flee their homeland.

*Let's make every day
A Day of Welcome!*



Let's go back in time to
the year 1608...417
years ago...

The king of England at that time was
James I and he was James VI of
Scotland too – the first time that
England and Scotland had the same
monarch.

He was very smart and liked to study
science and literature and art.

He was the King that Guy Fawkes
wanted to blow up in 1605!



Life in 1608

Most ordinary people were really poor and lived in the countryside. They worked on farms growing crops and looking after animals, often for a master.

Cities, like London were growing and changing. Many young men came to London to follow a trade and earn a living. There was a great deal of horrible disease that spread quickly through the dirty and crowded streets.



But there was a problem...

England was a country where nearly all of the people were Christians but there was a big disagreement because various groups of people wanted to practise their religion in a different way to other groups.

In 1534 King Henry VIII had broken away from the Catholic church.

King James now expected everyone to be part of the Church of England – Protestants.

Some people wanted to be Roman Catholics – which was very common until Henry VIII broke away for all sorts of reasons.

But...



... along came The Puritans

They were a group of Protestants who thought that The Church of England still had too many Catholic influences.

They wanted things to be simpler and stricter.

Because they didn't agree with the King and The Church of England they were 'persecuted'.

The Puritans were persecuted by the Church of England and the government.

They were put in prison, fined and cut off from society. They were treated as traitors and some were even executed!



So they moved...to the Netherlands

They decided to go to The Netherlands which they saw as a place of religious freedom where they would be safe to be who they wanted to be but even this was not easy.

They often had to leave secretly, taking very little with them. They were afraid of drowning on the flimsy boats and, when they arrived, they had little money and couldn't even speak Dutch.



Were they settled?

Well, yes for the next 11 or 12 years.

Most found work in the cloth trades, while others were carpenters, tailors and printers. They had to work really hard!

But the Netherlands had been at war with Spain (which was a Catholic country) and their 'truce' was due to expire in 1621.

So, the Puritans felt that they needed to escape again so they became refugees for a second time!



Where did they decide to go this time?

On July 22nd 1620, a group of 102 'pilgrims' and 25 crew left the Netherlands on a small ship called the Speedwell.

They sailed to Southampton in England to meet another ship called the Mayflower.

They planned to sail to America, which they thought would be a place where they could establish a 'colony' and live by their own rules and free from persecution.

There were 31 children among the passenger – 21 boys and 10 girls.

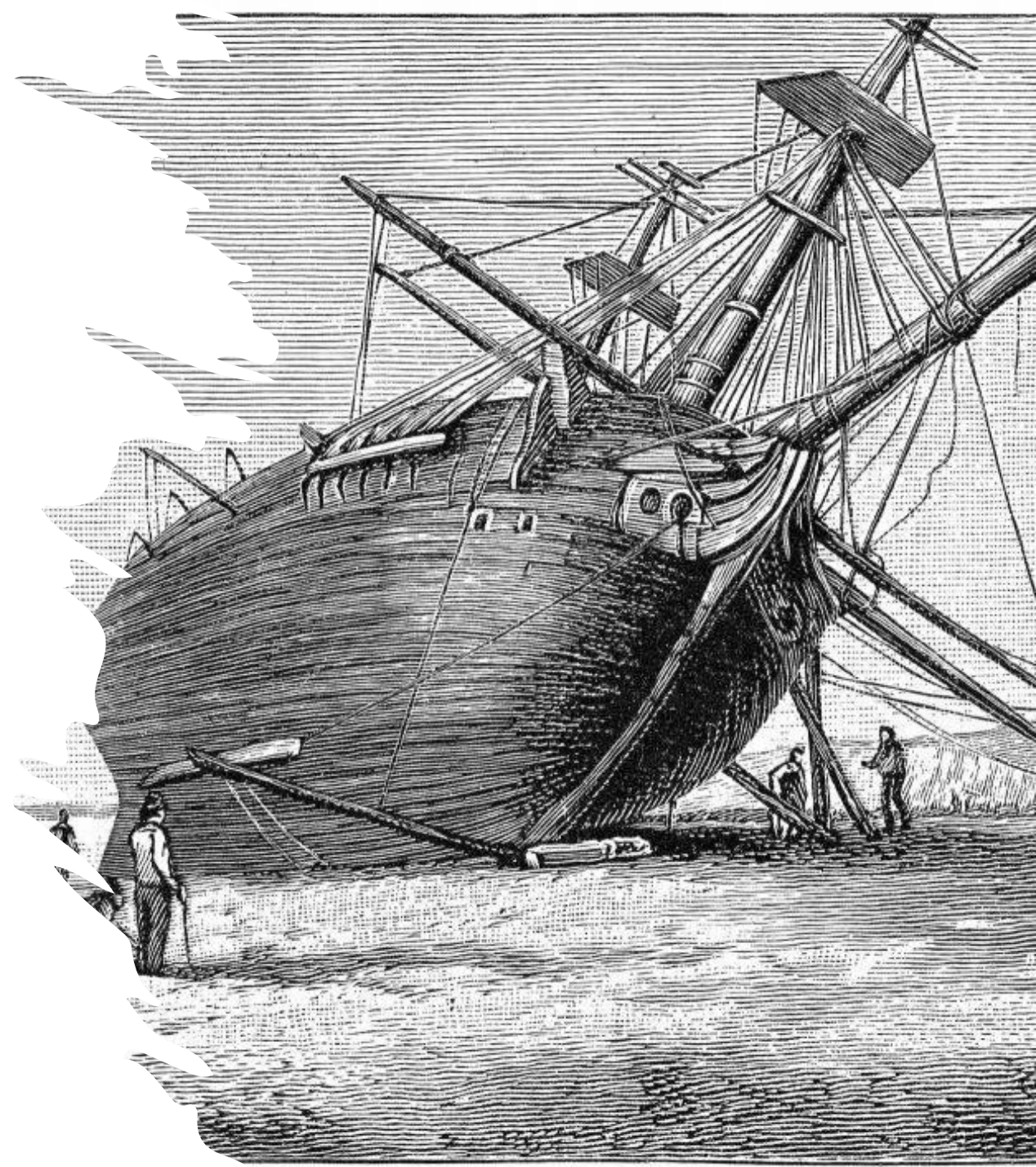
But...



...trouble at sea!

The Speedwell leaked so badly that both ships turned back to England, arriving at Dartmouth and then Plymouth.

Finally on September 16th 1620, the Mayflower set sail alone on the 2,750 mile long journey to America.

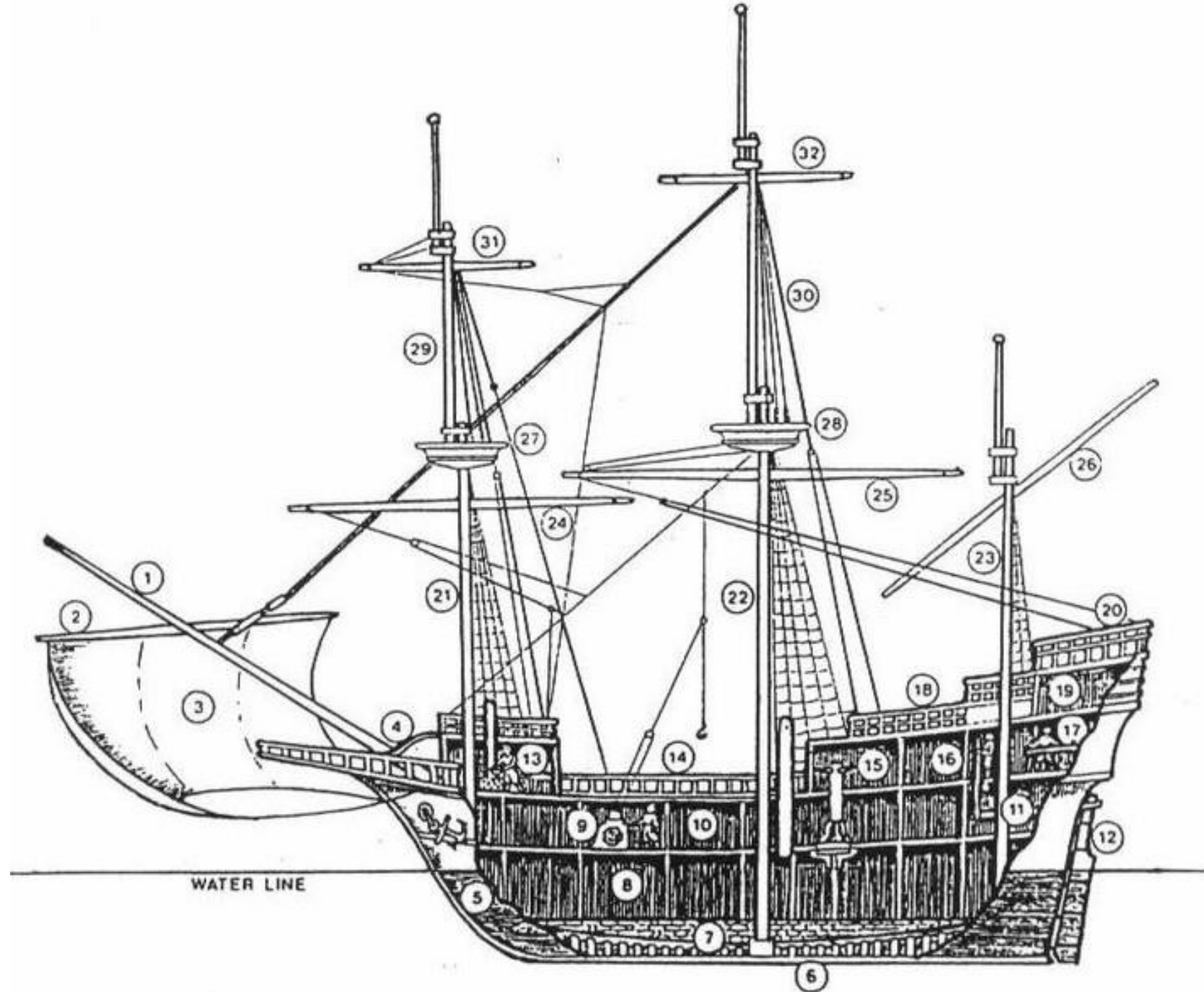


All aboard the Mayflower!

The Mayflower was a three-masted ship, 90 feet long and 25 feet wide- about as long as a basketball court.

Can you name any parts of the ship?

Answers on the next slide!



- | | | | |
|-----|------------------------|-----|--------------------|
| 1. | BOWSPRIT. | 17. | GREAT CABIN. |
| 2. | BOWSPRIT YARD. | 18. | QUARTER DECK. |
| 3. | SPRITSAIL. | 19. | CHART HOUSE. |
| 4. | BEAKHEAD. | 20. | POOP DECK. |
| 5. | HULL. | 21. | FOREMAST. |
| 6. | KEEL. | 22. | MAINMAST. |
| 7. | BALLAST. | 23. | MIZZEN MAST. |
| 8. | MAIN HOLD. | 24. | FOREYARD. |
| 9. | ANCHOR WINDLASS. | 25. | MAIN YARD. |
| 10. | THE 'TWEEN DECK. | 26. | MIZZEN YARD. |
| 11. | TILLER FLAT. | 27. | FORE TOP. |
| 12. | RUDDER. | 28. | MAIN TOP. |
| 13. | FORECASTLE (FO'C'SLE). | 29. | FORE-TOPMAST. |
| 14. | MAIN DECK. | 30. | MAIN-TOPMAST. |
| 15. | CAPSTAN. | 31. | FORE-TOPSAIL YARD. |
| 16. | STEERAGE (WHIPSTAFF). | 32. | MAIN-TOPSAIL YARD. |

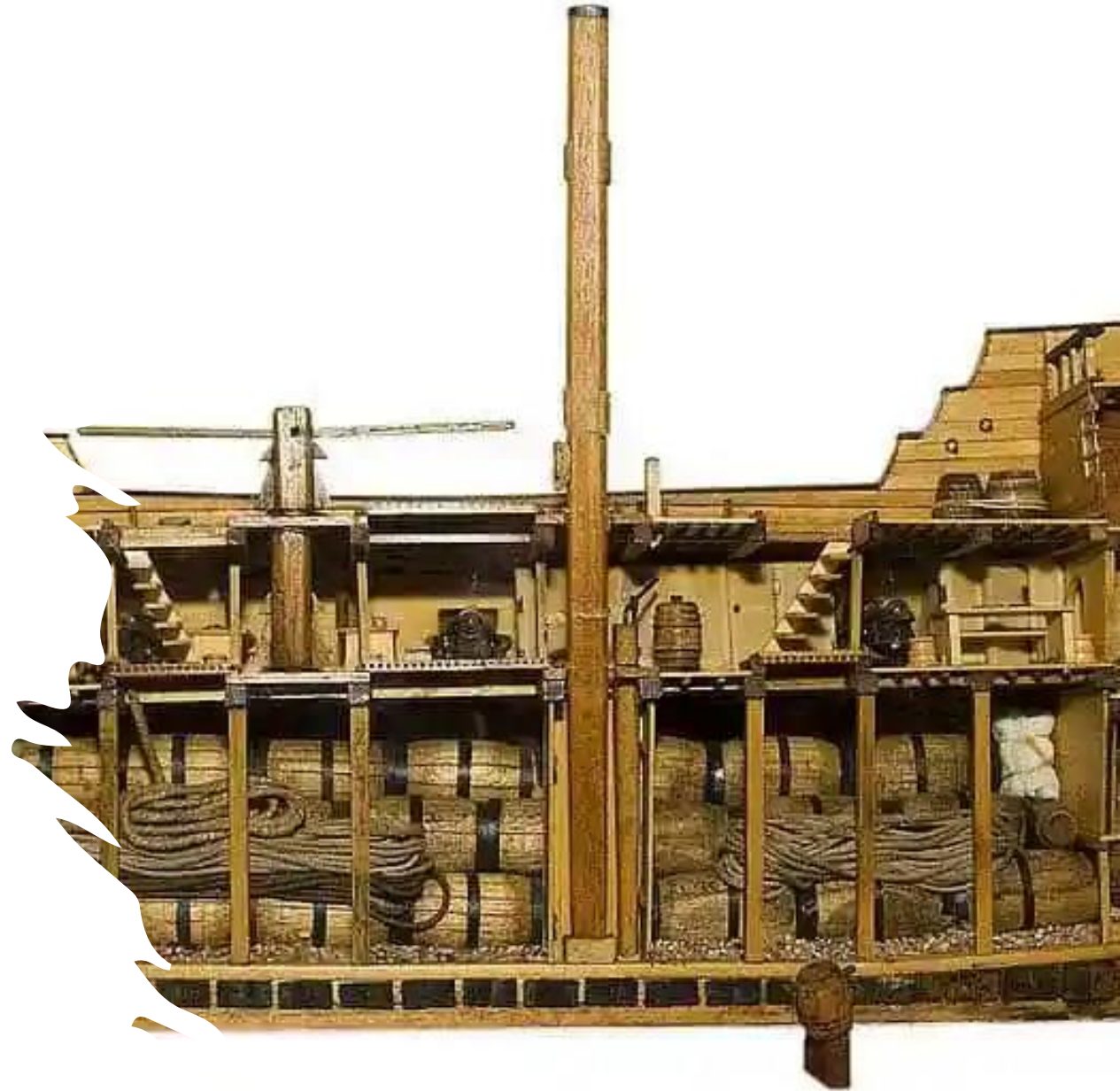
The journey on board the Mayflower

The voyage lasted for 66 days and life on board was rough!

They spent most of their time below deck where it was dark, cold and damp.

They slept on the hard wooden floor.

Each family cooked its own meals over small fires (on a wooden ship!) but they were often too seasick to eat at all.



Plymouth Colony

After the long miserable voyage the Mayflower ended up in Massachusetts after being blown far off course in the many storms.

The passengers continued to live aboard the Mayflower while building houses on shore.

The men had to wade through the icy water each time they went ashore to work.

The women and children stayed aboard the ship during construction.

Many people became sick and sadly only about 50 survived.



Arrival in the New World

Let's take a moment to think about how the Pilgrims felt once they had arrived.

Do you think they were happy, relieved, homesick, worried?

What problems did they have? Finding food? Shelter?

And what about the people who were already living there? Were they friendly and helpful or cross?

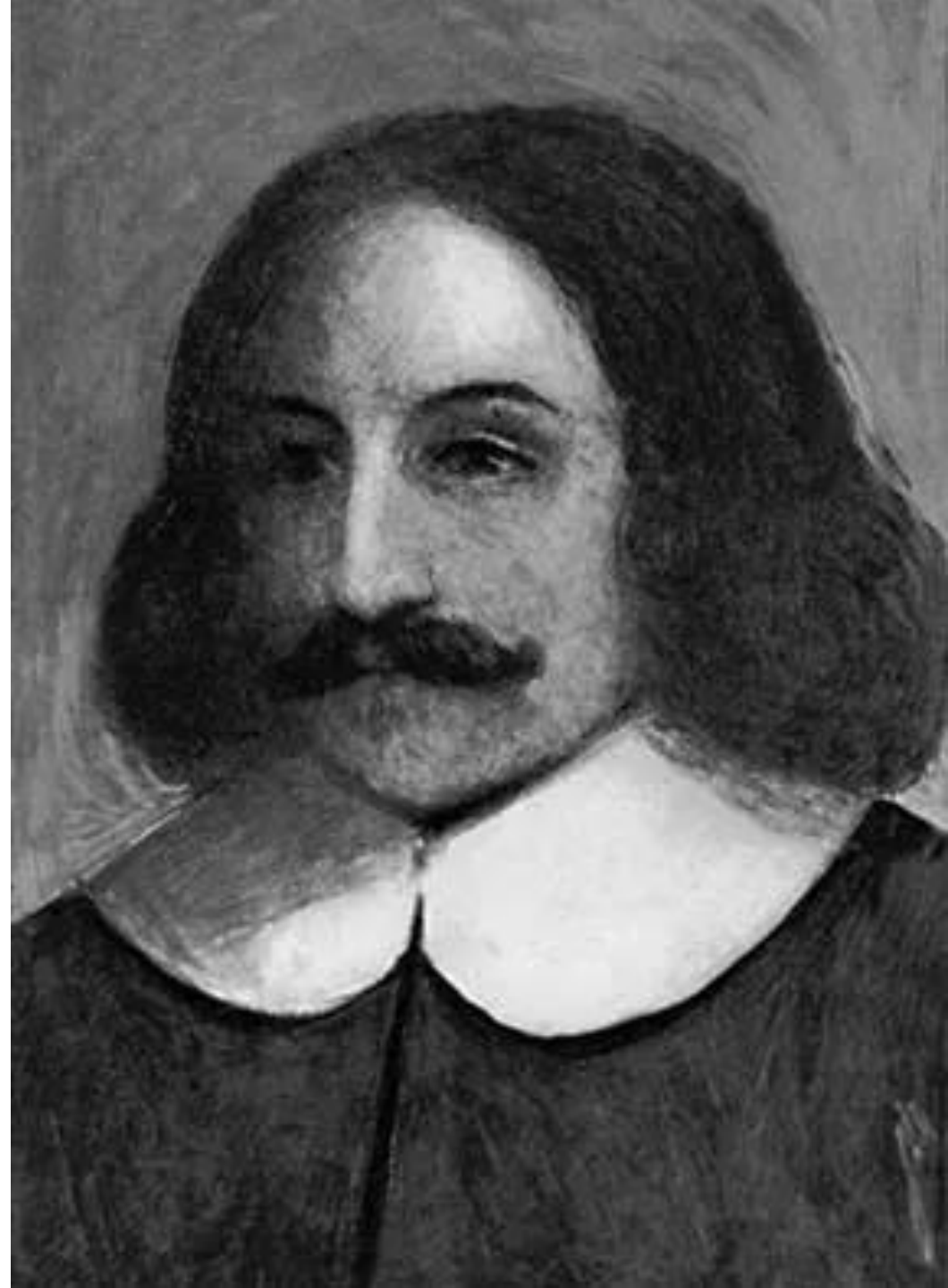


How do we know what happened so long ago?

When we want to find out about the past we have to become detectives and look for evidence because no one is around to answer our questions.

If we are lucky, people who were there at the time might have written a diary or journal and that is how we know so much about the Mayflower and the Pilgrims.

People like William Bradford wrote down their story.



William Bradford

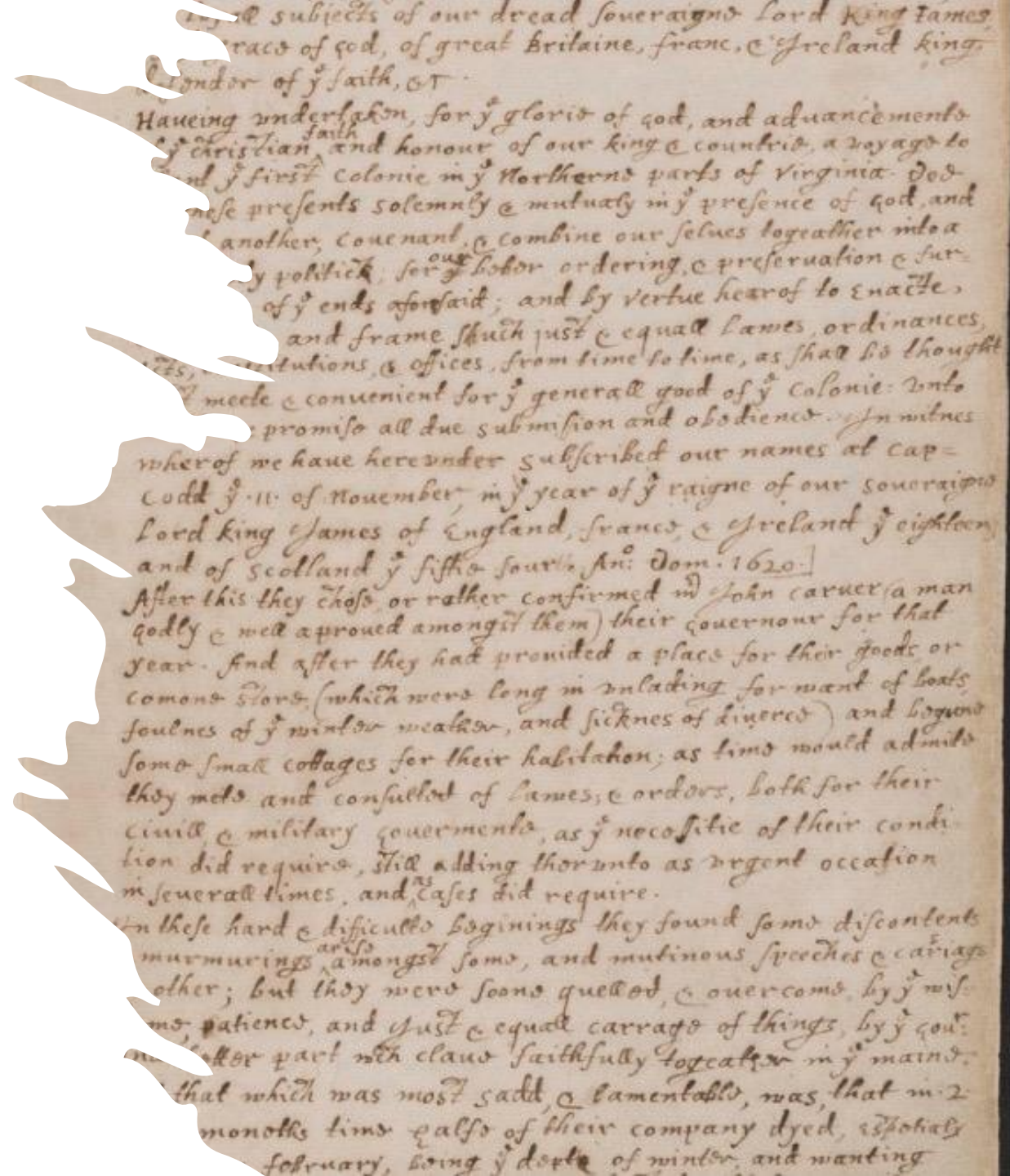
William was the Governor of the Plymouth Plantation settlement at Cape Cod in Massachusetts where the pilgrims settled in 1620.

He wrote a text called *Of Plymouth Plantation*.

His book recounts the experiences of the travellers but also their history and why they left their country.

His writing is difficult to read but interesting to explore.

Have a look and see if you can pick out any words.



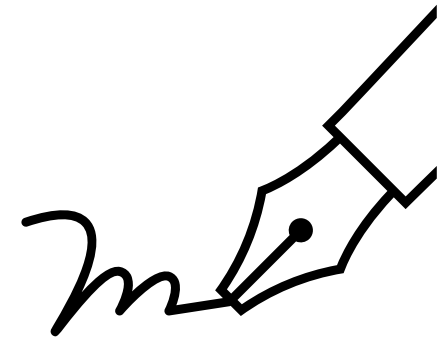
Helping us to understand

When we want to get information from old documents it is really useful to have a 'transcript'. Someone who has studied the text can translate it into modern English that we can all understand.

Here's an example from William Bradford's book.

Chapter 1 – Life in England

It is well known that, ever since Henry VIII established the Church of England, there have been wars, opposition, imprisonments, banishments, torture and other cruel behaviours intended to overthrow Protestantism, especially during the reign of Queen Mary, his daughter. After those attempts failed and Protestantism became established in England, arguments about religion remained. Even the Protestants came to argue amongst themselves about what they should believe and how they should worship.



Life in 'America'

The land where the pilgrims settled was already inhabited by people who had been there for a very long time and had their own way of life.

Let's take a moment to think about how they might have felt.

Were they happy to see so many new people on their land? Did they feel threatened or worried?

It is a very complicated part of the whole story...



Communication was hard!

One day, a man called Samoset who was a member of the Abenaki people and was visiting the Wampanoag tribe, approached the settlement. He knew how to speak some English.

This contact eventually led to a treaty of mutual protection between the Pilgrims and Massasoit, the Wampanoag leader, and eventually to a three-day harvest celebration.

This was the beginning of the American annual Thanksgiving celebration.



What can we learn from this story?

There have always been times when groups of people have felt unsafe in their own country and have had to make the difficult decision to leave to find a safe home somewhere else.

This is still happening in many parts of the world today.

The Day of Welcome and Refugee Week are a chance for us to think about how we can be kind and welcoming to new people who come to our school or community.



A DAY OF WELCOME

 **Refugee Week**
A great way to kick-off Refugee Week in your school



A Day of Welcome is an annual day of solidarity and learning in schools that aims to build a culture of welcome and understanding for people seeking sanctuary.

Build a culture of welcome, belonging and solidarity in your school for those seeking sanctuary

Share stories of refugee migration, local and global, past and present, with your pupils

Better educate and support your refugee pupils and their families



With support from:

Organised by:



a.r.u. | Anglia Ruskin University

Key partners:



ASYLUM SPEAKERS



The World of Languages
and Languages of the World

National Centre for Writing





- This resource was made possible by generous funding from the British Academy and was developed by The University of Derby.



Is your school a School of Sanctuary?



*A School of Sanctuary aims to be a safe
and welcoming place for everyone.*

Find out more [here](#)

*Schools of Sanctuary is a UK-wide network of
1000+ primary and secondary schools,
nurseries and sixth forms all committed to
creating a culture of welcome and inclusion
for refugees and people seeking asylum.*

A School of Sanctuary:

*Raises awareness of
forced displacement
and migration*

*Ensures school
practice effectively
supports and
welcomes new
arrivals*

*Advocates for our
vision of welcome
and compassion*

*We are
building a
movement of
welcome!*



 **A DAY OF WELCOME**

is the start of

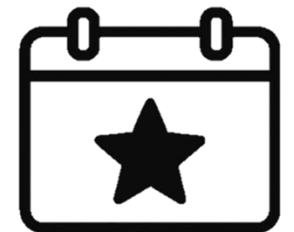
 **Refugee Week**

REFUGEE WEEK 2024

OUR HOME



1.6 million people



15,000 events

What is happening for Refugee Week in your area?

REFUGEE WEEK 2025
COMMUNITY
AS
A SUPERPOWER

16-22 June

Next week is Refugee Week!

There are loads of family-friendly activities and events across the country, many of which are free.

Signpost some of the Refugee Week activities locally to your staff and the families of your pupils.

[Find out more here](#)



**Refugee
Week**

A DAY OF WELCOME

We have so much more to offer you!

REFUGEE EDUCATION

Improving provision for any pupils or families who have experienced forced displacement is so important! We signpost and share the best and latest refugee education resources, guidance and CPD from partners such as UNHCR, The Bell Foundation and City of Sanctuary - essential for educators who work with refugees or asylum seekers.

[Access our Refugee Education page](#)

DAY OF WELCOME ARCHIVE

Over the years we have produced many resources to support schools to build a culture of welcome for refugees and asylum seekers. Feel free to explore our archive and choose from the dozens of teaching resources for Key Stages 1-4. There are ready-made assemblies, and lessons which introduce refugee migration, explain key concepts, explore refugee histories and much more!

[Access the Day of Welcome archive](#)



LOCAL RESOURCES

In some parts of the country, we have created and curated opportunities, organisations, resources and support that you can call upon as you build your culture of welcome for refugees and asylum seekers.

- Norfolk
- Suffolk
- Wales
- Essex
- Cambridgeshire
- West Midlands
- Greater Manchester
- Merseyside
- West Yorkshire
- Tyne & Wear

[Access our local resources](#)

*Join our movement to
make every day A Day
of Welcome for people
seeking sanctuary.*

Visit [our website](#)

Email us:

dayofwelcome@uk.cityofsanctuary.org



**A DAY OF
WELCOME**

