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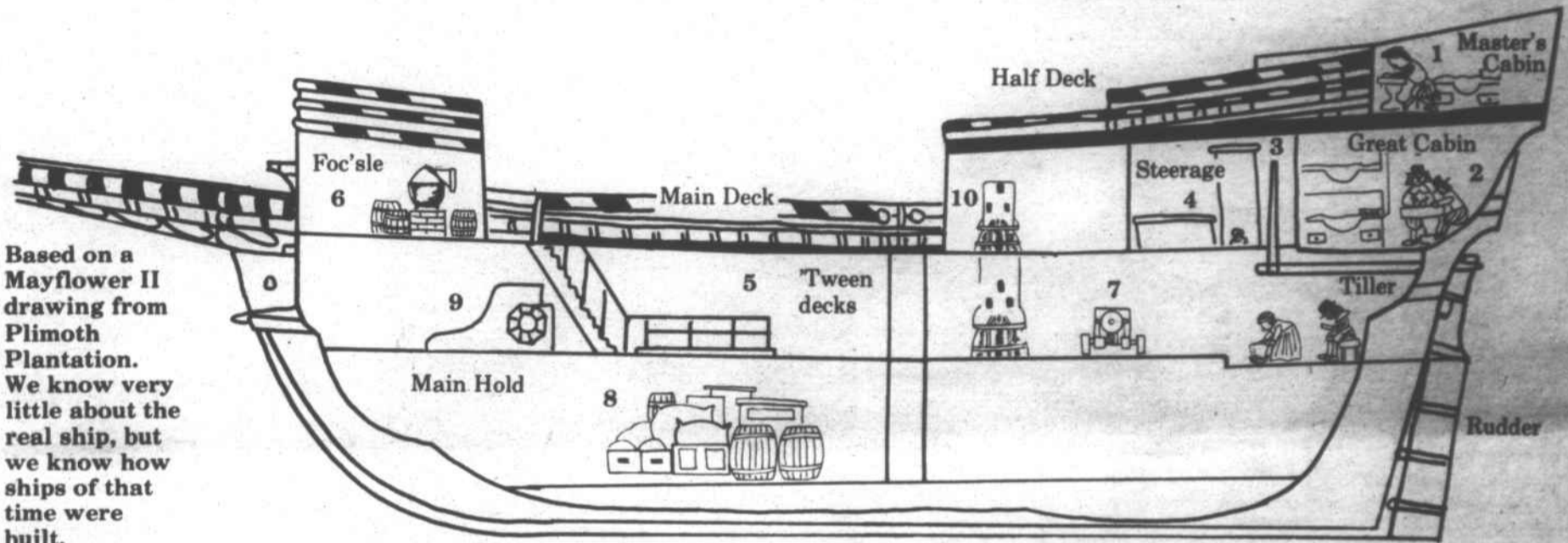
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A Peep Down Below!

By BETTY DEBNAM

Mayflower's Inside Story



Based on a Mayflower II drawing from Plimoth Plantation. We know very little about the real ship, but we know how ships of that time were built.

The Mayflower put to sea from Plymouth, England, on September 16, 1620.

There were 102 passengers on board.

Thirty-five were the deeply religious Pilgrims.

The other 67 were passengers added so that the group would be strong enough to start a colony in America.

There were 25 crew members.

After 66 days, the weary band sighted land.

The crossing had been a rough one. Passengers had to crowd below deck to keep out of the crew's way.

One man died on the trip.

While the passengers were deciding where to settle, the Pilgrims wrote the Mayflower Compact. This agreement set up the laws for governing the colony. The other men on board signed it.

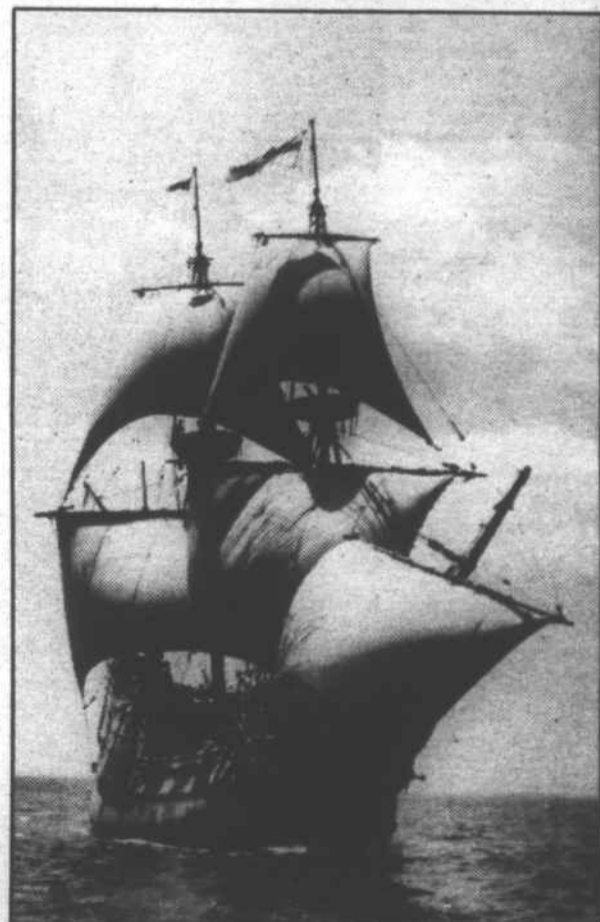
The ship reached Plymouth, Massachusetts on December 26.

The Mayflower served as a base while work groups went ashore to build houses, lay out plans for the town and search for food.

The ship sailed back to

England on April 5, 1621. No one really knows what happened to it.

The Mayflower II, a copy of what the original ship might have looked like, is in the harbor at Plymouth, Massachusetts.



The Mayflower II in the harbor at Plymouth, Mass.

1. Master's Cabin, where Captain Christopher Jones and his officers worked on navigation.

2. Great Cabin, where the Mayflower Compact could have been signed. Also was the captain's quarters.

3. Whipstaff, a long pole attached to the tiller below. By shifting it from side to side, the helmsman guided the ship.

4. Binnacle, a place to house two compasses.

5. Tween decks, where the passengers stayed.

6. Foc'sle (or forecabin), where sailors spent most of their time.

7. Cannon, needed to fight off pirates. The Mayflower might have had a cannon on deck, too.

8. Main hold, where the cargo and supplies were stored.

9. Windlass, used for raising the anchor.

10. Capstan, used to raise topmasts, cargo and sometimes anchors.

Photo courtesy Plimoth Plantation