

Packing for a new life and the voyage of the Mayflower

Tasks:

1. Follow steps 1-4 to understand the text M1. Transfer the text into modern English.
2. What does the list tell you about the future life of settlers?
3. If you wanted to emigrate and were able to take only five items, what would you take?



Work in pairs

M1: "Pilgrims" and the Mayflower

Step 1:

Collect all words you understand and group them under the following headings: food, clothes, tools.

Step 2:

Weights and measures can be difficult to understand. Transfer the weights and measures in the text into our (metric) system.

hogshead – large container holding 235 litres

hundred weight – 45 kg

bushel(l) – 30 litres

gallon – 3,8 litres

quart – 1,2 litres

dozen – 12

Step 3:

Intelligent guessing – Try to think of words in German or another language you know that are like the unfamiliar words, e.g.:

malt – Malz

meale – Mehl

aquavita – ?

Step 4:

If you cannot work out the meanings of all words and feel you cannot do without them, the annotations on the back of this worksheet will help you,

Viſtuall.

Meale, one Hogſhead.
Malt, one Hogſhead.
Beefe, one hundred waight.
Porke pickled, 100. or Bacon 74. pound.
Peaſe, two buſhells.
Greases, one buſhell.
Butter, two dozen.
Cheefe, halfe a hundred.
Vineger, two gallons.
Aquavita, one gallon.
Muſtard ſeed, two quartts.
Salt to ſave Fiſh, halfe a hogſhead.

Apparell.

Shoos, ſix payre.
Boots for men, one payre.
Leather to mend ſhoos, foure pound.
Irish ſtockings, foure payre.
Shirts, ſix.
Handkerchiefes twelve.
One Sea Cape or Gowne, of coarſe cloth.
Oſber apparell, as their purſes will afford.

Tooles which may alſo ſerve a family
of foure or five perſons.

One Engliſh Spade.
One ſteele ſhovel.
Two Haſchets.
Axes 3. one broad axe, and 2. felling axes.
One Wood hooke.
Hewes 3. one broad of nine inches, and two
narrow of five or ſix inches.
One Wimble, wiſh ſixe piercer bits.
One Hammer.
Oſher tooles as mens ſeverall occupations
require, as Hand ſawes

Annotations:

Tasks:

voyage: *hier* – Schiffsreise; **to emigrate:** leaving a country (for another); **item:** thing

M1:

- *victuall* = *victuals* ['vɪtlz] food and drink
- *pickle* salt-water or vinegar (cf. below) for keeping meat and vegetables for a long time
- *pea* small round green vegetable (Erbse)
- *greates* = *grits* Grütze
- *vinegar* ['vɪnɪgə] sharp-tasting liquid made from wine, used for salad dressing
- *mustard seed* ['mʌstəd] Senfkörner
- *stocking* one of a pair of pieces of clothing worn on the feet and legs
- *course cloth* = *coarse cloth* [kɔ:s] cloth made for sails
- *hatchet* light, short-handled axe
- *howe* = *hoe* ['həʊ] long-handled garden tool used for turning the soil
- *wimble, piercer bit* ['pɪəsə] tools for boring holes
- *occupation* job
- *(to) require sth.* need sth.

Homework

1. Imagine that it is 1620 and you are aboard the Mayflower making the crossing to North America. Use the information given to write two to three diary entries about the crossing, problems on board, your hopes and worries. Begin with 17 September. Try to be accurate and think carefully about what Puritans at the time might have thought about.
2. Add the following words to your vocabulary list: voyage, to emigrate.