

Was it a safe voyage?

It was dangerous for one small ship to make such a long voyage. In those days one ship almost never sailed alone.

One small ship alone on a huge ocean. What would happen if the *Mayflower* were shipwrecked?

What would happen if they ran out of food and supplies?

Who would get word to England?

Storms were a danger.

The *Mayflower* sailed in good winds and good weather for about a month. Then, in October, strong winds began to blow. The *Mayflower* tossed and rolled in the waves. The tossing and rolling made most of the passengers seasick.

Just as everyone was feeling better, another storm broke. This one was worse than the last. Above the howl of the wind and the crash of the waves came the sound of something breaking.



The main beam had cracked!

The deck was in splinters!

Water poured down on the Pilgrims crowded below. They were soaked. So were their clothes, their bedding—even their food.

The ship might have sunk. But someone remembered the great iron screw they had brought from Holland. The Pilgrims were going to use it to help build houses in the New World. Now they used it to help keep the beam in place.

Sickness was a problem.

One day, the doctor's servant, young Will Butten, took sick. He had ship's fever. The doctor could not help him, and Will Butten died.

Many people were getting sick. Now even the sailors prayed. They prayed for the end of the terrible voyage.