



Mayflower Math

Measure, Count, and Sail Away!

Here's a math activity that packs a little fun into learning. All you need are a yardstick, chalk, a playground, and 132 people! So you'll probably want to join forces with several classrooms. The idea is to help your students visualize the dimensions and capacity of the *Mayflower* by chalking the shape on the playground. If the weather doesn't cooperate, use masking tape on the gym floor. Use a yardstick to measure 90 feet for the length. Have one child stand at each 3-foot point, until you reach 90 feet. This is your length. Next measure the width (25 feet), about midway on the 90-foot line, then chalk a ship-like shape around these two measurements. The shaded portion (page 2) represents the area on which passengers might have stood. Now you're ready to board. Count 34 students to represent the children, 30 more for sailors, and 68 to represent the grownups. Crowded?

Setting Sail

If your local newspaper is inclined to publish photos of such historic events, be sure to phone them beforehand. And if they agree to come, you'd better whip up a batch of Pilgrim costumes. See page 2 for hat and collar ideas and instructions for making them. A little public relations can be a good thing.

Ship Shape

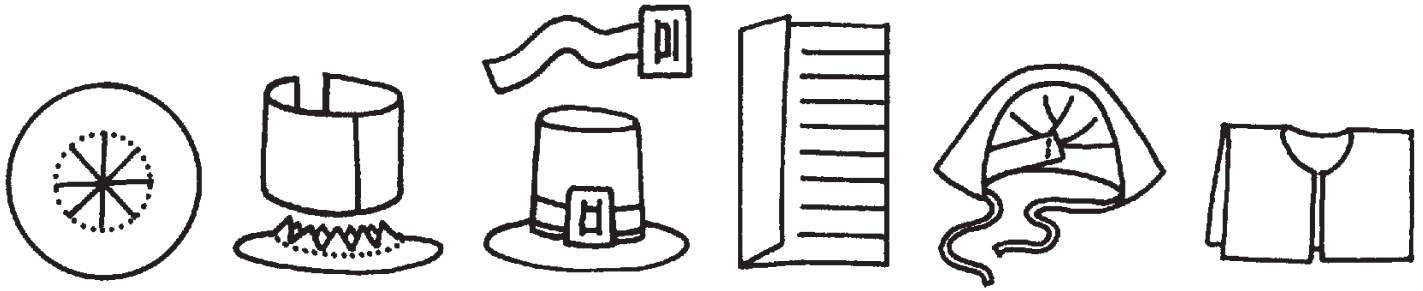
The reproducible Mayflower "shape" ship (page 3) can be fun for kindergarteners as well as first and second graders. Duplicate the page and help non-readers understand the coloring instructions by drawing a triangle, square, rectangle, and circle on the chalkboard with corresponding colored chalk.

Mayflower Numbers

- In **1620**, the Mayflower carried the Pilgrims from England to the "New World."
- The voyage took **66** days.
- There were **132** people on board: **30** sailors and **102** passengers (**34** were children).
- At least **1** cat and **2** dogs made the trip, along with several caged birds.
- Among the grownups, there was **1** soldier, **1** doctor, **1** shoemaker, and **1** blacksmith.
- The ship measured **90** feet long (**2** large trailer trucks) and **25** feet wide at beam.
- The ropes (over **400**) weighed **8** tons.
- The rope was **3** inches thick.

Look the Part!

If you're successful in having a photographer from your local newspaper attend your Mayflower Math event, suggest that students wear dark-colored clothing that day. Encourage the boys to pull their socks up over their pant legs. If the girls have long skirts, this is the day to wear them. Then spend a little time creating hats and collars for your Mayflower passengers. You'll need construction paper (white, black or gray, brown, yellow), scissors, tape, and a stapler.



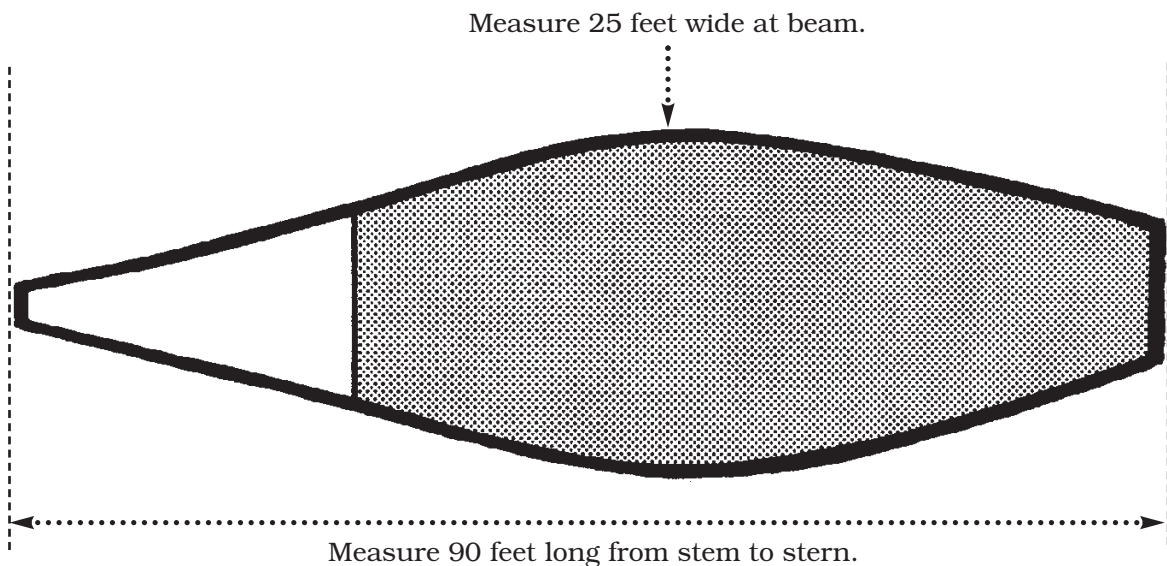
For the Boys...

1. Cut a 12-inch circle of black paper for a brim. Draw a 5-inch circle in the center and cut pie-shaped wedges as shown.
2. Cut a 12" x 18" sheet of black paper in half lengthwise. Staple together two 6-inch edges. You should have a 6" x 36" piece. Form a tube to fit each boy's head. Cut away excess paper, allowing for overlap, and staple the tube section together.
3. Place tube over brim. Fold up wedges and tape inside tube. You may need to cut deeper wedges to fit some tubes. Heads come in many sizes!

For the Girls...

1. Fold back 3 inches on the long edge of a 12" x 18" sheet of white paper.
 2. Make 5-inch cuts along the opposite edge, at 2-inch intervals.
 3. Beginning at the center, gather the strips to form the hat. Staple to hold.
 4. Attach a yarn or ribbon tie at each side for tying cap on head.
- For collars, fold a 12" x 18" sheet of white paper in half. Cut a center slit up one side to neck area. Cut neck opening to fit. Tape or tie at neck.

Measuring the Mayflower



Name _____

Color the 's yellow. Color the 's blue. Color the  orange. Color the 's brown.



Mayflower Ship Shapes