The first ship that took colonists to Plymouth was the Mayflower.

The first attempt to start an English-speaking colony in the New World was in 1620, when a group of 15 English settlers arrived on Roanoke Island in North Carolina. A few months after the colonists settled there, the governor ordered them to return to England to get supplies. Because of a war with Spain, he was unable to return for three years. When he did come back in 1590, he found no trace of the colony or its inhabitants. The colonists who reached the colony had been killed by the Spanish, and the survivors were forced to return to England. The story of the Roanoke colony is known as the "Lost Colony."