



#8920

# THANKSGIVING SHARED: NATIVE AMERICANS AND PILGRIMS

Grade Levels: 1-6

17 minutes

NEW DIMENSION MEDIA 1999

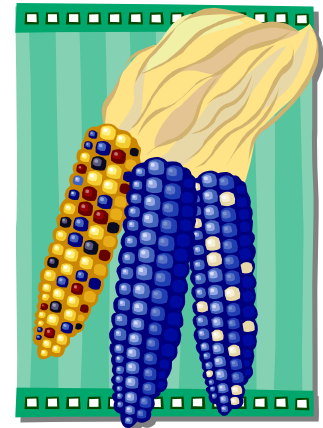
## DESCRIPTION

This historical reenactment of the original Thanksgiving depicts the skills and life style of the Native American tribes living in the New England area. Their knowledge and willingness to assist the struggling colonists during that first year led to mutual respect. At the end of the initial harvest in 1621, both groups combined their annual celebrations into the first Thanksgiving.

## ACADEMIC STANDARDS

### Subject Area: History

- ◆ Standard: Understands the history of a local community and how communities in North America varied long ago
  - Benchmark: Understands the historical development and daily life of a colonial community (e.g., Plymouth, Williamsburg, St. Augustine, San Antonio, Post Vincennes)



### Subject Area: United States History

- ◆ Standard: Understands how political, religious, and social institutions emerged in the English colonies
  - Benchmark: Understands Puritanism in colonial America (e.g., how Puritanism shaped New England communities, the changes in Puritanism during the 17<sup>th</sup> century, opposition to King James I, why Puritans came to America, the Puritan family structure)

## INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To identify major cultural differences between Native Americans and the Pilgrims such as those related to language, clothing, food and dwellings.
2. To examine the contributions of Native Americans to the survival of Plymouth Colony.
3. To review the significance of the Mayflower Compact.

4. To compare and contrast the first Thanksgiving feast and our present-day Thanksgiving celebration.

## BEFORE SHOWING

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1. Point out on a map or globe the location of England in relation to present-day Provincetown, Massachusetts. Solicit reasons why the Pilgrims set sail for America. What did the Pilgrims hope to find in the new land?
2. Take the students to a football field. Tell them that the ship on which the Pilgrims traveled, the "Mayflower," would extend from the end zone at its stern to the 30-yard line at its bow. Its width was considerable less than that of a football field. Ask what they think it was like to cook, eat, sleep, go to the bathroom, etc., in these cramped quarters.
3. Imagine what it would be like to enter a country with no houses, no friendly people to greet them, a possible threat of attack from unknown people and no knowledge of how to survive in a wilderness. Would the students be willing to embark on such an adventure?

## AFTER SHOWING

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### Discussion Items and Questions

1. Why did the Pilgrims leave England? Why were some known as "Saints" and others were called "Strangers"? What does the word *pilgrim* mean?
2. Who was Squanto? How did he help the Pilgrims? Why do you think the Indians were willing to teach the Pilgrims how to hunt and farm? What do you think might have happened to the colonists if Squanto had not come to their rescue?
3. How did the Pilgrims celebrate their bountiful harvest of 1621? Who did they include in their harvest feast? How long did the feast last? In what kinds of activities did the Pilgrims and Indians participate? What tradition and holiday of sharing our harvests with family and friends was begun? Compare and contrast your family's Thanksgiving ritual with the Pilgrims' first Thanksgiving celebration.



### Applications and Activities

1. The Wampanoag Indians are proud of their ancestry and heritage. Have students find out about their ancestors and tell the class about them. If possible, have grandparents of students come to class and relate details of traditions, legends, stories, and others.
2. Have students choose a famous American Indian of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and trace his or her history.

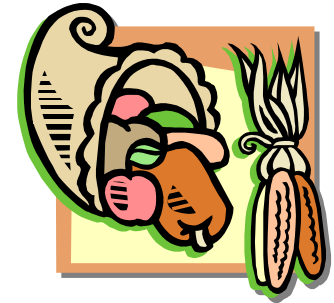
3. There is another side to the American Thanksgiving. Some Wampanoags and other Native Americans meet annually on Thanksgiving Day at Plymouth Rock. Have students do research to find out what kinds of ceremony takes place and why.

## RELATED RESOURCES



### Captioned Media Program

- The First Thanksgiving #2609
- Molly's Pilgrim #1993



### World Wide Web



The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and "kid-safe" sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

- **THE FIRST THANKSGIVING**

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/thanksgiving/index.htm>

Relive the voyage on the "Mayflower," experience life in Plimoth, see a picture time line of 1620-1 on this Scholastic site.

- **THE HISTORY OF THANKSGIVING**

<http://www.historychannel.com/exhibits/thanksgiving/index.html>

Find out the real deal about the first Thanksgiving, clicking on such links as "A Meal Without Forks" to find what was actually on the menu, and 17<sup>th</sup>-century table manners; "Mayflower Myths"; and "Pilgrim Interviews."

- **THE PILGRIMS IN AMERICAN CULTURE: THANKSGIVING**

<http://www.plimoth.org/library/thanksgiving/firstt.htm>

Read about "A First Thanksgiving Dinner for Today," "Thanksgiving in American History," "A 17<sup>th</sup> Century Harvest Feast," and more on this site of the living history of Plimoth Plantation.