

TRUE HISTORY OF THANKSGIVING

Differentiated Passages



A Day of Mourning: The Day of Thanksgiving

When many in the United States celebrate Thanksgiving with parades, the Wampanoag people and other Native Americans observe the fourth Thursday of November as the "National Day of Mourning."

What is the National Day of Mourning?

The National Day of Mourning is an annual event that commemorates the suffering, persecution, and loss the Native Americans endured during the Thanksgiving celebration. The history includes land theft and the loss of their culture.

Why Does This Day Exist?

For the Wampanoag, the day is a day of mourning for the loss of their traditional way of life. In the 1670s, King Philip's War led to the destruction of their villages and the loss of their land.

English called "King Philip's War" a brutal conflict saw large-scale destruction on both sides. The Wampanoag people were devastated, with many dying and their villages being burned down.

The Evolution of Thanksgiving

1. What was the primary focus of the early Thanksgiving Days?

- playing football games
- shopping and sales
- churchgoing and prayer
- family reunions

2. Explain how the tradition of Thanksgiving started to adapt when settlers established their lives in the New World.

3. What was the purpose of President Abraham Lincoln declaring Thanksgiving a national holiday during the Civil War era?

- to give people a day off
- to encourage prayer and fasting
- to foster unity during turbulent times
- to celebrate the end of the war

4. How did the portrayal of Native Americans in the Thanksgiving narrative serve multiple purposes?

- It made them the central characters in the story.
- It cast them as helpers and allowed settlers to be painted as the dominant force.
- It emphasized the peaceful coexistence between settlers and Native Americans.
- It made the story more entertaining.

The Pilgrims' Journey

1. What was the primary purpose of the Mayflower before it was used for the Pilgrims' journey?

- a warship
- a cruise ship
- a fishing vessel
- a merchant ship

2. Why did the Pilgrims leave their homeland?

Beyond Thanksgiving:

The Rich Legacy and Challenges of the Wampanoag People

This passage is broken up into sections due to its length. Please use each section in sequence.

PART 1

When many Americans think of the Wampanoag people, their thoughts go straight to the story of the first Thanksgiving. It's a tale often told in schools, about how the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag shared a feast to celebrate a successful harvest. The Wampanoag people have a long and complex history. Their story stretches far back before the Pilgrims ever set foot on the shores of New England and continues to unfold even today.



BEFORE THE PILGRIMS

The Wampanoag people resided in what is now southeastern Massachusetts and eastern Rhode Island. Their territory extended from the Cape Cod region down to Narragansett Bay, encompassing a diverse range of landscapes—dense hardwood forests, fertile river valleys, and rugged coastline along the Atlantic Ocean. The land supported a rich diversity of plant and animal life, essential for the Wampanoag way of living.

Their society was well-organized and efficient, relying on a division of labor based on age and gender, allowing them to make the best use of the natural resources around them.

Roles of Men

Men were primarily responsible for hunting, fishing, and warfare. Using tools made from bones and stones, they hunted deer, elk, and smaller game like rabbits and turkeys. Fishing was done in the rivers and the ocean. They used various methods such as fishing weirs, hooks, and spears. Men also made canoes for transportation and fished for shellfish like clams and oysters.

A PILGRIM'S JOURNEY

In the passage about the Pilgrims' journey on the Mayflower, various challenges and obstacles were described, from treacherous seas to difficult living conditions. Drawing on details from the passage, discuss the significance of resilience, perseverance, and cooperation in the Pilgrims' experience. How did these qualities help them survive? What lessons can we learn from their journey?

The Wampanoag People Today

Preserving Tradition and Navigating Modern Struggles

The Wampanoag people, the "People of the First Light," have a rich history that spans thousands of years on the northeastern shores of what is now the United States. While they are often recognized in history books for their role in the first Thanksgiving, their story is much more complex and continues to unfold today.

Modern-Day Lives and Traditions

The Wampanoag have diligently worked to preserve their traditions and culture amidst the changing tides of the modern world. Many Wampanoag still reside in their ancestral lands in Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

In their day-to-day lives, Wampanoag people are woven into the fabric of modern American society. They are educators, healthcare workers, business owners, and students. Children from



Cheryl Andrews-Maltais,
Chairwoman of the Wampanoag
Tribe of Aquinnah (Gay Head),
Martha's Vineyard

Wampanoag families attend local schools and participate in sports teams, arts programs, and other extracurricular activities alongside their non-indigenous peers. This integration, however, does not dilute their connection to their roots. The communities, like the Mashpee and Aquinnah, prioritize passing on traditions such as wampum making, basket weaving, and boat building. These crafts are not just historical touchpoints but are vibrant and evolving art forms.

Community events often celebrate their heritage, incorporating traditional dances, songs, and ceremonies that are open for all members, young and old, to participate in, ensuring that their traditions remain alive and thriving.

Mag
CORE

Accurate history from multiple perspectives.

Bust the Thanksgiving myths by telling the history of both the Wampanoag people and Pilgrims.



1070L

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Pilgrims' Journey

The year was 1620. A group of 102 passengers, known today as the Pilgrims, embarked on an voyage across the vast Atlantic Ocean. The Pilgrims were in pursuit of religious freedom and a fresh start. The ship that carried the colonists was named the Mayflower, and its journey from Plymouth, England, to the shores of what would become Massachusetts, is an integral chapter in American history.

The Motive: A Quest for Religious Freedom

Protestant p
Sp

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When many in the United States celebrate Thanksgiving with feasts, family gatherings, and parades, the Wampanoag people and other Native Americans mark the day differently. For them, the fourth Thursday of November is the "National Day of Mourning."

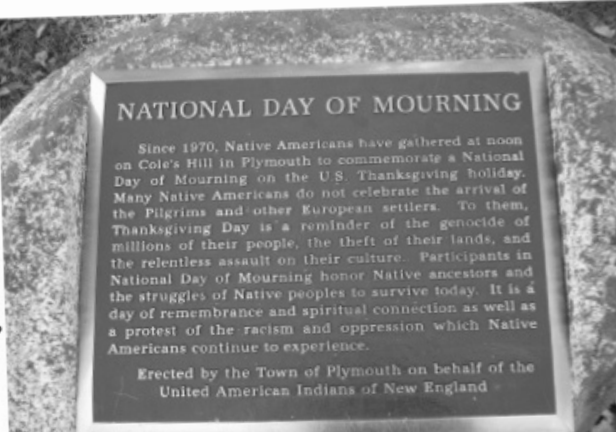
What is the National Day of Mourning?

The National Day of Mourning is an annual event that serves as a solemn reminder of the suffering, persecution, and loss the Native Americans endured after the arrival of European settlers. Thanksgiving celebrates the 1621 feast between the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag. However, the ensuing history includes land theft, disease, cultural disruption, and violence against indigenous populations.

Why Does This Day Exist?

For the Wampanoag people and other Native American communities, the story didn't end with a harmonious feast. In the years following the first Thanksgiving, tensions rose between Native Americans and European settlers. These tensions culminated in events like King Philip's War in the 1670s. King Philip's War was a conflict named after Metacom, the Wampanoag leader whom the English called "King Philip." This brutal conflict saw large numbers of casualties on both sides. It was particularly devastating for the Wampanoag and their allies.

The Day of Mourning, therefore, exists to shed light on the dark side of the post-Thanksgiving history. It's a time for reflection on the colonization, forced assimilation, and the ongoing struggles of Native Americans.



1180L

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Beyond Thanksgiving: The Rich Legacy and Challenges of the Wampanoag People

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1160L

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The Evolution of Thanksgiving

What are the True Origins of this Celebration?

Thanksgiving, one of America's most celebrated holidays, has undergone significant transformations throughout the years. This national festivity, characterized by elaborate feasts and gatherings, has roots deeply embedded in both religious solemnity and a constructed narrative. Delving into its history reveals layers of change, adapting to the times and needs of the nation.

From Piety: The Early Thanksgiving Days

The beginning of the holiday can be traced to the English Puritan practice of dedicating days to prayer. These occasions were not about feasting but rather focused on churchgoing, prayer, and deep piety. It was a time to express gratitude for the mercy of God.

As settlers established their lives in the New World, the observance of this tradition began to adapt to their new environment. New Englanders, during the colonial era, commemorated Thanksgiving annually. These events, held both in the fall and autumn, retained their religious core but began to relax in terms of fasting.



SCALDING, PLUCKING, AND PLUCKING TURKEYS FOR THANKSGIVING DAY.

A Shift Towards Unity: The Civil War Era

As the nation grappled with the Civil War, Thanksgiving started to evolve. In 1863, amidst the war, President Abraham Lincoln officially proclaimed the last Thursday of November as a national day of Thanksgiving. Sarah Josepha Hale, a determined lobbyist, greatly influenced this decision. The motive was not just gratitude but to foster unity during these tumultuous times. The holiday's significance deepened with the people and, over time, it became a symbol of unity in the southern states.



Civil War soldiers celebrated Thanksgiving



10 Lexile Leveled Passages

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Name: _____

The Pilgrims' Journey

The year was 1620. A group of 102 passengers, known today as the Pilgrims, embarked on an voyage across the vast Atlantic Ocean. The Pilgrims were in pursuit of religious freedom and a fresh start. The ship that carried



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A Day in the Life of Pilgrims A Glimpse into the 1620s

The Pilgrims, who traveled aboard the Mayflower to the New World, faced challenges as they built a life in the wilderness of Massachusetts. They lived with hard work, hope, and an enduring spirit like for them, and especially for the children.

Morning:

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Name: _____

Date: _____

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Name: _____

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PART 2

Long before the Pilgrims celebrated landing in 1620, the Wampanoag had already met other European visitors, explorers who sailed to the New World in search of riches, territories, and new routes. These early encounters brought about significant changes and challenges to the Wampanoag way of life.

Unexpected Visitors

Some of the earliest recorded encounters with Europeans date back to the early 16th century. European ships often anchored off the coast, as captains and crews ventured inland. The Wampanoag were curious about these strangers with their unusual clothing, advanced tools, and enormous ships. In return, the Europeans were eager to trade, obtaining valuable furs and other goods.



Captivity and Slavery

However, the relationship between the Wampanoag and the Europeans wasn't always amicable. Some European explorers captured Wampanoag individuals, taking them back to Europe. The English explorer Thomas Hunt, in 1614, deceived a group of Wampanoag and other Native people, luring them onto his ship. Once aboard, they found themselves trapped. Hunt transported these captured people to Spain, intending to sell them as slaves. One of the captured, a Patuxet Wampanoag named Tisquantum (more commonly known as Squanto), managed to escape, travel back to North America, and later played a crucial role as a mediator between the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag.

The Scourge of Disease

Perhaps the most devastating impact of these early European encounters was the introduction of foreign diseases to which the Wampanoag had no immunity. Diseases such as smallpox, influenza, and measles spread rapidly. Entire villages were affected, with many individuals falling severely ill. Some communities saw their populations decimated, with elders, adults, and children all succumbing. The loss was profound, not just in terms of the number of lives but also in the erosion of cultural knowledge, traditions, and leadership structures.

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Name: _____

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PART 3

THE ARRIVAL OF THE PILGRIMS

In November 1620, a ship called the Mayflower landed at a place the Pilgrims named Plymouth (now spelled Plimoth). They were not the first Europeans the Wampanoag had seen, but their arrival led to significant changes.

First Winter and Contact

The winter of 1620 was a challenging time for the newly arrived Pilgrims. Having landed late in the season, they were unprepared for the biting cold and challenges of the harsh New England climate. Their supplies were limited. They lacked the knowledge of how to source food in this unfamiliar landscape.



Desperation and Survival

The situation grew dire as food rations dwindled and the freezing temperatures persisted. Many Pilgrims fell sick from exposure, malnutrition, and diseases. By the time winter had passed, nearly half of the original group had succumbed to the harsh conditions. To cope, some of the Pilgrims resorted to desperate measures. In their search for food and supplies, they dug up native storage pits and even raided Wampanoag burial sites, taking corn that had been left for the deceased as a sign of respect.

Abandoned Villages

The very place the Pilgrims decided to settle, which they named Plimoth, was originally a Wampanoag village called Patuxet. This village had been abandoned by the Wampanoag people.

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Name: _____

Date: _____

The Wampanoag People Today Preserving Tradition and Navigating Modern Struggles

The Wampanoag people, the "People of the First Light," have a rich history that spans thousands of years on the northeastern shores of North America. Today, they are often recognized in various ways, and their story is being told more than ever.



Cheryl Andrews-Maltais,
Chairwoman of the Wampanoag
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to preserve their
of the modern world.
lands in Massachusetts

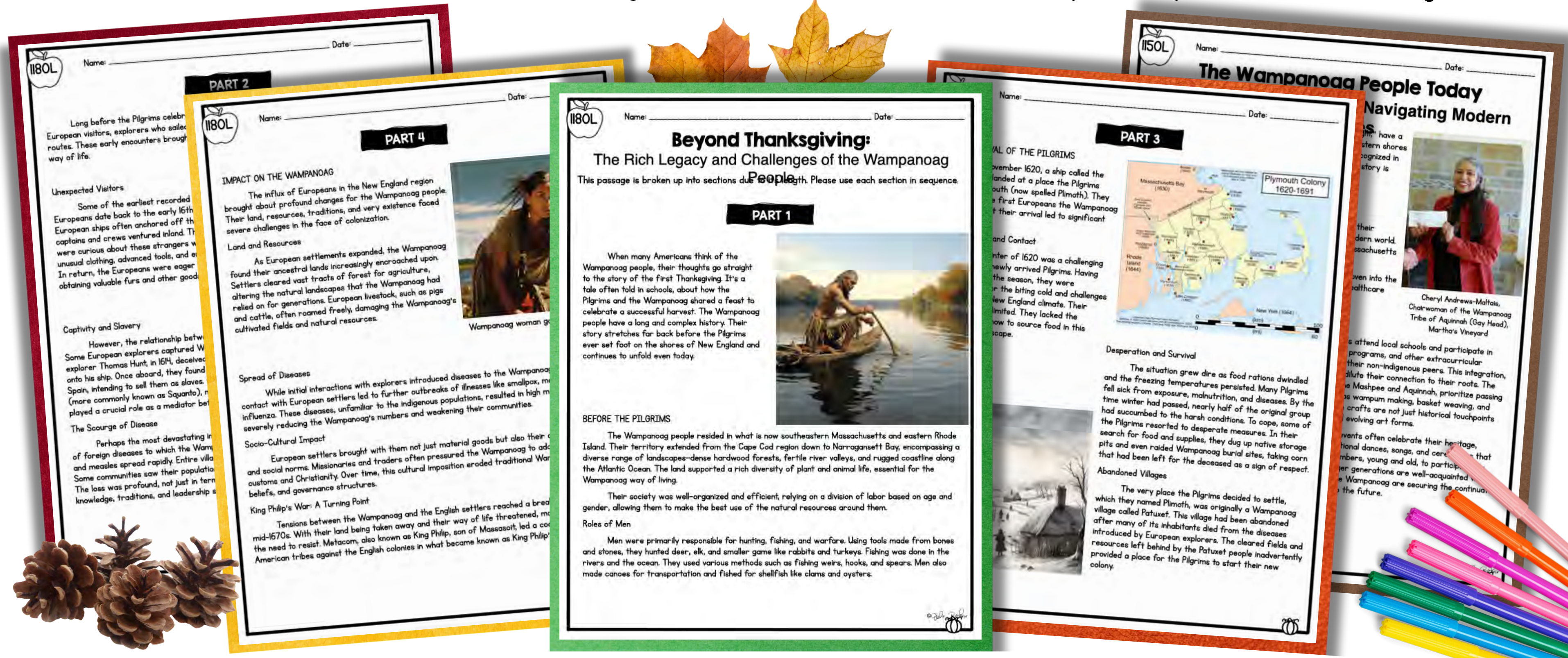
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Community events often celebrate their heritage, featuring traditional dances, songs, and ceremonies that invite all members, young and old, to participate. By ensuring that younger generations are well-acquainted with their traditions, the Wampanoag are securing the continuation of their culture into the future.

History of the Wampanoag

Read about the history of the Wampanoag people before colonists, during colonization, and up to present day.



Read about the Pilgrim's journey and daily life.

1070L Name: _____ Date: _____

The Pilgrims' Journey

The year was 1620. A group of 102 passengers, known today as the Pilgrims, embarked on an voyage across the vast Atlantic Ocean. The Pilgrims were in pursuit of religious freedom and a fresh start. The ship that carried the colonists was named the Mayflower, and its journey from Plymouth, England, to the shores of what would become Massachusetts, is an integral chapter in American history.

The Motive: A Quest for Religious Freedom



Protestant pilgrims are shown on the deck of the ship Speedwell before their departure.

The Pilgrims were English Separatists who faced persecution in their homeland due to their religious beliefs. Dissatisfied with the Church of England's practices, they sought a place where they could worship freely and live according to their faith without fear of reprisal.

The Mayflower: A Glimpse into the Ship

The Mayflower was not initially built for the long transatlantic voyage with a large number of passengers. It was a merchant ship, designed primarily for the transportation of goods. Measuring about 100 feet in length, space on board was cramped. Between the crew and the passengers, nearly 130 people were packed tightly into the ship's quarters, making conditions very challenging. In William Bradford's journal, he wrote, "the space was so confined, and the smells so unpleasant, that it was a daunting experience." Fresh food was scarce, and many suffered from ailments and diseases.



What the inside of the Mayflower looked like.

930L Name: _____ Date: _____

A Day in the Life of Pilgrims: A Glimpse into the 1620s

The Pilgrims, who traveled aboard the Mayflower to the New World in 1620, faced many challenges as they built a life in the wilderness of Massachusetts. Their day-to-day lives were filled with hard work, hope, and an enduring spirit of community. Let's dive into what a typical day looked like for them, and especially for the children.

Morning: Rise with the Sun

Pilgrims didn't have the luxury of snoozing an alarm clock. As the first light broke, families would rise from their simple wooden beds, with straw mattresses and perhaps a quilted blanket for warmth. Why did they rise so early? There was much work to be done with maintaining their homes, gathering and hunting for food, and building a society.

The morning routine started with prayers. Deeply religious, the Pilgrims thanked God for their safety and asked for strength to face the day's challenges. After prayers, it was time for breakfast. A typical meal might include corn mush, a porridge made from cornmeal, served with some milk.



A Morning of Hard Work

Pilgrims worked the land, planting crops like corn, beans, and squash. Farming was vital as it provided food for their families and community. Men would also hunt or fish for additional while women tended to gardens, preserving and looking after livestock.

Children had their duties too. From a young age, they were expected to help. Boys often joined their fathers in the fields, tending to animals, or gathering firewood. Girls helped their mothers with cooking, sewing, and other household chores.



Examine primary sources.

[illegible]

What did the food from the fowling last the Pilgrims?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Primary Sources for "The First Thanksgiving" At Plymouth

Primary sources are artifacts or documents that was created at the time of an event to document the event. Primary sources are original sources. There are only two primary sources that document "The First Thanksgiving."

William Bradford, Of Plimoth Plantation:

They began now to gather in the small harvest they had, and to fit up their houses and dwellings against winter, being all well recovered in health and strength and had all things in good plenty. For as some were thus employed in affairs abroad, others were exercised in fishing, about cod and bass and other fish, of which they took good store, of which every family had their portion. All the summer there was no want; and now began to come in store of fowl, as winter approached, of which this place did abound when they came first (but afterward decreased by degrees). And besides waterfowl there was great store of wild turkeys, of which they took many, besides venison, etc. Besides, they had about a peck of meal a week to a person, or now since harvest, Indian corn to that proportion. Which made many afterwards write so largely of their plenty here to their friends in England, which were not feigned but true reports.

Highlight key noticing's as you read the primary account. Jot down any key details or facts about this event below.



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Edward Winslow, Mourt's Relation:

Our harvest being gotten in, our governor sent four men on fowling, that so we might after a special manner rejoice together, after we had gathered the fruits of our labors; they four in one day killed as much fowl, as with a little help beside, served the Company almost a week, at which time amongst other Recreations, we exercised our Arms, many of the Indians coming amongst us, and amongst the rest their greatest king Massasoit, with some ninety men, whom for three days we entertained and feasted, and they went out and killed five Deer, which they brought to the Plantation and bestowed on our Governor, and upon the Captain and others. And although it be not always so plentiful, as it was at this time with us, yet by the goodness of God, we are so far from want, that we often wish you partakers of our plenty.

Highlight key noticing's as you read the primary account. Jot down any key details or facts about this event below.

6. Knowing these are the only primary sources that document The First Thanksgiving, what conclusions can you draw about what we know and learn about Thanksgiving? Consider whose perspectives these accounts are from.

Comprehension Questions & Critical Thinking Responses

A DAY OF MOURNING

The Wampanoag people observe Thanksgiving Day very differently from many Americans. Explain how these days are different for Wampanoag people and other Americans. How is the tone of each different? Why is it important to understand both days and perspectives on this tradition?



BEYOND THANKSGIVING

Based on the provided text about the Wampanoag people and the Pilgrims, reflect on what you knew about this period in history prior to reading. Compare and contrast your previous understanding with the detailed account given. Why is it important to learn history from multiple perspectives, and what conclusions can you draw about the significance of gaining a more comprehensive understanding of the Wampanoag people and their interactions with the Pilgrims?

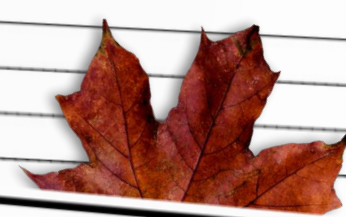
A DAY IN THE LIFE OF PILGRIMS

Analyze the relationship between the Pilgrims' daily routines, their values (such as faith, education, and community), and the challenges they faced. How did their daily activities reflect their priorities, and how did their interactions with the environment and indigenous peoples influence their survival and adaptation? Use evidence from the text to support your response.



THE EVOLUTION OF THANKSGIVING

How does the evolving narrative of Thanksgiving reflect broader changes in American society, both culturally and politically? Use specific evidence from the text to support your answer.



Beyond Thanksgiving: Part I

Which area did the Wampanoag people primarily live in?

- a. Western Massachusetts and Northern Rhode Island
- b. Southeastern Massachusetts and Eastern Rhode Island
- c. Central Massachusetts and Western Rhode Island
- d. Northern Massachusetts and Southern Rhode Island

2. How did the diverse landscapes of the Wampanoag territory contribute to their way of life?

3. How did the roles of children in the Wampanoag society ensure the tribe's survival and continuity?

4. Why is it important for us to understand the societal structures and daily life of the Wampanoag people when discussing their interactions with European settlers?



A Day in the Life of Pilgrims: A Glimpse into the 1620s

1. What did the Pilgrims usually do as the first light broke?

- a. They went straight to farming.
- b. They had breakfast.
- c. They prayed and thanked God.
- d. They started schooling for the children.

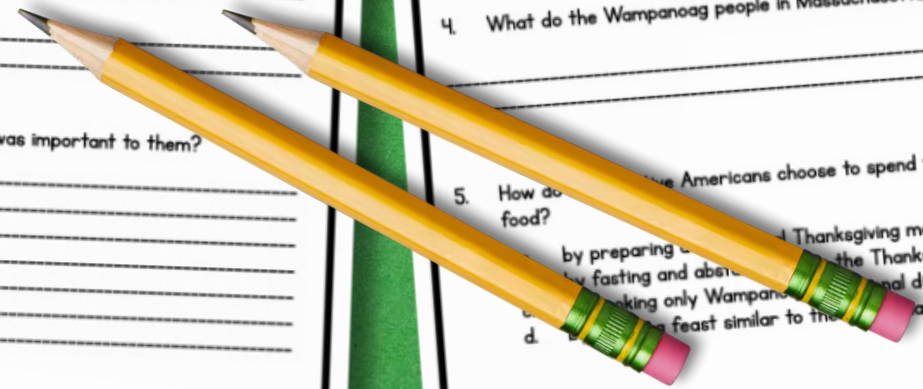
2. What were some of the responsibilities of Pilgrim children?

- a. attending formal schools
- b. tending to animals and gathering firewood
- c. working in offices
- d. traveling for trade

3. Did Pilgrim children receive an education?

4. Describe some of the hardships the Pilgrims faced. Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

5. What can you infer about the Pilgrims' life and values? What was important to them?



A Day of Mourning

1. What does the National Day of Mourning serve as a reminder of for the Wampanoag people and other Native Americans?

- a. the feast with the Pilgrims in 1621
- b. the persecution and loss endured after European settlers arrived
- c. the annual celebrations and parades on Thanksgiving Day
- d. the traditional dishes cooked during Thanksgiving

2. Why was the National Day of Mourning first observed in 1970?

- a. to celebrate the unity between the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag
- b. to commemorate the first Thanksgiving
- c. as a protest against the 350th anniversary of the Pilgrims' landing
- d. to remember the victory of the Wampanoag in King Philip's War

3. Where do many Wampanoag people and other Native Americans gather to observe the National Day of Mourning?

- a. at the main square of Plymouth, Massachusetts
- b. at the traditional Thanksgiving feast sites
- c. at Cole's Hill, overlooking Plymouth Rock
- d. at the Massachusetts state capitol building

4. What do the Wampanoag people in Massachusetts do on this day?

5. How do Native Americans choose to spend the National Day of Mourning in relation to food?

- a. by preparing a traditional Thanksgiving meal
- b. by fasting and abstaining from the Thanksgiving meal
- c. by eating only Wampanoag traditional dishes
- d. by having a feast similar to the 1621 Thanksgiving

The Evolution of Thanksgiving

1. What was the primary focus of the early Thanksgiving Days?

- a. playing football games
- b. shopping and sales
- c. churchgoing and prayer
- d. family reunions

2. Explain how the tradition of Thanksgiving started to adapt when settlers established their lives in the New World.

3. What was the purpose of President Abraham Lincoln declaring Thanksgiving a national holiday during the Civil War era?

- a. to give people a day off
- b. to encourage prayer and fasting
- c. to foster unity during turbulent times
- d. to celebrate the end of the war

4. How did the portrayal of Native Americans in the Thanksgiving narrative serve multiple purposes?

- a. It made them the central characters in the story.
- b. It cast them as helpers and allowed settlers to be painted as the dominant force.
- c. It emphasized the peaceful coexistence between settlers and Native Americans.
- d. It made the story more entertaining.

5. How has Thanksgiving evolved in terms of its religious aspects from its origins to modern times?

