

# Discover America

## Course 2 - Teacher Guide



### **COURSE 2: PILGRIM LIFE AND THANKSGIVING**

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1st Grade

# Teacher Guide



## Key Themes

- Discovery
- Respect
- Tradition

## Core Values

- Faith
- Liberty
- Community
- Life

# Learning Objectives

## Students will be able to:

- Tell what happened during the first Thanksgiving feast.
- Describe how Native Americans helped the Pilgrims survive the harsh winters in the New World.



# Pilgrim Life and Thanksgiving - 1st Grade

## Key Terms

- 01 **Native American** - the first people to live in North and South America before Europeans arrived.
- 02 **New World** - early America.
- 03 **Pilgrims** - early settlers who traveled from Europe to North America on a ship called the Mayflower.
- 04 **Samoset** - the first Native American to make contact with the Pilgrims.
- 05 **Squanto** - a Native American who became an early friend to the Pilgrims.
- 06 **Thanksgiving** - a national holiday in November to give thanks for blessings and harvest.

# Pilgrim Life and Thanksgiving - 1st Grade

# Introduction

## **ASK** Students

Do you know why we celebrate Thanksgiving?  
Do you know the story of the first Thanksgiving?

Share what you remember about the first Thanksgiving.

(allow students to respond)

## **TELL** Students

Thanksgiving is more than just a day to eat turkey and watch football. Let's explore how this holiday first came to be and the important role it has since played in our nation's history. To do that, we will have to travel back in time – almost 500 years!

Our story begins with the Pilgrims who lived in England.

## **WATCH**

Learn More with Liberty



Scan Me!

# Pilgrim Life and Thanksgiving - 1st Grade

# Lesson

## The First Thanksgiving

### **TELL** Students

The first Thanksgiving would not have been possible without a native man named Tisquantum, also known as Squanto. Squanto was a skilled hunter, fisherman, and farmer. His life was not easy – he was kidnapped and taken to Europe, but then he escaped. When he returned home to America, his village had been wiped out by disease. Even though he faced hardship, Squanto overcame these difficulties with his intelligence, strength, and kindness.

The Pilgrims struggled to build a community and prepare for winter. A Native American named Samoset brought Squanto to the Pilgrims. Squanto and Samoset spoke English. The Wampanoag tribe told Squanto to help the Pilgrims.

Squanto showed the Pilgrims how to plant crops, such as corn, where the best fishing spots were, and showed them where to hunt beaver. Squanto also introduced the settlers to Massasoit, the Wampanoag chief. Squanto's knowledge of the land greatly contributed to the Pilgrim's successful harvest. His trustworthiness contributed to a period of peace and friendship between the Pilgrims and the Native Americans.

# Pilgrim Life and Thanksgiving - 1st Grade

# Lesson

## The First Thanksgiving

### **TELL** Students

In the autumn of 1621, the Pilgrims held a feast to express gratitude. Today, this feast is known as the first Thanksgiving. The Pilgrims had a lot to appreciate. They thanked God for their safe arrival in the New World, their freedom to worship, and their lives. Additionally, they expressed gratitude for the plentiful harvest and their new friends, the Native Americans, who joined them at the feast.

The Wampanoag brought five deer to the feast and joined the Pilgrims in giving thanks. The feast went on for three days and was filled with food, games, and good cheer.

The first Thanksgiving table looked a little different than it does today. Among the food items on the menu, the Pilgrims and Native Americans enjoyed venison (deer), turkey, corn, and beans. There were other dishes including artichokes, garlic, concord grapes, walnuts, chestnuts, and pumpkins.

The first Thanksgiving was an important event for all in attendance and for our nation's history.

### **REFLECTIONS**

How did the Pilgrims' community benefit from joining the Wampanoag community?

# Pilgrim Life and Thanksgiving - 1st Grade

# Flash Cards



**THANKSGIVING**

a national holiday in  
November to give  
thanks for blessings  
and harvest

**PILGRIMS**

early settlers who  
traveled from  
Europe to North  
America on a ship  
called the Mayflower

**NEW WORLD**

early America



**NATIVE  
AMERICAN**

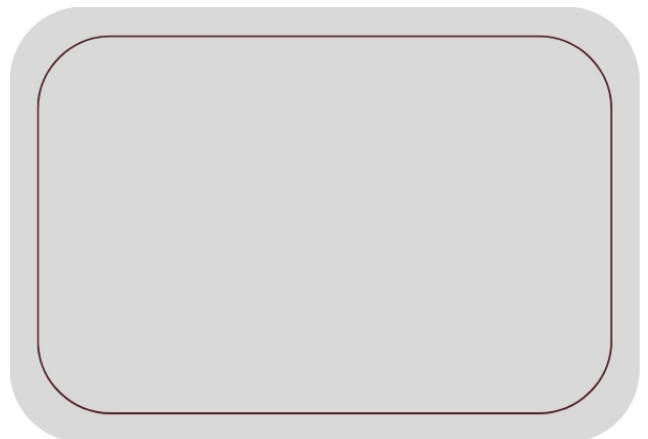
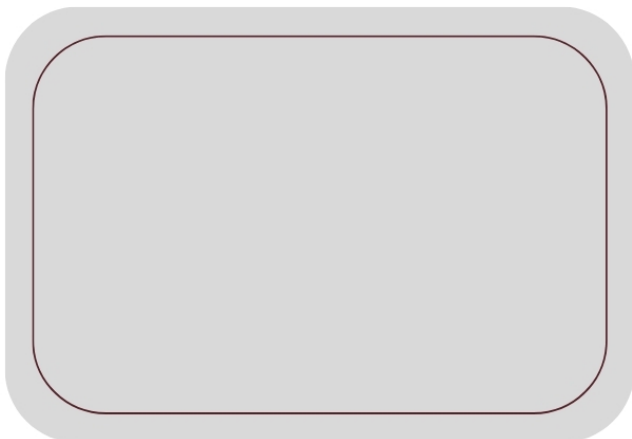
the first people to live  
in North and South  
America before  
Europeans arrived

**SQUANTO**

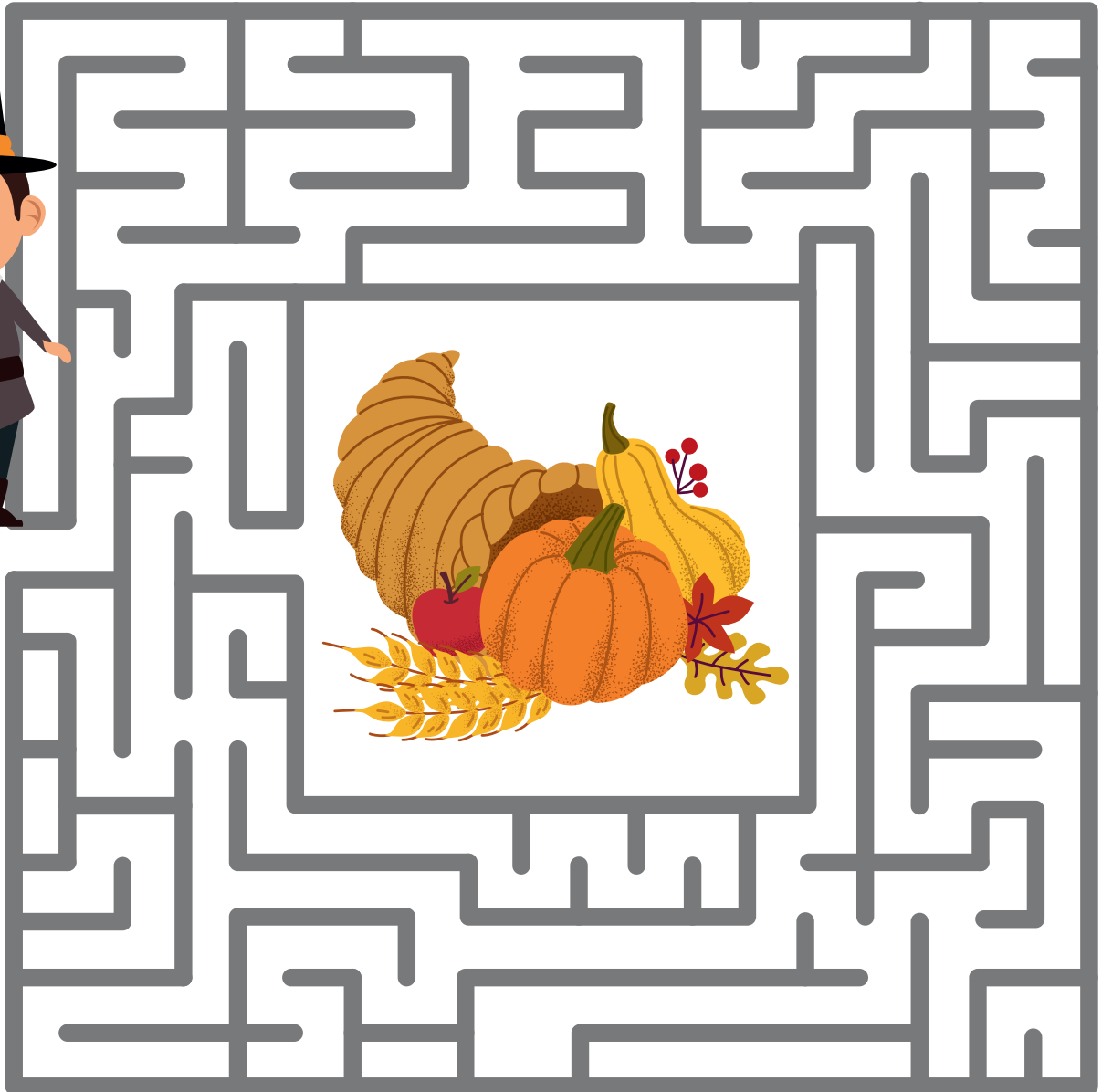
a Native American  
who became an  
early friend to the  
Pilgrims

**SAMOSET**

the first Native  
American to make  
contact with the  
Pilgrims



# Pilgrim Life Thanksgiving Maze



**Directions:** Make your way through the maze to help the Pilgrim locate his Thanksgiving harvest.

# Pilgrim Life and Thanksgiving Resource List

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