

LESSON 9 - THANKSGIVING

THANKSGIVING

The Wampanoag tribe had lived in the area for a very long time, and they shared their wisdom *or knowledge and experience* with the Pilgrims. “We live on the coast *by the water* most of the year,” they told them, “but we move inland each autumn to get away from the cold winter winds that roar in from the open sea.” *So the Wampanoag didn’t live in the same home all year—they moved when the weather changed.*



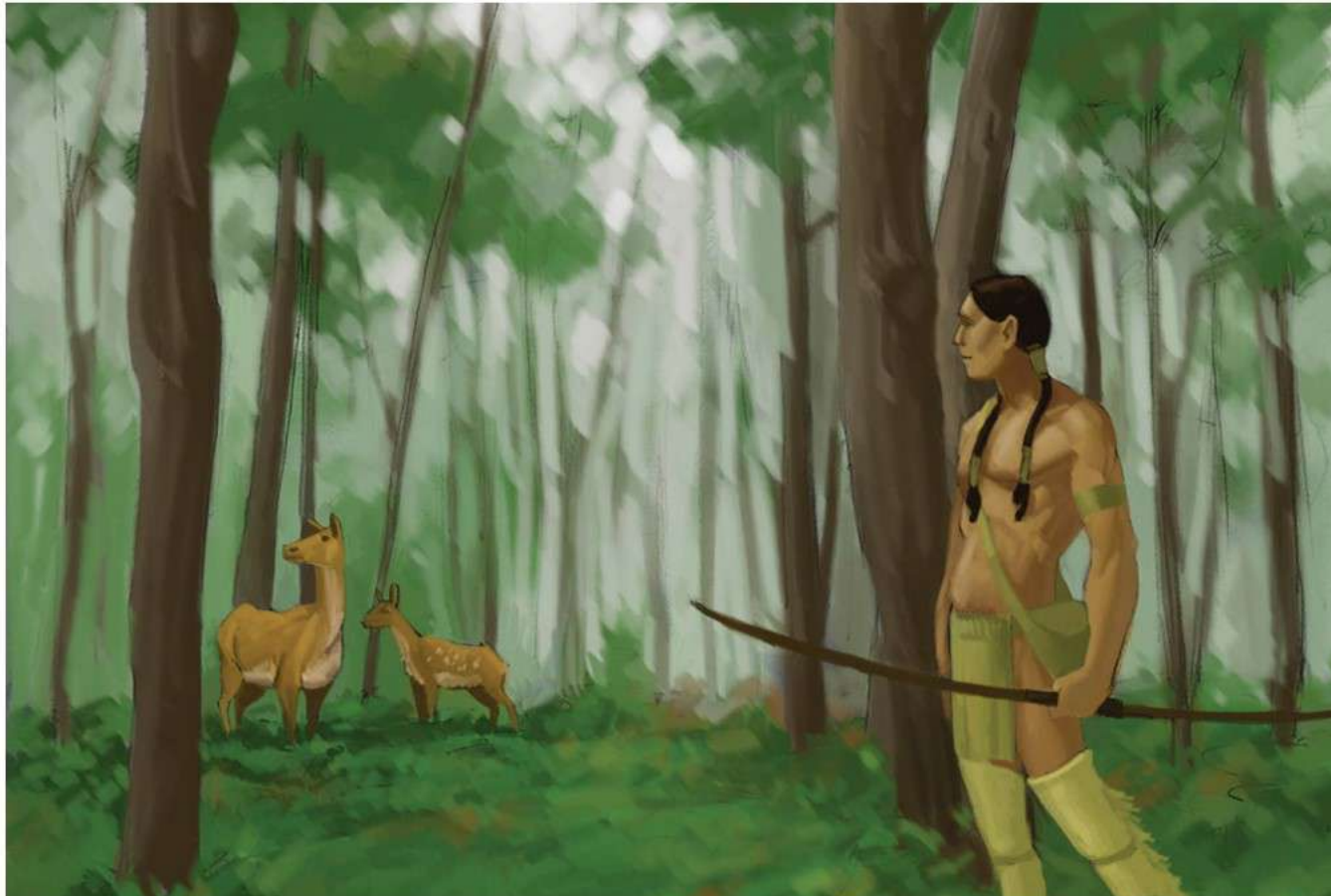
THANKSGIVING

Because their homes were made of fur and hide stretched over wooden tent poles, they simply left one set of poles in place inland and a second set in place near the ocean. They took the hide coverings *[Point to them in the picture.]* back and forth between their two homes.



THANKSGIVING

“In autumn,” the Wampanoag told the Pilgrims, “we fish in the rivers for freshwater fish. We hunt in the forests and fields for deer, turkey, beaver, otter, and moose. These give us fresh meat, and we also store *or save for another time* some of it to eat during the cold, snowy winter. Fresh food is much harder to find then.”



THANKSGIVING

There was little time for the Pilgrims to hunt and fish now, and they worried that they may not have enough food for the winter. But the Wampanoag gladly shared meat from their hunts and fish from the sea, as well as dried fruits and nuts. Without the help of Squanto and Massasoit, the Pilgrims may never have survived that first, hard winter in the New World.



THANKSGIVING

But survive they did. *If they survived, does it mean the Pilgrims made it through the hard winter?* And when spring came, the Wampanoag led the Pilgrims to rivers and to the sea, teaching them the best methods to catch fish. They taught them how to plant crops that they had never seen before, including the Native Americans' most important crop: corn.



THANKSGIVING

The Pilgrims and the Wampanoag managed to live peacefully as neighbors and friends. When fall came again, they gathered in their harvest. *Here, harvest refers to all their crops that were now ready for eating.* The Pilgrims were grateful to have survived a full year. They thanked God for bringing them to this new land where they could live freely, following their own religion. The Pilgrims held a three-day harvest celebration, *or party* and invited their Wampanoag friends to join them for the feast.



THANKSGIVING

What do you see in the picture?

The story of the members of the Wampanoag tribe gathered around the Pilgrims' table, feasting together that fall day in 1621, is told over and over and over again in America. *It is a little like the story of Plymouth Rock. Who remembers what we call those traditional stories that may or may not be true? (legends)* We are not sure of the details. We do know that the Native Americans had celebrated a harvest festival for hundreds of years before the Europeans arrived. This was probably the first time that Europeans and Native Americans celebrated together. *We still celebrate this feast in modern times once a year. Can you guess what we call this feast?*

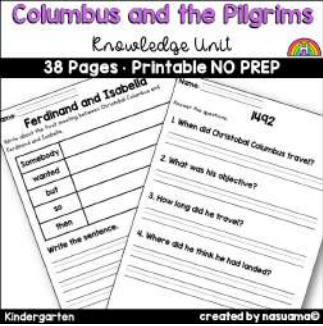


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This feast that took place in Massachusetts nearly four hundred years ago has become known as the first Thanksgiving. Every November, all across America, families and friends gather together on Thanksgiving Day to give thanks and remember the long-ago friendship between the Wampanoags and the Pilgrims. To Americans, that first Thanksgiving is important because it represents the best of the United States of America: different types of people living together peacefully and learning from one another.

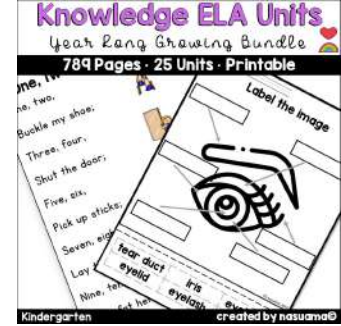
Even though the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag were very different, they shared the land and their food with one another.





COLUMBUS AND THE PILGRIMS

BUNDLE



Name: _____

The First Thanksgiving

Draw a picture that represents the first Thanksgiving. Write a sentence to thank the Wampanoag for the help.

DO YOU NEED EXTRA ACTIVITIES?

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