

The Famous Thanksgiving Literacy Unit

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<https://thisreadingmama.com/thanksgiving-literacy-unit/>

Happy Thanksgiving! Enjoy these activities with your 1st and 2nd graders. *Note: Older and younger learners may also enjoy some of the activities.*

The Famous Thanksgiving

FREE Literacy Activities

The Famous Thanksgiving

To better understand the story of the famous Thanksgiving, click on the links to the left.

... (text continues) ...

Thanksgiving: True or False?

Based on the story of the famous Thanksgiving, select the boxes that show things that are true.

Thanksgiving Vocabulary

persecuted, cleanse, fertilizer, provisions

What's for Dinner?

On the famous Thanksgiving Day of 1621, the natives provided food such as deer, turkey, cranberries, and dried berries. The Pilgrims provided vegetables such as carrots, onions, turnips, and cabbage.

turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, cranberries

In the chart above, you'll find common foods. Write about your favorite food you eat on Thanksgiving.

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The First Thanksgiving Resources

In more recent years, I have noticed a trend of changing or erasing true history. And while the new narrative of Thanksgiving fits the Godless agenda of this age, it does not portray this famous Thanksgiving in the manner that the eyewitnesses did. It is more logical to believe primary sources than what a person in 2020 or beyond (400+ years removed) says about these events.

In creating this resource, I have done my research and found some of these firsthand accounts as well as read books in which the historians found and recounted dairy entries from eyewitnesses. The resources I primarily used are as follows. I would encourage you to investigate the truth for yourself if you struggle with this famous Thanksgiving. Thank you.

Chief of the Pilgrims or The Life and Time of William Brewster, Ruling Elder of the Pilgrim Company that Founded New Plymouth, the Parent Colony of New England, in 1620 by Ashbel Steele

Drive Thru History® - "America: Columbus to the Constitution" (Special Edition) narrated by Dave Stott (DVD)

Monumental: In Search of America's National Treasure narrated by Kirk Cameron (DVD)

Mourt's Relation: A Journal of the Pilgrims at Plymouth compiled by Dwight B. Heath

The American Story: The Beginnings by David and Tim Barton

Their website <https://wallbuilders.com/> is a wealth of information!

The Light and The Glory 1492 to 1793 by Peter Marshall and David Manuel

The Treacherous World of the 16th Century & How the Pilgrims Escaped It by William J. Federer

The Famous Thanksgiving

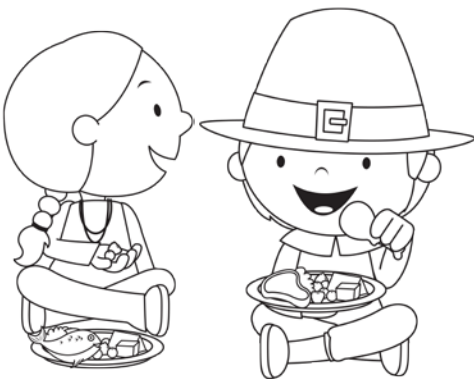
To better understand the story of the famous Thanksgiving, it is helpful to go back nearly one hundred years in English history to the year 1534. King Henry VIII wanted to break free from Rome, so he allowed the Bible to be translated into English. England finally had its own translation of the Bible, and that meant the people could read it for themselves. This became a huge problem for the king, though, for when the people read it, there was a big difference between what it said and what the king said. The king, and those on the throne that followed him, persecuted the Pilgrims and the Puritans, another group that wanted to purify or cleanse the church. Neither of these groups followed England's rules and laws for reading the Bible, worshiping, or prayer.

Because they were caught holding a secret worship service in England, the Pilgrims escaped to Holland in 1608. After living twelve years in Holland, the Pilgrims requested to go to Virginia to join the Virginia Colony, which was already established in the New World (1607).

Two boats departed, but because one of the boats had problems, they all had to return to England. Only 102 passengers left for Virginia on September 6, 1620. Crammed into tight quarters on *The Mayflower*, the Pilgrims faced fierce storms and severe sickness on the 66-day voyage. Once they spotted land, the storms had pushed them to Cape Cod, some 500 miles away from Virginia!

Although blessings would come because of where they had landed, the Pilgrims were now further north, which meant colder weather. Their first winter in New England was harsh and only half of them survived.

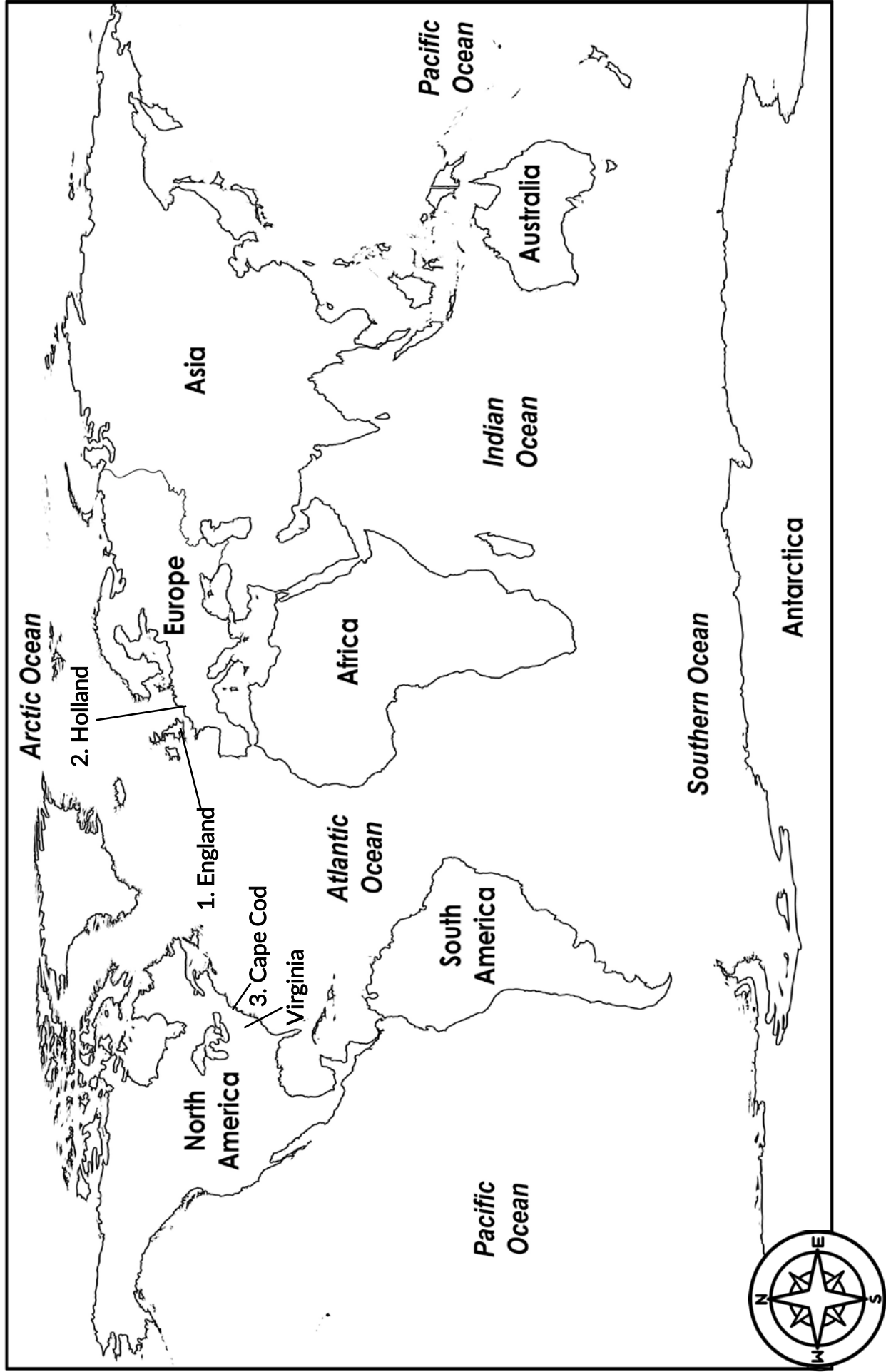
In March of the next year, a Native who spoke broken English visited them. His name was Samoset. He introduced the Pilgrims to Chief Massasoit of the Wampanoag tribe. Squanto, another Native who had learned English while a slave in England, taught the Pilgrims survival skills such as planting corn using dead fish as fertilizer and catching eel. Pilgrim Governor Bradford described Squanto as "a special instrument sent of God."



In the harvest of 1621, the Pilgrims had more than enough provisions for the winter! After all God had brought them through, they wanted to set aside time to thank Him for His goodness and blessings. They invited Chief Massasoit, and he brought ninety men as well as deer, wild turkey, and a demonstration of how to make popcorn. This famous Thanksgiving lasted three days and included contests, games, and fun. The Pilgrims had much to be thankful for!

The Pilgrim's Journey

Follow the Pilgrim's journey from England to Plymouth.

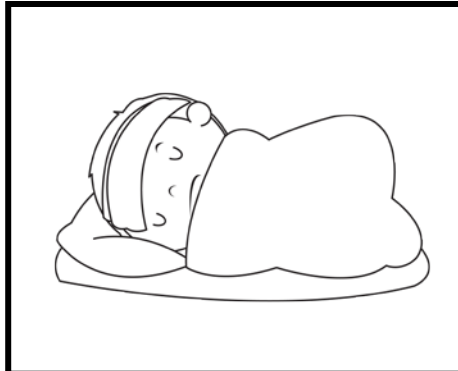


Thanksgiving: True or False?

Based on the story of the famous Thanksgiving, color only the boxes that show things that are true.



Both the Pilgrims and Puritans were from Virginia.



Many Pilgrims got sick while they traveled on *The Mayflower*.



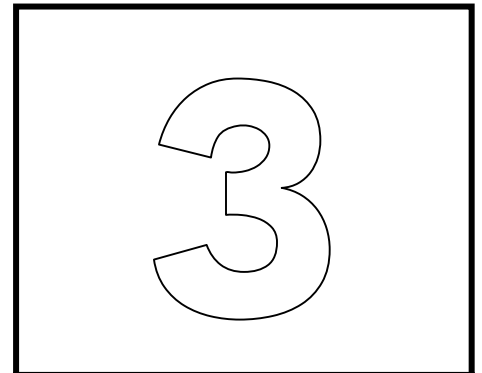
The Natives taught the Pilgrims to use dead turkeys to fertilize corn.



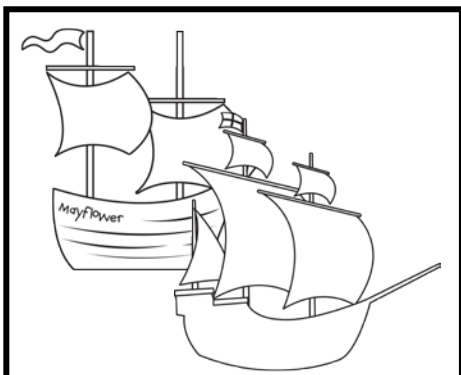
The Pilgrims felt that Squanto was a blessing from God.



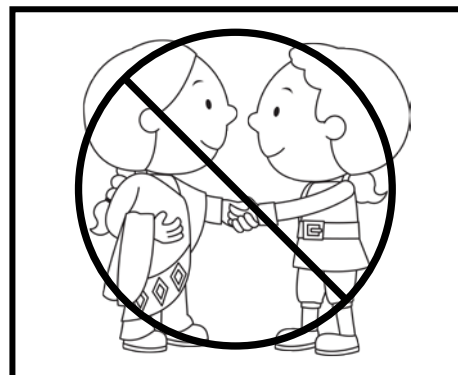
The New England winter was cold and harsh.



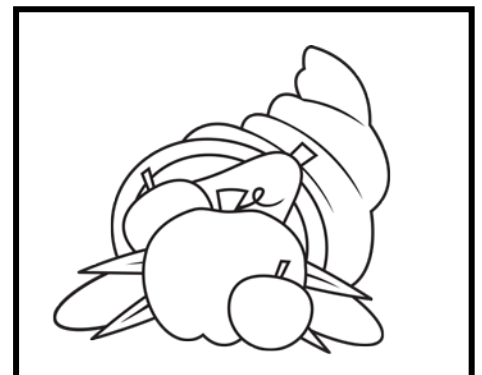
The famous Thanksgiving lasted three days.



There were two boats that originally tried to leave Holland.



The Native Americans were not helpful to the Pilgrims.



The Pilgrims set aside time to thank God for His blessings.

Thanksgiving Vocabulary

These words come from the read aloud. Cut out the cards. Match the vocabulary words to their meaning.

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translated

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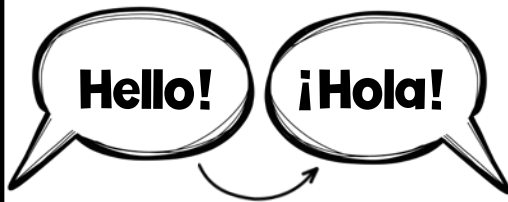


persecuted

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cleanse



taking words and changing them to another language



to be treated unfairly because of who you are or what you believe



to wash

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harsh

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fertilizer

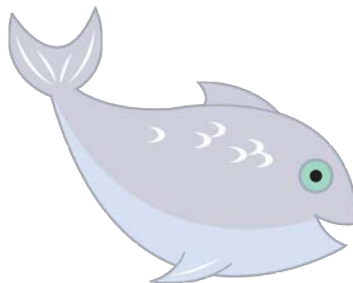
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provisions



unenjoyable, especially one or more of the five senses



something added to soil to help plants grow

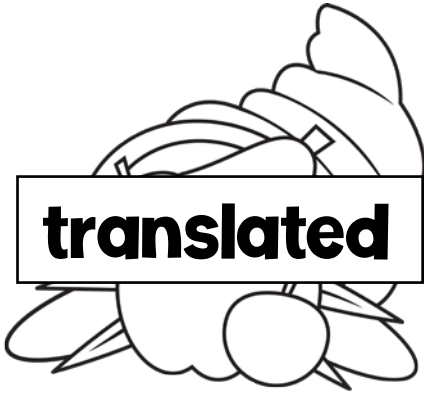


the things needed to live and survive

Thanksgiving Vocabulary

These words come from the read aloud. Cut out the cards. Match the vocabulary words to their meaning.

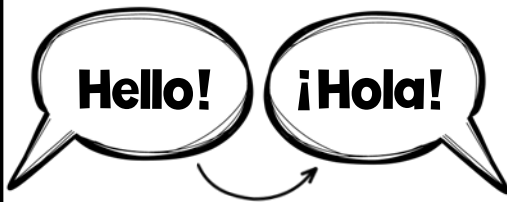
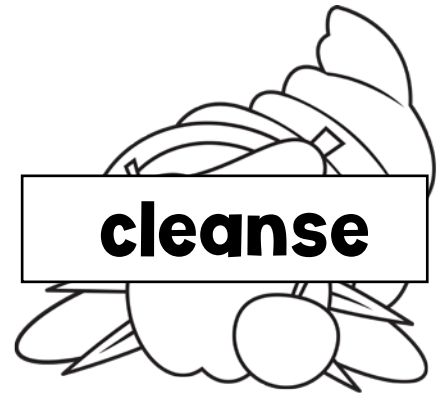
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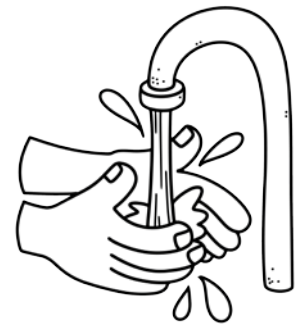
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taking words and changing them to another language

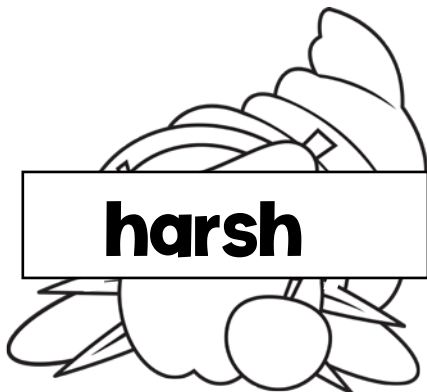


to be treated unfairly because of who you are or what you believe



to wash

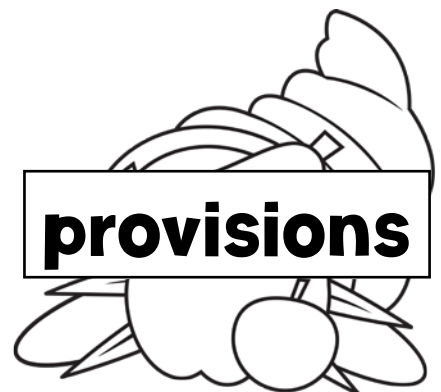
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unenjoyable, especially one or more of the five senses



something added to soil to help plants grow



the things needed to live and survive

Thanksgiving Word Bank



Bible



Pilgrims



The Mayflower



sick



storms



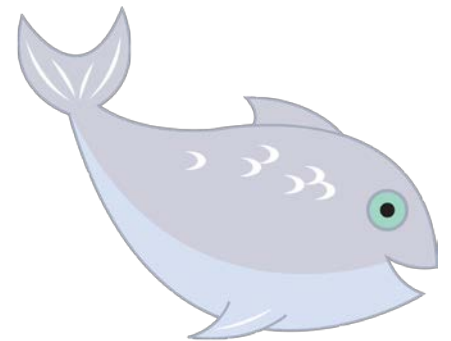
winter



Squanto



corn



fish



Chief



harvest



Thanksgiving

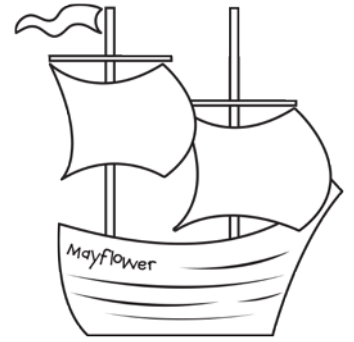
Thanksgiving Word Bank



Bible



Pilgrims



The Mayflower



sick



storms



winter

The Famous Thanksgiving

In 1784, King George III's official edict set the date for when to celebrate Thanksgiving in England. It was set for the 28th day of the month of November. This became a legal holiday for the King, but when the monarch died there was a different monarch and that was not the case. Thanksgiving in the United States is celebrated on the 4th Thursday of October. The Pilgrims and the Native Americans had a feast to celebrate the harvest of the year. It was a time of joy and thanksgiving for the food and the help that the Native Americans had given to the Pilgrims.

Because there was a drought in 1612, the Pilgrims had to move to a new location. They moved to a place called Plymouth. It was a place where they could grow crops and have a better life. The Pilgrims had to work hard to build a new settlement. They had to build houses and a church. They had to plant crops and take care of the land. They had to learn from the Native Americans how to grow crops and how to live in the new land.

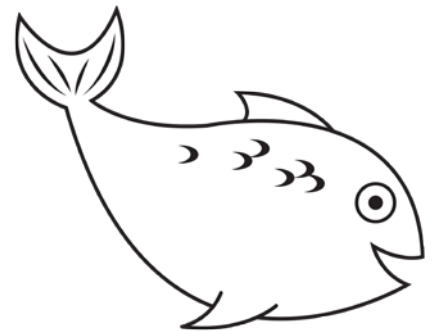
Two years after the Pilgrims arrived in 1620, the Pilgrims had a very hard winter. Many of them died because they did not have enough food and shelter. Only 53 Pilgrims survived the winter. The Pilgrims had to work hard to survive. They had to plant crops and take care of the land. They had to learn from the Native Americans how to grow crops and how to live in the new land.

Although the Pilgrims had a hard time, they were very grateful for what they had. They had food and shelter. They had a place to live. They had a community. They had a future. They had a chance to start a new life. They had a chance to be happy. They had a chance to be thankful. They had a chance to be grateful. They had a chance to be happy. They had a chance to be thankful. They had a chance to be grateful.

Squanto



corn



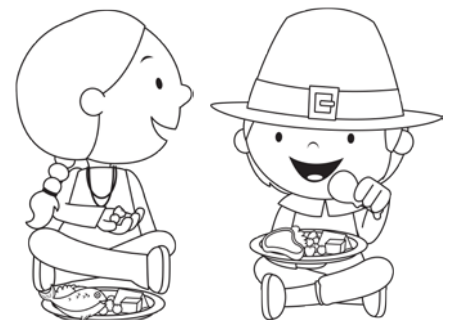
fish



Chief



harvest



Thanksgiving

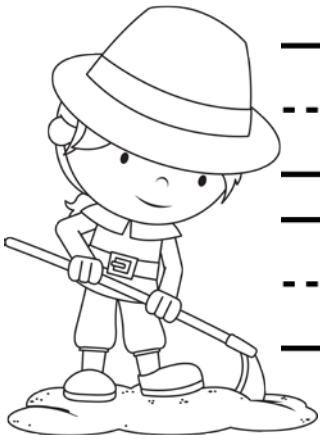
All About the Pilgrims

Draw and/or write facts about The Pilgrims in each box.



All About the Pilgrims



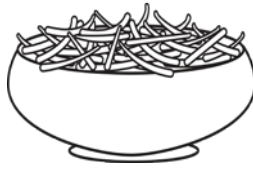

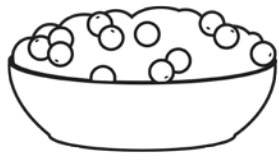

Handwriting practice area consisting of ten sets of horizontal lines. Each set includes a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line.



Handwriting practice area consisting of four sets of horizontal lines. Each set includes a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line.

“What’s for Dinner?”

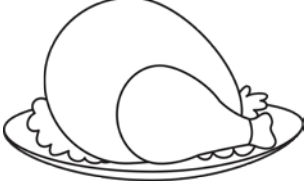



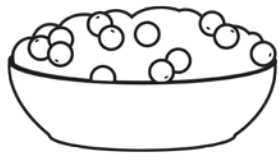

On the famous Thanksgiving Day of 1621, the Natives provided food such as deer, turkey, popcorn, and dried berries. The Pilgrims provided vegetables such as carrots, onions, turnips, and cabbage.

 <p>turkey</p>	 <p>mashed potatoes & gravy</p>	 <p>green beans</p>
 <p>stuffing</p>	 <p>cranberry sauce</p>	 <p>pie</p>

In the chart above, you’ll find common foods people eat on Thanksgiving. Draw and write about your favorite food you eat on Thanksgiving.

“What’s for Dinner?”

On the famous Thanksgiving Day of 1621, the Natives provided food such as deer, turkey, popcorn, and dried berries. The Pilgrims provided vegetables such as carrots, onions, turnips, and cabbage.

 <p>turkey</p>	 <p>mashed potatoes & gravy</p>	 <p>green beans</p>
 <p>stuffing</p>	 <p>cranberry sauce</p>	 <p>pie</p>

In the chart above, you’ll find common foods people eat on Thanksgiving. Write about your favorite food you eat on Thanksgiving.

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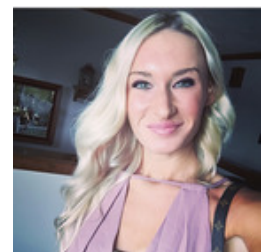
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