

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Colonial America

### *The First Thanksgiving*

**Directions:** Read the following passage then answer the questions.



### **A Feast to Remember: The Very First Thanksgiving!**

Imagine this: The year is 1621, and the aroma of roasted meat, corn, and fresh vegetables fills the air. There is laughter, music, long wooden tables and hand-carved cups. This isn't a regular dinner. Oh no! It's the First Thanksgiving!

### **New Land, New Problems**

Flashback to a year ago: The Pilgrims were newcomers, and let's be honest, they were kind of clueless. They planned to arrive in sunny Virginia but landed in cool Massachusetts. They weren't prepared for the winter, but they didn't give up. Instead, they made some friends who helped them to survive.

### **New Friends to the Rescue**

Enter the Wampanoag tribe. This native tribe became friends with the Pilgrims. They taught the Pilgrims how to plant corn, where to fish, and other secrets of the land. Also, Massasoit, the wise and brave Chief of Wampanoag, made a pact with the Pilgrims. This was a mutual defense agreement, a military alliance.

Why? Well, not everyone in the New World was friendly. There were other hostile tribes and groups. The Narragansett tribe were neighbors and rivals of the Wampanoag. They were not friendly to the new settlers. They sent a threatening message to Plymouth shortly after the Pilgrims arrived. So, the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag decided to work together.

### **A Powerful and Lasting Alliance**

Chief Massasoit and John Carver, the first governor of Plymouth, had a meeting. They agreed to defend one another against the Narragansett and any other groups. This alliance wasn't just for show and it wasn't a small thing. It lasted for over 50 years! Talk about friendship goals.

This alliance was also about more than just protection. It was a symbol of trust and respect between two very different groups. They both had different customs, traditions, and ways of life. Yet, in the face of danger, they stood side by side, ready to defend their friends and the home that they shared.

With the help of the Wampanoag and their new alliance, the Pilgrims had a successful harvest. To thank their allies and celebrate their harvest, the Pilgrims decided to throw a big feast. They invited the Wampanoag to join them. For three days, yes, three whole days, they ate, played games, and enjoyed each other's company. They had wild turkey, deer, corn, and lots of other delicious foods.

### **The Tradition Continues**

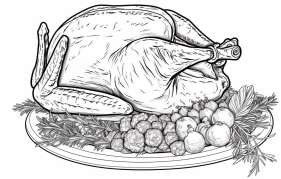
So when you dive into that pumpkin pie this year, remember that Thanksgiving isn't just about food. It's about coming together and celebrating our differences. It's about agreeing to help and support each other. And, it's about carrying on a tradition of friendship, collaboration, and, most importantly, gratitude.

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### Reading Questions

1. How did the Pilgrims' landing differ from their original plan? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Why does the speaker think that the Pilgrims were "clueless" in the New World? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Do you agree with the speaker's assessment of the Pilgrims as "clueless"? Why or why not?

4. Describe the Pilgrims relationship with Narragansett. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Why did the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag form an alliance? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. In what ways did this alliance benefit both groups? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. What does the long duration of this alliance show about their relationship? \_\_\_\_\_

8. Why do you believe this?

9. How might the story of the Pilgrims have been different without the help of the Wampanoag?

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10. What values were celebrated at the First Thanksgiving that are still important today? \_\_\_\_\_

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