

Thanksgiving

A Native American Perspective

Educational Resources

Overview

“Each November educators across the country teach their students about the First Thanksgiving, a quintessentially American holiday. They try to give students an accurate picture of what happened in Plymouth in 1621 and explain how that event fits into American history. Unfortunately, many teaching materials give an incomplete, if not inaccurate, portrayal of the first Thanksgiving, particularly of the event’s involving Native American participants.” Native Knowledge 360 ([Link](#))

American Indian Perspective on Thanksgiving

- Instructional Resource ([Link](#))
 - Reading Material ([Link](#))

Harvest Ceremony: Beyond the Thanksgiving Myth

- Instructional and Informational Resource ([Link](#))
 - Reading Material ([Link](#))

Plimoth ~ Patuxet Museums

- Thanksgiving ([Link](#))

Indigeneity Curriculum

- Indigeneity Curriculum Resources ([Link](#))
 - Thanksgiving Curriculum and activities, grades K-1
 - Keepunumak Weeachumun’s Thanksgiving Story (Book check-out at

LR Indian Edu Program)

- Book Online ([Link](#))
- The Real Thanksgiving, grades 9-12
 - Includes list of online videos
- The Three Sisters - Corns, Beans, Squash

Activities

- Thanksgiving activity for classrooms ([Link](#))
- Ideas:
 - Indian Corn Crafts
 - Three Sisters - Corn, beans, squash crafts/recipes
- Video - The Wampanoag Way ([Link](#))

Basic Target Points

- Learn the name of the Native American Tribe involved in the Thanksgiving story
 - The Wampanoag
- Understand that the Wampanoag similar to various tribes across the Americas, already practiced harvest or also known as First Food ceremonies, at various times throughout the year.
- Understand that various layers of complex and dire situations developed between the groups in years following the Thanksgiving story. Of which overshadowed the potential for what could have happened, therefore some groups associate it with loss or mourning.
- Learning about the Wampanoag and their way of life in connection to their land and food-resources, and other tribes' relation to their natural resources, is a great way to support a better form of representation for tribes.
- Thankfulness for our natural resources, our seasonal forms of sustenance and being respectful stewards of the lands is a Native American traditional practice.