Story of Thanksgiving Printable: A Thoughtful Reading Guide

Print on US Letter paper at actual size.

Wampanoag people lived in their homelands and practiced their own traditions long before English colonists arrived. In 1621, English colonists and Wampanoag people took part in a harvest gathering. That event is often included in stories about Thanksgiving. It was one moment in a much longer history. Later relationships included conflict, and a single celebration cannot explain everything that happened. When we read about the past, we should ask whose experiences are included and whose voices are missing. We can learn from Native communities and from careful historical sources. Giving thanks today can be meaningful, but a modern holiday activity is not the same as a full account of Wampanoag and English colonial history.

1. Who had established communities before English colonists arrived?

2. In what year did the passage's harvest gathering occur?

3. Why does one gathering not tell the whole story?

4. What question can readers ask about a historical account?

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Sample responses; accept other answers supported by the passage.

1. Wampanoag people.

2. 1621.

3. The history is longer and later relationships included conflict.

4. Whose experiences are included, or whose voices are missing?