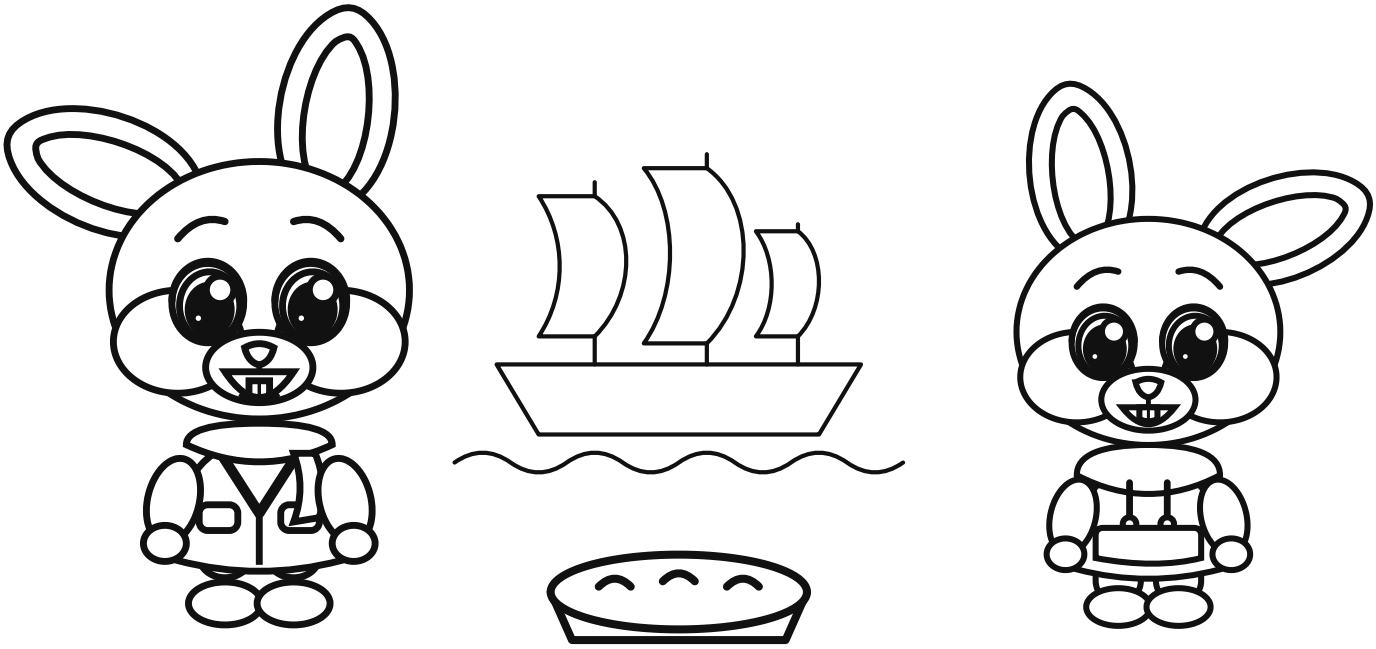
THANKSGIVING
HISTORY HUNT



HOW TO PLAY

1. Print pages 3 to 6, cut each page in half on the dashed line, and tape the eight stations up around the house.
2. Give each kid an answer sheet (page 2 has two) and a pencil.
3. At each station, they read the page, find the answer and write its letter in the box with that station's number.
4. If the eight letters spell a real Thanksgiving word, every answer is right. Write in a prize on a certificate (page 7 has two) and sign it.

Younger kids can go with a reader. The word is THANKFUL.

TALK ABOUT IT AT DINNER

Most of us learned this story from the Pilgrims' side. How might a Wampanoag family tell it?
Where did your family come from, and what food do you bring to the table?

MY ANSWER SHEET

Name _____

Go to each station. Write the letter of the right answer in that station's box.

1. Who was here first?

2. What did the Pilgrims want?

3. What did the Pilgrims take on Cape Cod?

4. Why did Massasoit make a deal with the Pilgrims?

5. How long did the harvest feast last?

6. What did the Wampanoag bring five of?

7. What did settlers keep taking after 1621?

8. Which president made Thanksgiving a holiday?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

Do your letters spell a word? Show a grown-up to win your prize!

MY ANSWER SHEET

Name _____

Go to each station. Write the letter of the right answer in that station's box.

1. Who was here first?

2. What did the Pilgrims want?

3. What did the Pilgrims take on Cape Cod?

4. Why did Massasoit make a deal with the Pilgrims?

5. How long did the harvest feast last?

6. What did the Wampanoag bring five of?

7. What did settlers keep taking after 1621?

8. Which president made Thanksgiving a holiday?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

Do your letters spell a word? Show a grown-up to win your prize!

hunnyandsunny.fun · Make your own picture book at makeabook.fun

WHO WAS HERE FIRST?
THE WAMPANOAG

1

The Wampanoag (say it: WAHM-puh-NOH-ahg) have lived in what is now Massachusetts for more than 12,000 years. Their name means People of the First Light. They had their own language, leaders, farms and towns.

Wampanoag people still live there today.

Who was here first?

- (B) **Nobody**
- (T) **The Wampanoag**
- (R) **Penguins**
- (M) **Pirates**

WHY DID THE PILGRIMS COME?

2

The Pilgrims were a church group from England. The king didn't let them pray their own way, so in 1620 they sailed here on the Mayflower. They were immigrants looking for a safe place to live.

The place they chose was already someone's home. They built their town on a Wampanoag village called Patuxet, where a sickness carried by European sailors had killed almost everyone.

What did the Pilgrims want?

- (E) **To build a castle**
- (O) **To go on vacation**
- (H) **To pray their own way**
- (P) **To meet the king**

WHAT HAPPENED THE
FIRST WINTER?

3

The Pilgrims landed in November, too late to plant. Exploring Cape Cod, they found baskets of corn that Native families had buried to eat that winter, and they took it. Months later, they paid some of it back.

That winter was very hard. About half of the Pilgrims died before spring.

What did the Pilgrims take on Cape Cod?

- (A) **Corn Native families had stored**
- (E) **Gold coins**
- (O) **Pirate treasure**
- (I) **Ice cream**

WHY DID THE WAMPANOAG
MAKE A DEAL?

4

Massasoit, the Wampanoag leader, had lost many of his people to sickness, and a rival nation was getting stronger. In March 1621, he agreed to a deal: the Wampanoag and the Pilgrims would protect each other.

Tisquantum, a Wampanoag man, translated. He spoke English because an English captain had kidnapped him years before.

Why did Massasoit make a deal with the Pilgrims?

- (D) **He was bored**
- (N) **To protect his people**
- (S) **To get a new hat**
- (W) **To buy the Mayflower**

WHEN WAS THE FIRST THANKSGIVING? IN THE FALL OF 1621

5

When the corn was ready, the Pilgrims celebrated the harvest and fired their guns. Massasoit came with about 90 men, maybe because they heard the shots. Two nations with different languages, foods and beliefs ate together for three days.

Nobody called it Thanksgiving yet.

How long did the harvest feast last?

- (M) One hour
- (W) All year
- (P) Ten years
- (K) Three days

WHAT DID THEY EAT?

6

DEER The Wampanoag brought five.

WILD BIRDS The Pilgrims hunted ducks and geese.

CORN Grown the Wampanoag way, made into bread and porridge.

PUMPKIN PIE Nope! There were no ovens to bake one.

What did the Wampanoag bring five of?

- (Z) Pizzas
- (F) Deer
- (C) Cupcakes
- (Y) Ice cream

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

7

More and more settlers came, and they kept taking Wampanoag land. In 1675, Massasoit's son Metacom led a war to protect his people's home. Thousands of people died.

After the war, settlers took most of the land that was left, and many Wampanoag people were sold into slavery.

What did settlers keep taking after 1621?

- (G) **Nothing at all**
- (J) **Only fish**
- (U) **Wampanoag land**
- (V) **Pumpkins**

WHY DO WE CELEBRATE IT TODAY?

8

A writer named Sarah Josepha Hale asked presidents for a national Thanksgiving for 17 years. In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln said yes. Today, families from all over the world bring their own foods and traditions to the table.

Many Wampanoag people spend the day remembering what their families lost. They are still here, and they are bringing back their own language.

Which president made Thanksgiving a holiday?

- (D) **Santa Claus**
- (S) **Sunny Bunny**
- (L) **Abraham Lincoln**
- (X) **King Candy**



THANKSGIVING HISTORY DETECTIVE



This certificate goes to

_____

for finding all eight answers and spelling the secret word.

My prize: _____

Signed _____ Date _____



THANKSGIVING HISTORY DETECTIVE



This certificate goes to

_____

for finding all eight answers and spelling the secret word.

My prize: _____

Signed _____ Date _____