



Thanksgiving activities



# THE AMERICAN VILLAGE

## Living America's Story: Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is part of the series of popular and exciting early childhood programs, Living America's Story, best suited for grades K through 3, giving younger students the chance to participate in meaningful seasonal adventures.



**“The Journey”**: Rules and laws are important, especially in difficult times and new situations. By acting out the voyage of the Mayflower, children will discover their historical roots as they acquire the ability to consider the rights, ideas, and feelings of others. They will learn the importance of rules and laws by contributing solutions to problems.

### VIGNETTES:

**“Peace Treaty”**: Cooperation can overcome difficulties in a new situation. In this vignette, students will meet Chief Massasoit as he makes a treaty with the Pilgrims. Through their experience, they will understand that differences can be overcome to find friendship.

**“First Feast”**: Collaboration, or working side by side, will give students an opportunity to see how strangers can become friends. Through becoming part of the original Thanksgiving Feast between the Pilgrims and the Native Americans, children will experience how working together and sharing can make friendship grow.

**“Harvest Games”**: Playing games can teach about different cultures. Both Native Americans and settlers in the New World used games to relax and learn about the world. These physical activities help children understand how people from Early America conquered boredom and expressed themselves with fun.



### **WHAT TO DO TO PREPARE FOR YOUR EXPERIENCE AT THE AMERICAN VILLAGE**

- ★ Review the story of the voyage of The Mayflower. Ask your students about trips they have taken, how they prepared for them, and what hardships they encountered.
- ★ Talk about how people need rules and laws to live together in a way that will be safe and comfortable for everyone. Create a set of rules for your trip to The American Village.
- ★ Discuss the meaning of the word “treaty.” Divide the class into two groups with a problem to solve. Let them create a treaty to resolve their differences.
- ★ Recall the story of the first Thanksgiving. Ask students about their own Thanksgiving traditions. What foods do they like the best? Have them draw pictures of their own celebrations.
- ★ Our first President George Washington issued the first Thanksgiving Proclamation. Every President since his time has also done this. Thanksgiving is a holiday on which we give thanks for the many blessings of liberty and the many opportunities of our country. Have your students name some American blessings, liberties, and opportunities.
- ★ Games can help conquer boredom or express the nature of a culture. What are the student's favorite games?



# Resource information

## **Standards:**

- ALCOS.2010.SS.1.11
- ALCOS.2010.SS.2.2
- ALCOS.2010.SS.5.5



## **Objectives:**

- I can sequence events that revolve around the first Thanksgiving.
- I can create a gratitude chart.
- I can explain the role and purpose of the Mayflower Compact.



# Pre-Visit vocabulary

- Religious pilgrims who were looking to create their own Christian Church in the “New World”
  - Strangers - Mostly non-religious passengers on the Mayflower Miles
  - Standish - Military advisor for the Pilgrims. One of the leaders of Plymouth Colony
  - Mayflower - The name of the ship that brought the Pilgrims to the New World
  - Elizabeth Hopkins - Mayflower passenger who gave birth to her second child, Oceanus, onboard the Mayflower during the trip from England to the New World
  - Scurvy - A disease that people can get who do not eat enough fruits or vegetables. Gum disease can be a symptom, as well as tooth loss
  - Mayflower Compact - A set of rules that the Pilgrims would follow in the New World
  - Massasoit - Native American friend of the Pilgrims at Plymouth Colony
  - Edward Winslow - One of the leaders of Plymouth Colony
  - Squanto - Native American friend of the Pilgrims who helped them speak with other Native Americans (a translator)



history of  
thanksgiving  
timeline

# HISTORY OF THANKSGIVING TIMELINE ACTIVITY KINDER-2ND

## Instructions:

- Copy both pages for students.
- Students should cut on the dotted line to separate the choices from the timeline piece.
- The top half of the timeline can be glued together to make one timeline.
- Students will then glue the events in the order that they happened.
- The correct rectangles DO NOT correlate to the three squares on each page on pages 2-3. Pages 4-5 do correlate.

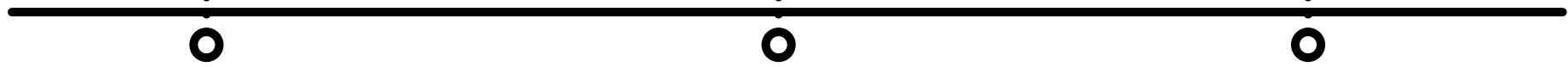
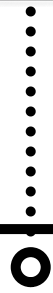
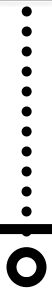
# HISTORY OF THANKSGIVING

AUGUST  
1620

NOVEMBER  
1620

MARCH  
1621

GLUE HERE



1. Cut on the dotted line

2. Cut the rectangles out.

First Harvest Celebrated  
with Massasoit and his  
men.

The *Mayflower* and  
*Speedwell* sail towards  
the New World.

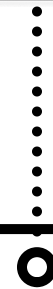
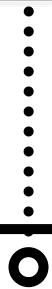
President Lincoln gives a  
proclamation calling for  
a day of Thanksgiving.

# HISTORY OF THANKSGIVING

SEPTEMBER  
1621

OCTOBER  
1863

OCTOBER  
1941



1. Cut on the dotted line



2. Cut the rectangles out.



Land is spotted by the Pilgrims on the *Mayflower* and the Mayflower Compact is signed.

Samoset and Squanto meet the Pilgrims and a peace treaty is signed between the Wampanoag and Pilgrims.

Thanksgiving is made into a federal holiday on the 4th Thursday in November.



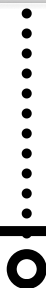
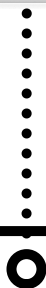
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Thanksgiving is made into a federal holiday on the 4th Thursday in November.

# ANSWER KEY - PAGE 1

**AUGUST  
1620**

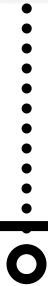
The *Mayflower* and *Speedwell* sail towards the New World.

**NOVEMBER  
1620**

Land is spotted by the Pilgrims on the *Mayflower* and the Mayflower Compact is signed.

**MARCH  
1621**

Samoset and Squanto meet the Pilgrims and a peace treaty is signed between the Wampanoag and Pilgrims.



# ANSWER KEY - PAGE 2

**SEPTEMBER  
1621**

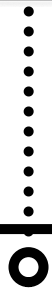
First Harvest Celebrated  
with Massasoit and his  
men.

**OCTOBER  
1863**

President Lincoln gives a  
proclamation calling for  
a day of Thanksgiving.

**OCTOBER  
1941**

Thanksgiving is established  
as a national holiday on the  
4th Thursday in November.



# HISTORY OF THANKSGIVING TIMELINE ACTIVITY 3RD-5TH

## Instructions:

- Copy both pages for students.
- Students should cut on the dotted line to separate the choices from the timeline piece.
- The top half of the timeline can be glued together to make one timeline.
- Students will then glue the events in the order that they happened.

# -----'S HISTORY OF

FEBURARY  
1619

SEPTEMBER  
1620

MARCH  
1621

AUGUST  
1620

NOVEMBER  
1620

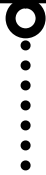
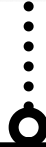
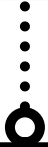
SEPTEMBER  
1621

GLUE HERE

# THANKSGIVING

NOVEMBER  
1623

OCTOBER  
1941



OCTOBER  
1863

CUT HERE

Cut each box out on the dotted line.

Pilgrims celebrate first  
Harvest with Massasoit  
and his men.

Lincoln announces  
Thanksgiving to be celebrated  
on the last Thursday of  
November.

Governor Bradford  
proclaims a Day of  
Thanksgiving.

Both the *Mayflower* and  
*Speedwell* attempt to  
sail to the New World.

Congress officially makes  
Thanksgiving a federal holiday  
on the 4th Thursday of  
November.

Pilgrims receive  
permission to settle in  
the New World.

*Mayflower* spots land, anchors  
off of Cape Cod, and the  
Mayflower Compact is signed.

Samoset and Squanto  
meet the Pilgrims. A  
peace treaty is signed.

The *Speedwell* is abandoned after  
it leaks. Passengers either join the  
*Mayflower* or return to Holland.

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Harvest with Massasoit  
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February 1619

Pilgrims receive permission to settle in the New World.

September 1621

Pilgrims celebrate first Harvest with Massasoit and his men.

August 1620

Both the *Mayflower* and *Speedwell* attempt to sail to the New World.

November 1623

Governor Bradford proclaims a Day of Thanksgiving.

September 1620

The *Speedwell* is abandoned after it leaks. Passengers either join the *Mayflower* or return to Holland.

October 1863

Lincoln announces Thanksgiving to be celebrated on the last Thursday of November.

November 1620

*Mayflower* spots land, anchors off of Cape Cod, and the Mayflower Compact is signed.

October 1941

Congress officially makes Thanksgiving a federal holiday on the 4th Thursday of November.

March 1621

Samoset and Squanto meet the Pilgrims. A peace treaty is signed.

# ANSWER KEY



mayflower  
compact

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

## **History of the Mayflower Compact**

The 102 passengers on the Mayflower left England in 1620 to escape religious persecution and to start what they felt would be a Godly settlement in the New World near the Hudson River. The voyage took 63 days and as the Mayflower eventually prepared to land in New England instead of near the Hudson River, there were conflicts aboard the ship. Some aboard the ship decided that when they went ashore that they would do what they wanted to because nobody was in command of them. Other passengers were alarmed by the conflict and worried that the only way for the new settlement to succeed was for everyone to work together to do so. The very real possibility of their new settlement failing could have happened, unless something was done to create order. The passengers wanted some sort of a document to agree to do so. That document (probably written by William Brewster) is the Mayflower Compact. The ideas contained within the Mayflower Compact were very influential in the ideas contained within our Founding documents. The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution both contain elements of self-government and representative government that have become the framework of our government today.

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

## ***Mayflower Compact***

In the name of God, Amen. We whose names are under-written, the loyal subjects of our dread sovereign Lord, King James, by the grace of God, of Great Britain, France, and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith, etc. Having undertaken, for the glory of God, and advancement of the Christian faith, and honor of our King and Country, a voyage to plant the first colony in the northern parts of Virginia, do by these presents solemnly and mutually, in the presence of God, and one of another, covenant and combine our selves together into a civil body politic, for our better ordering and preservation and furtherance of the ends aforesaid; and by virtue hereof to enact, constitute, and frame such just and equal laws, ordinances, acts, constitutions and offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the general good of the Colony, unto which we promise all due submission and obedience. In witness whereof we have hereunder subscribed our names at Cape Cod, the eleventh of November [New Style (the calendar we use today), November 21], in the year of the reign of our sovereign lord, King James, of England, France, and Ireland, the eighteenth, and of Scotland the fifty-fourth. Anno Dom. 1620.

John Carver  
William Brewster  
John Alden  
William Mullins  
John Craxton  
John Howland  
John Tilly  
Thomas Tinker  
John Turner  
Digery Priest  
Edmond Margeson  
Richard Clark  
Thomas English  
John Goodman

William Bradford  
Isaac Allerton  
Samuel Fuller  
William White  
John Billington  
Steven Hopkins  
Francis Cook  
John Rigdale  
Francis Eaton  
Thomas Williams  
Peter Brown  
Richard Gardiner  
Edward Doten  
George Soule

Edward Winslow  
Miles Standish  
Christopher Martin  
James Chilton  
Richard Warren  
Edward Tilly  
Thomas Rogers  
Edward Fuller  
Moses Fletcher  
Gilbert Winslow  
Richard Bitteridge  
John Allerton  
Edward Liester

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

1. What did the people who were on the Mayflower value in your opinion as you look at the document? Give three examples. Why do you think these were important things to them?

2. Define self-government. Where in U.S. History have we also seen self-government (other documents)? Where do we see self-government in the United States today?

3. How does the Mayflower Compact show that the passengers from the ship were independent from England and how does it show they were still loyal to England?

4. The Pilgrims established their government before they even left the ship. Why do you think they did that?

5. Look up 2 names from the list of signers of the Mayflower Compact and find out what happened to them after they landed in Plymouth. Search the name and add the word "Mayflower" and you should be able to find out what happened to them. (Example: William Brewster Mayflower) Write your answer on looseleaf paper.

gratitude  
activity



# I AM GRATEFUL FOR...

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Blank writing area with a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line.

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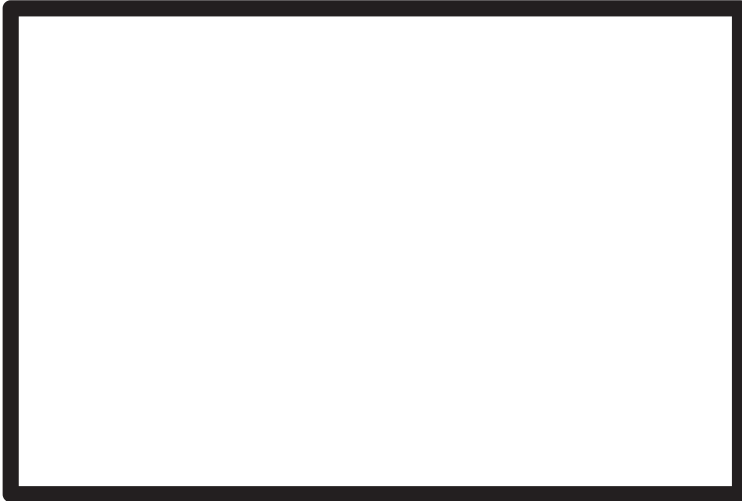
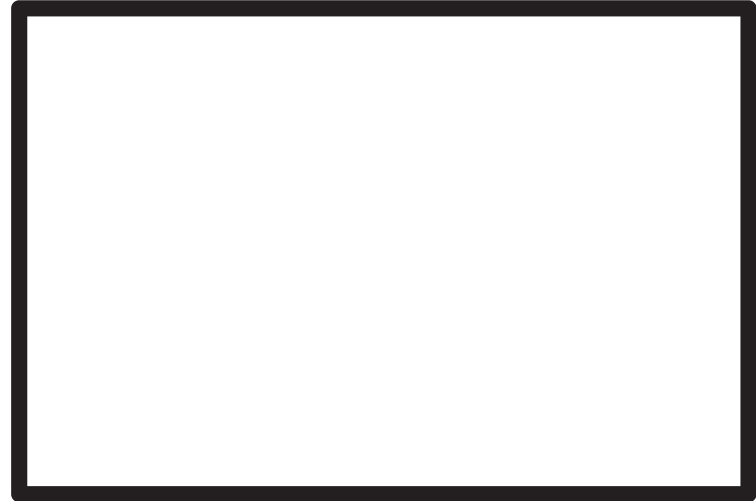
Blank writing area with a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line.

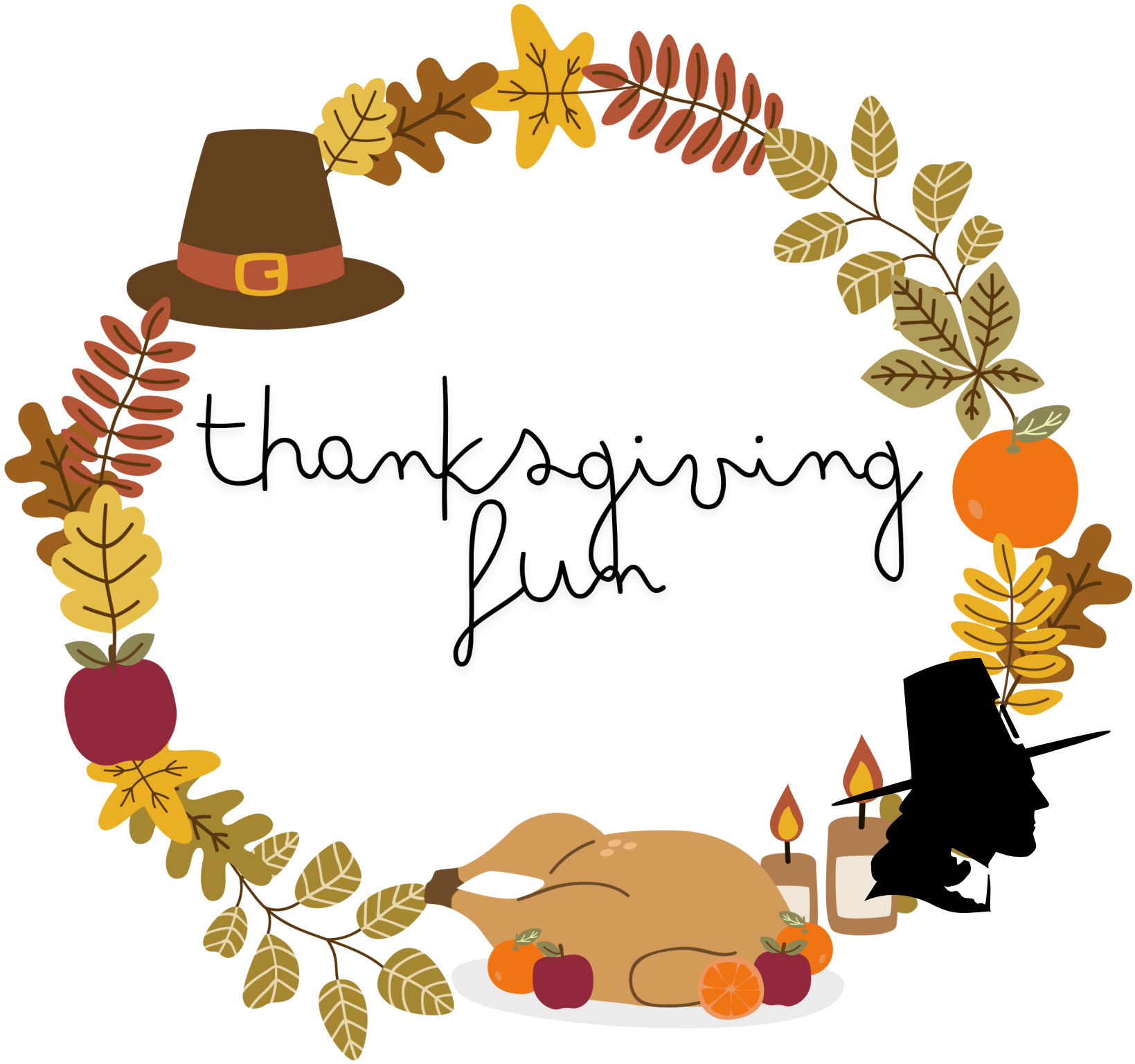
# I AM GRATEFUL FOR...

A large, empty rectangular box with a thick black border, intended for writing a response to the title above.A large, empty rectangular box with a thick black border, intended for writing a response to the title above.A large, empty rectangular box with a thick black border, intended for writing a response to the title above.A large, empty rectangular box with a thick black border, intended for writing a response to the title above.



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thanksgiving  
fun

# THANKSGIVING

## word search

### WORD BANK

MASSACHUSETTS

PLYMOUTH

CAPE COD

CORN

THANKSGIVING

MASSASOIT

FISH

MAYFLOWER

ENGLAND

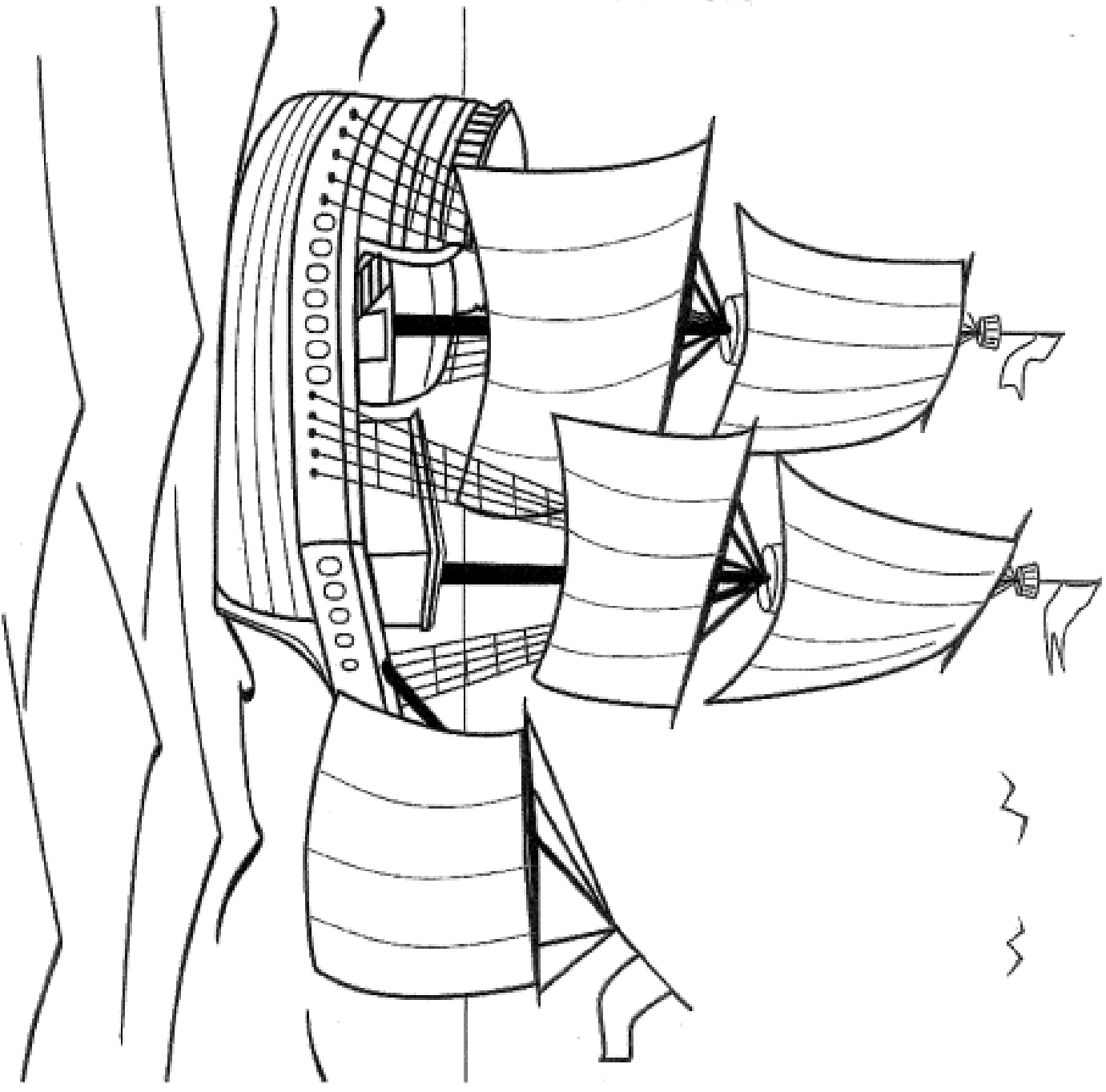
PILGRIMS

SPEEDWELL

SQUANTO

STANDISH

F	T	M	S	A	K	P	N	A	N	K	X	W	S	B
K	J	H	A	Q	N	Z	L	C	S	W	A	Y	T	X
Z	P	Q	A	S	U	S	S	Y	Y	Z	Z	W	A	S
B	U	B	V	N	S	A	P	H	M	O	F	O	N	N
S	Y	R	Z	F	K	A	N	E	V	O	V	Z	D	X
O	N	X	J	I	Z	S	C	T	E	L	U	K	I	T
X	H	Z	J	S	A	M	G	H	O	D	P	T	S	O
P	N	V	C	H	Z	D	A	I	U	C	W	W	H	B
I	I	U	E	A	S	I	H	S	V	S	Z	E	K	I
L	I	C	A	P	E	C	O	D	S	I	E	M	L	T
G	M	A	Y	F	L	O	W	E	R	A	N	T	P	L
R	M	P	X	Q	C	C	F	Q	P	O	S	G	T	G
I	S	J	V	Z	H	O	D	G	O	I	W	O	B	S
M	U	E	V	J	H	R	O	V	N	Q	D	I	I	A
S	E	N	G	L	A	N	D	E	Z	X	L	P	X	T



The ship that brought the Pilgrims to the New World was called the *Mayflower*.



### **Map Locations**

- September 16, 1620 - Mayflower sails from Plymouth, England
- November 19, 1620 - The crew of the Mayflower spot land. They see Cape Cod, part of modern day Massachusetts
- November 21, 1620 - The Mayflower Compact is signed. This represents the Pilgrims form of self-government
- December 1620 - The pilgrims settle in the area now known as Plymouth, MA
- Fall 1621 - The first Thanksgiving is held.

### **Poem Thanksgiving by Beth Matheson**

Directions: Prepare each of the letters of the word on individual poster board. Select two students each who will hold a large card with a letter that will be turned over as it is their turn in the lineup. You may ask one of these two students to read what the letter stands for; the other members of the class can read each in chorus or select a third student to read each of the phrases. Involve as many students as possible. Students may dress that day as Indians or Pilgrims if you choose to include this as a part of a presentation.

T IS FOR TURKEY ON THANKSGIVING DAY  
H IS FOR HURRY, WE'RE HUNGRY WE SAY  
A IS FOR AUNTIE, SHE WORKS AND SHE MENDS  
N IS FOR NATIVE AMERICAN FRIENDS  
K IS FOR KITCHEN, THE OVENS ON LOW  
S IS FOR SILVERWARE SAT IN A ROW  
G IS FOR GRANDMA, THE ONE WE LOVE MOST  
I IS FOR INSIDE WHERE WE'RE WARM AS TOAST  
V IS FOR VEGETABLES, EAT THEM WE TRY  
I IS FOR ICE CREAM ON TOP OF THE PIE  
N IS FOR NEVER DO WE HAVE ENOUGH DRESSING  
G IS FOR GRANDPA WHO GIVES THANKS FOR OUR  
BLESSINGS  
HAPPY THANKSGIVING!