

# The First Thanksgiving

on **Scholastic.com**

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/thanksgiving/>

Sign up to receive emails from a Pilgrim and a Wampanoag child during the month of November!  
[www.scholastic.com/thanksgiving\\_letters](http://www.scholastic.com/thanksgiving_letters)

## The Ultimate Virtual Field Trip for Classrooms!

Explore the First Thanksgiving of the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag on **Scholastic.com**. This unit is the place where teachers come to tour the Mayflower, learn about the first Thanksgiving feast, compare and contrast the daily life of the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag Indians, and encourage their students to write research papers on the story of the brave settlers in the New World.

## Now our Thanksgiving unit is better than ever because we've added:

- Audio to support all students' learning styles
- Video resources to bring the content alive for students
- A series of emails to classrooms from a Pilgrim and a Wampanoag child
- Interactive time lines to help students learn about important events during the Pilgrims' historic voyage

## Teaching Guides

Turn around and use in class today! All resources are supported by comprehensive teaching guides with goals, resources, and assessment ideas for you right away.  
[www.scholastic.com/thanksgivingtg](http://www.scholastic.com/thanksgivingtg)



## Engaging Interactive Explorations

### Journey on the *Mayflower*

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/thanksgiving/voyage/journey.htm>

This interactive voyage, laced with sound effects and filled with events that occurred on the *Mayflower*, takes students on the Pilgrims' travels from Plymouth, England, across the stormy Atlantic to the New World.

### Tour the *Mayflower*

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/thanksgiving/voyage/tour.htm>

Students go on board the *Mayflower* to get a first-hand look at the ship's layout, the crew members and their responsibilities, and the conditions in which the Pilgrims made their two-month voyage.

### Learn About Life as a Plymouth Pilgrim

[http://teacher.scholastic.com/thanksgiving/daily\\_life/](http://teacher.scholastic.com/thanksgiving/daily_life/)

With this activity students will explore the new settlement in Plymouth; the lifestyles of the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag; and the people, foods, and activities that were a part of the first Thanksgiving.

## Experience the First Thanksgiving in Your Classroom!

## Tips for Teaching With the Thanksgiving Emails

Make the Thanksgiving emails an event.

- Make a sign for the door announcing that today is the day our class receives an email from Plymouth.
  - Get a straw cornucopia and make it a Thanksgiving mailbox. Print a copy of the email for each child and place them in the cornucopia. Let students pick up their own copy of the email and keep it in a folder. Students can write responses to each email and keep the letters together.
  - Print out a copy of the emails, enlarge them on a copy machine, and hang them up on your Thanksgiving bulletin board. If you really want to get creative, do a wash of the letters with a tea solution and burn the edges with a match to make them appear old.
- Have your students share their Thanksgiving experience.**
- Open the email and let students pair up to go to the computer to read the e-mail together.
  - Have a special student stand up and read the email to the class. This could be a reward for that student or a way to build confidence in reading aloud.
  - You might want to have a Readers Theater performance in which one student plays the role of the Pilgrim and one student plays the Native American, and they read all of the letters in sequence. Let students in the audience ask questions and then do a compare and contrast exercise to discuss the difference in lifestyles of the Native Americans and the Pilgrim settlers.
  - Print out copies of the letters and let your students deliver the letters to other classrooms. They can even read them!