

Our Mission

As a community steward, we are dedicated to authentically serving all members of our community, and accomplish this through creating positive change in the lives of a diverse group of individuals through a ministry of service. We celebrate the uniqueness of each individual within an intentionally diverse and welcoming environment. To this end, each of us embrace and leverage the diversity of all team members, volunteers, board members, stakeholders, and clients.



Volunteers of America®

MID-STATES

Tuesday, November 24, 2020

The First Thanksgiving

National Museum of the American Indian

The First Thanksgiving is often portrayed as a friendly harvest festival where Pilgrims and generic, nameless "Indians" came together to eat and give thanks. In reality, the assembly of the Wampanoag Peoples and the English settlers in 1621 had much more to do with political alliances, diplomacy, and a pursuit of peace.

The Wampanoag Peoples had a long political history dealing with other Native Nations before the English arrived. The Wampanoag shared their land, food, and knowledge of the environment with the English.

Without help from the Wampanoag, the English would not have had the successful harvest that led to the First Thanksgiving. However, cooperation was short lived, as the English continued to attack and encroach upon Wampanoag lands in spite of their agreements. Interactions with Europeans and Americans brought accelerated and often devastating changes to American Indian cultures. As with all lessons that discuss Native American culture and history, **it is important to include accurate details, be tribally specific, and practice cultural sensitivity when teaching about Thanksgiving.**

Happy Thanksgiving

Join Us in our Celebration of
Native American Heritage Day

Friday, November 21, 2020



**FOR MORE INFORMATION/SUGGESTION,
CONTACT A REPRESENTATIVE TODAY:
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