

THANKSGIVING PLAY

Grade Five
Miss Slindee

ENGLAND

In England over 300 years ago there lived some people called Pilgrims. They were not happy with laws of the king or the church of England. They were not allowed to pray as they chose and were not allowed to practice their own faith.

Lisa - I'm so unhappy the King's laws are so unjust. We can't even go to prayer meeting.

Holly - Yes, I would like to go someplace where the king could not keep us from practicing our faith.

Lisa - But where could we go?

Holly - We could go to Holland. We would have freedom to practice our religion there.

Lisa - Many of our friends would go too. They are just as unhappy as we are about England's laws.

So they went to Holland and heard stories about the other lands. They went back to England and started to make plans to go to the new world.

SAILING - MAYFLOWER

From the port of England, 102 men, women and children set sail for America on the ship called the Mayflower. It was rough and hard for the pilgrims to sail on such rough waters. There was not enough food for everyone. Many people died of starvation and sickness. Once the ship almost tipped over during a bad storm. Soon it started getting colder.

After many months the pilgrims saw land. "Land Ho!" called one of the crew men. Land it was. They dropped anchor a few feet away from the cove. Three men went on to search for a place to settle. For two weeks the people lived on the Mayflower. When they did find a spot, Governor John Carver decided to write a treaty of the colony. This was called the Mayflower Compact. (Write and sign the compact.)

Scene - On the Mayflower the men, women and children are crowded on the deck looking at the New World which is full of trees, shrubery and other plant life.

Myles Standish: I need some volunteers to explore the new land.

Sixteen men volunteered and went ashore in a small boat called a shallop.

They started wandering through thickets and brambles. They saw some Indians

and a skinny dog and tried to follow them but lost them in the brush.

First man: Hey! here's a cornfield.

Second man: Here's a kettle and some corn in baskets.

William Bradford: "Help! I'm caught in a trap" (Myles Standish found him in an Indian deer trap and released him.)

Wet and discouraged the group agreed this was no place to settle and returned to the Mayflower.

By the 28th of November the shallop was ready and repaired. So led by Christopher Jones - 34 men sailed past the first landing to a further shore. They found two Indian dwellings and baskets of corn, beans, and tobacco and enough seeds for the next year. The men returned to the Mayflower. They set sail again this time with all the Pilgrim leaders, two mates and a gunner. The weather was cold and the water was freezing. They saw Indians cutting up fish on shore and sailed a little further and went ashore. They made a fire and a shelter, and went ashore.

In the morning during breakfast some Indians were sighted.

Fourth man: "Indians! Indians!"

as the arrows whizzed past, the Pilgrims ran for the guns. After a short fight the Indians fled and no one was hurt. They named the place First Encounter Beach. On the way back to the Mayflower a storm started.

Fifth man: "Look out the mast is falling."

They they rowed and found their way to a small island.

Sixth man: "Could this be Plymouth Harbor?"

As the next day was Sunday they prayed and rested on the island. On Monday they explored the land.

Myles Standish: The harbor is good and deep, there is fresh water, trees and forest, *and game enough for all*

The Mayflower sailed into Plymouth Harbor on the 16th of December.

Pilgrims land at Plymouth.

Mrs. Brewster: "How are we ever going to settle here?" she said worriedly.

Mr. Brewster: "Don't worry."

The Pilgrims went through many hardships their first winter. They made houses; they chopped down trees; they cleared land. Many died that bad winter of 1620.

Mrs. Brewster: "Oh, William, why did we come here? So many have died. Why did we move from Holland? We might never survive through this first winter."

Mr. Brewster: "Hush! Hush! I will see you tomorrow."

Door open and Miles Standish comes in.

Miles Standish: "Should we bury the dead tonight?"

William Brewster: "Yes, when everyone goes to sleep."

The next day Miles Standish and William Brewster buried five more people. William Brewster and William Bradford talked secretly in an office.

William Brewster: "We need more men or we will never survive in these hardships." Just then two men came in. One man was tall and fat and the other was skinny and short.

George Henry: "My name is George Henry. I was a stowaway on the ship. Me and Brad Stanford have been feeling kinda guilty because we haven't been doing anything. We have stolen a lot of your food. We have slept in your bed and used some of your guns. We are very good at shooting and at chopping down trees."

William Bradford: "I am very glad you will help us."

William Bradford walks around the houses to call a meeting.

William Bradford: "We want all the helpers we can get. We might never survive without everyone helping. After that many started helping and soon everyone had a house. The winter was bad and many died. The ones who were healthy worked hard and that's how the Pilgrims survived through the first winter."

The Indian boy said, "The white man is welcome to our land." Meet our chief Massasoit. After introducing Squanto, Samoset announced that the great chief, Massasoit and his brother Quadequina, with sixty warriors, were waiting on a nearby hilltop to council with the English.

"How!" said Massasoit.

In effect the treaty started that. There should be no aggression against each other. Indians who damaged the English were to be turned over for punishment. Stolen goods were to be returned. This was to apply to both Indians and English. Each party would help the other in case either was attacked. Massasoit should notify neighboring tribes of the defense part and invite them to join. Each party when visiting the other would leave his weapons behind. Under these conditions, King James would esteem Massasoit his friend and ally.

Squanto and Indian Village

The Pilgrims came into the harbor on December 16. Viewing a place the Pilgrims decided by a majority of voices to settle there. They chose high ground that had been cleared and a sweet brook ran under the hill. The weather turned cold and many became sick. Every man was to build a house but the common house had to be finished first. During this time the Indians came skulking around. But on Friday, the 16th, a savage came boldly all alone. His name was Samoset. He learned English from fishermen. Samoset brought Squanto to the village. Squanto taught the pilgrims how to plant corn, how to make tools, etc. While busy about his work, Governor Carver was very sick on a hot day. Within a few minutes he died. Squanto brought Massasoit. Massasoit lighted a pipe and passed it around. The pilgrims and the other Indians played a game. The next day they decided to prepare for a feast to thank God for everything.

At harvest time there was a plentiful harvest. Corn was shocked and stacked, fruit was gathered in, vegetables stored in houses, meat was cured and cod was salted. Men were sent hunting.

Gov. Bradford: "We've had a good harvest, men. We should have a feast to celebrate. Go hunting for meat."

Hunter No. 1 - "Let's be quiet so we can get lots of game."

Hunter No. 2 - "I know where there are some nice ducks and geese. I'll go there with a couple of men and hunt for them."

Hunter No. 1 - "Good idea, I saw some turkeys and quail at the edge of the woods. I'll get them."

The women prepared the feast for three days. The children helped. Tables and benches were prepared out of doors. Fires blazed.

Governor Bradford sends a message to Chief Massasoit and his Indian braves, squaws and children to share the great feast.

Gov. Bradford: "Son, I want you to go to Chief Massasoit. Tell him we have enough food for all his people to come and feast with us. Because we are thankful for such a bountiful harvest. Tell him to come in 2 days."

The messenger did as he was told.

Chief Massasoit - "We will all be at the feast and we will bring deer so we may have a share in preparing the feast."

The deer was barbecued over the roaring fires. The tables were laden with food. The air was fragrant with the good smell of cooking. There were clams, eels, scallops, and chowder. There was game and fish and fowl. There were nuts and berries and succotash. There was corn bread and maple sugar. There was food enough for all and enough food for the winter to come.

The Feast

Narrator:

This scene starts as the women are setting the food on the tables, while in the background the men and the Indians are playing different kinds of games. Captain Miles Standish and his men show off their skills to the Indians. Then the Indians showed off their skills to the White Men.

The people then sat down at the tables for the feast. They thanked God for a good harvest and their Indian friends.

They played games, etc. This feast lasted for three days. Everyone had a good time.

THANKSGIVING PLAY & PROPS

Scene 1 England
background all

Scene 2 Sailing-Mayflower
Mayflower
shallop Daniel
compact stand Jon
ores Daniel

Scene 3 Exploring Land
corn } mark mass Daniel
Deer head basket }
rope (trap) Don
shallop } Jon
ores }

Scene 4
(shallop mast) Daniel
(ores sheet)

Mark tp
basket ✓ Jon
corn
fish
guns

Scene 5

Scene 6 peace pipe Jon
 blanket Daniel

Scene 7 Preparation of the Feast
 food Daniel
 table
 plates
 kettle) Jon
 fire)

Scene 8 Feast
 food Daniel
 table
 plates
 kettle) Jon
 fire)

1. John speaks ✓
2. Music/props for Scene 1 ✓
3. Scene 1 England
4. Music/props for scene 2 ✓
5. Scene 2 Sailing Mayflower ✓
6. Music/props for Scene 3 ✓
7. Scene 3 Exploring ✓
8. ~~#~~ Music/props Scene 4 ✓
9. Scene 4 Further shore ✓
10. Music/props Scene 5
11. Scene 5 Bad winter
12. Music/props Scene 6
13. Scene 6 Carver dies
14. Music/props Scene 7
15. Scene 7 preparation of Feast
16. Music/props Scene 8
17. Scene 8 Feast
18. All go up John speaks bow sing "over the river" ~~through~~

Notes to Say

Changed scenes England to Mayflower to "on the Mayflower" Scene 3 begins with "On the Mayflower" Ends at "returned to the Mayflower" Scene 4 starts "By the 28th of November" and ~~ends at the end of page but shut~~ ~~of lights~~ and you shut of the lights after Mr. Brewster says "Don't worry" and the narrator reads, "The pilgrims went through many hardships thier first winter. They made houses they chopped down trees they cleared land. Many died that bad winter of 1620." then the lights go on and go on to the end of the scene when William Brewster says, "Yes when everyone goes to sleep."

Scene 5 starts "The next day miles starish" and Scene 5 ends at "Pilgrims survived through the first winter" Scene 6 starts at "The Indian boy said The white man is welcome to our land" and scene 6 ends at "Hunter no. 1 Good idea I saw some turkeys and quail at the edge of the woods. I'll get them."

Scene 7 starts at "The women prepared the feast for three days. and ends at the end of the page scene 8 starts at the begining of page 5 and ends thier too."