

# THANKSGIVING LESSON PLAN FOR FIRST GRADE

## ACTIVITY: THE GEOGRAPHY OF THANKSGIVING

### Massachusetts State Standards

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**History and Social Science Framework Standards:** 1.T2.1-2; 4-5

### Instructions

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**1.** Explain that a map represents spaces and helps people to identify locations and features. Show students where they are located on a map of the United States.

Tell students: “For the Wampanoag Tribe, and many Native Americans, it is important to know where you are located in relation to the four directions, North, South, East, and West.” Have the students stand up. Point in each direction, and ask students to turn to face each side.”

- The East is where the sun rises to begin the day.
- The South brings warmth.
- The West is where the sun sets, and the day ends.
- The North (Red) brings the cold.

**2.** Show students the map of Wampanoag homelands provided at the end of this lesson. Interpret the map, differentiating the land mass from the ocean, and explain that the red labels are for the tribal group, “Wampanoag,” as well as today’s federally-recognized Wampanoag tribes (Mashpee and Aquinnah) and the black labels name and show where villages (some Wampanoag, some neighboring tribes) once existed all over Cape Cod. You might point out that the state of Massachusetts is named after one of the villages.

**3.** Now locate Cape Cod on a larger map of the United States. Showing students how to “read” the compass key, have students determine what direction they would have to travel to get to the Wampanoag homelands in New England.

- 4.** Reiterate that the Wampanoag people are still here, and that this is where the first harvest feast between Native Americans and European settlers took place. Ask students if they remember some Wampanoag words from the story, and emphasize that the Wampanoag language is still spoken today on Cape Cod. If students can't remember, remind them of the words in the glossary.
  
- 5.** Using a world map, ask students if they or their family members speak another language, and where that language comes from. Point to the language origin places on the map.

