

English

Grade 4

Thanksgiving reading comprehension: the Mayflower and the 1621 harvest

Read about the Mayflower voyage and the Wampanoag people, then find the main idea.



I can determine the main idea of a text and explain key vocabulary.

1 A long voyage and a harvest



In September 1620, a small ship called the Mayflower sailed from England. It carried about 100 passengers. Some of them wanted to worship in their own way, and others hoped for a new life. The voyage across the Atlantic Ocean took 66 days. The ship was crowded, and storms tossed it on the waves.

In November, the Mayflower reached what is now Massachusetts. The passengers built a small colony called Plymouth. Their first winter was very hard. They did not have enough food or warm houses, and many people got sick.

This land was already the home of the Wampanoag people, who had lived there for thousands of years. In the spring, a Wampanoag man named Tisquantum, who spoke English, showed the colonists how to plant corn and where to fish.

In the fall of 1621, the colonists had a good harvest. They held a three-day celebration, and about 90 Wampanoag men and their leader, Massasoit, joined the feast. Today, many Americans remember this event on Thanksgiving.

2 Main idea and details

Circle the best answer.

1. What is the main idea of the text?

☐ A The Mayflower was a fast ship.

☐ B The Mayflower passengers faced a hard first year and later shared a harvest feast with the Wampanoag.

☐ C Corn is easy to grow.

2. How long did the voyage take?

☐ A 16 days

☐ B 66 days

☐ C 100 days

3. Who showed the colonists how to plant corn?

☐ A Tisquantum

☐ B Massasoit

☐ C The ship's captain

3 Vocabulary

Draw a line from each word to its meaning.

☐ voyage

☐ passenger

☐ colony

☐ harvest

☐ A. A settlement started by people from another country.

☐ B. Gathering crops when they are ripe.

☐ C. A long trip, especially by sea.

☐ D. A person who travels on a ship or vehicle.

4

**Timeline**

Write 1 to 4 in the boxes.

☐

The colonists have a hard first winter.

☐

The Mayflower sails from England.

☐

A three-day harvest celebration takes place.

☐

Tisquantum shows the colonists how to plant corn.

5

**True or false**

Circle True or False. Look back at the text.

1. The Mayflower sailed in September 1620.

True

False

2. About 500 passengers were on the ship.

True

False

3. The first winter at Plymouth was easy.

True

False

4. The Wampanoag had lived on the land for thousands of years.

True

False

5. The harvest celebration lasted three days.

True

False

6. Massasoit was the leader who joined the feast.

True

False

6

**Key details**

Write the missing word or number from the text.

1. The Mayflower crossed the _____ Ocean.

2. The passengers built a colony called _____.

3. Today this area is part of _____.

4. Tisquantum showed the colonists how to plant _____.

5. About _____ Wampanoag men joined the feast.

6. The harvest celebration was in the year _____.

7



Fact or opinion?

Write each sentence in the right column.

The voyage took 66 days.

The Mayflower was the most beautiful ship ever.

Plymouth was in what is now Massachusetts.

Corn is the tastiest food.

The feast lasted three days.

Winter is the worst season.

Fact

Opinion

8



Cause, effect and words

Circle the best answer.

1. Why did many people get sick the first winter?

A They did not have enough food or warm houses.

B They ate too much corn.

C The ship was too fast.

2. In "storms tossed it on the waves," what does tossed mean?

A fixed

B threw around

C painted

3. Which word means almost the same as celebration?

A party

B storm

C colony

4. What happened because Tisquantum helped the colonists?

A The ship left England.

B Storms hit the ship.

C The colonists had a good harvest.

9



Think about it

Why was the help of the Wampanoag people important to the colonists? Use two details from the text.

How did it go?



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Answer key

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In November, the Mayflower reached what is now Massachusetts. The passengers built a small colony called Plymouth. Their first winter was very hard. They did not have enough food or warm houses, and many people got sick.

This land was already the home of the Wampanoag people, who had lived there for thousands of years. In the spring, a Wampanoag man named Tisquantum, who spoke English, showed the colonists how to plant corn and where to fish.

In the fall of 1621, the colonists had a good harvest. They held a three-day celebration, and about 90 Wampanoag men and their leader, Massasoit, joined the feast. Today, many Americans remember this event on Thanksgiving.

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● **B.** Gathering crops when they are ripe.

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True or false

Circle True or False. Look back at the text.

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2. About 500 passengers were on the ship.
3. The first winter at Plymouth was easy.
4. The Wampanoag had lived on the land for thousands of years.
5. The harvest celebration lasted three days.
6. Massasoit was the leader who joined the feast.

True

False

True

False

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Key details

Write the missing word or number from the text.

1. The Mayflower crossed the Atlantic Ocean.
2. The passengers built a colony called Plymouth.
3. Today this area is part of Massachusetts.
4. Tisquantum showed the colonists how to plant corn.
5. About 90 Wampanoag men joined the feast.
6. The harvest celebration was in the year 1621.

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**Fact or opinion?**

Write each sentence in the right column.

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Fact

The voyage took 66 days., Plymouth was in what is now Massachusetts., The feast lasted three days.

Opinion

The Mayflower was the most beautiful ship ever., Corn is the tastiest food., Winter is the worst season.

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**Cause, effect and words**

Circle the best answer.

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Think about it

Why was the help of the Wampanoag people important to the colonists? Use two details from the text.

The colonists' first winter was very hard and they did not have enough food. Tisquantum showed them how to plant corn and where to fish, which helped them have a good harvest in 1621.

How did it go?



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