Name _____ Date _____



The 1621 Harvest Feast

Read about the Wampanoag. Then answer the questions.

The People of the First Light

The **Wampanoag** have lived in what is now Massachusetts and Rhode Island for more than 12,000 years. Their name means "People of the First Light." They live in the east, where the sun comes up.



Long before the English came, they grew corn, beans, and squash. They fished in the rivers and the sea, and they hunted deer. Their homes were called **wetus**. In summer, many families lived near the coast, by their fields. Their summer wetus were covered with mats of cattails. In winter, they moved inland, to wetus covered with bark.

Around 1616, a terrible sickness came with European traders. Thousands of Wampanoag died. In the villages near the coast, about 3 of every 4 people died. Whole villages were left empty. One of them was **Patuxet**.

---

1. The Wampanoag have lived in their homeland for thousands of years. **true** **false**

2. Wampanoag means "People of the ___" **First Light** **River** **Forest**

3. Patuxet was left empty after a ___ **war** **storm** **sickness**

4. Why do you think families lived near the coast in summer?

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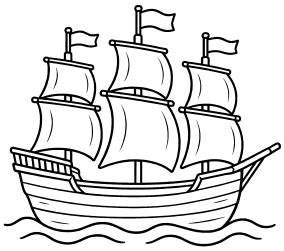
Name _____ Date _____



The 1621 Harvest Feast

Read about the Mayflower. Then answer the questions.

The Mayflower



In September 1620, a ship called the **Mayflower** sailed from Plymouth, England. It carried 102 passengers. Some wanted to worship God in their own way. Others came looking for a new life.

The trip across the ocean took about 66 days. The ship was crowded, cold, and wet. In November, it reached Cape Cod, in Wampanoag land. There the English found corn that Native families had stored. They took it, and promised to pay for it later.

The English built their town where Patuxet had been, on Wampanoag land. They called it Plymouth. That first winter, about half of them died from cold and sickness.

---

1. The Mayflower carried ____ passengers. **102** **1,000** **12**

2. The trip across the ocean took about two weeks. **true** **false**

3. The English built Plymouth where ____ had been. **London** **Boston** **Patuxet**

4. Why was the first winter so hard for the English?

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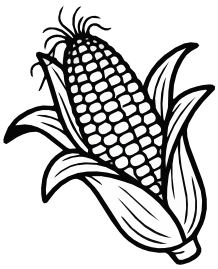
Name _____ Date _____



The 1621 Harvest Feast

Read about Tisquantum and the Massasoit. Then answer.

Tisquantum and the Massasoit



Tisquantum, also called Squanto, was a Wampanoag man from Patuxet. In 1614, an English captain kidnapped him and other men. He took them to Spain to sell as slaves. Tisquantum got away to England, where he learned English. He found his way home in 1619. His village was gone.

The Wampanoag leader was called the **Massasoit**, which means great leader. His name was Ousamequin. The sickness had left his people weaker. He hoped the English would help keep them safe from other nations. In March 1621, he made an agreement with the English. Each side promised to help protect the other.

Tisquantum helped the two sides talk to each other. He showed the English how to plant corn with fish to make the soil rich.

---

1. Tisquantum learned English in England. **true** **false**

2. The agreement was made in ___ **1492** **1863** **1621**

3. Massasoit means ___ **corn** **great leader** **friend**

4. Why did Ousamequin make an agreement with the English?

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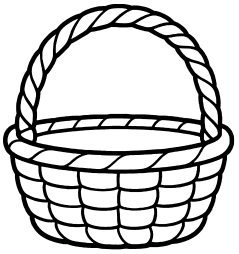
Name _____ Date _____



The 1621 Harvest Feast

Read about the feast. Then answer the questions.

A Harvest Feast



In the fall of 1621, the English had their first harvest. Only about 50 of them were still alive. To celebrate, they fired their guns. About 90 Wampanoag men came with the Massasoit. No one knows if they were invited. They may have heard the shots and come to see if their partners needed help.

For three days, the two groups ate together and played games. The Wampanoag went hunting and brought five deer. They ate deer and wild birds, such as ducks. They probably ate fish, corn, and squash too. They may have eaten turkey.

Giving thanks was already part of Wampanoag life. They gave thanks every day and at every harvest, and they still do. The English did not call the feast Thanksgiving. Many years later, people began to call it the "First Thanksgiving."

1. About how many Wampanoag men came to the feast? **900** **9** **90**

2. The feast lasted only one day. **true** **false**

3. Who brought five deer? **the English** **the Wampanoag**

4. What foods do we eat today that were also at the 1621 feast?

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Name _____ Date _____



The 1621 Harvest Feast

Read a letter from 1621. Then answer the questions.

A Letter from 1621

Edward Winslow was one of the English at Plymouth. In December 1621, he wrote a letter to a friend in England. Here is part of it, in today's spelling:

"Our harvest being gotten in, our governor sent four men on fowling, that so we might after a special manner rejoice together after we had gathered the fruit of our labors... At which time, amongst other recreations, we exercised our arms, many of the Indians coming amongst us, and among the rest their greatest king Massasoit, with some ninety men, whom for three days we entertained and feasted, and they went out and killed five deer, which they brought to the plantation and bestowed on our governor, and upon the captain and others."

Fowling means hunting birds. To **exercise arms** is to practice with guns. **Bestowed on** means gave to. Indians and king were English words in 1621. Today it is best to call a people by their own name, like Wampanoag.

A letter by someone who was there is a **firsthand account**. A book written later by someone who was not there is a **secondhand account**.

---

1. How many men did the governor send to hunt birds? **ninety** **five** **four**

2. Winslow's letter is a ____ account. **secondhand** **firsthand**

3. Whose side of the story does the letter not tell?

_____

_____

_____

_____

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Name _____ Date _____



The 1621 Harvest Feast

Circle fact or myth for each sentence.

A **fact** is true. A **myth** is something many people believe that is not true. Use the pages before to decide.

1. The feast lasted three days. **fact** **myth**

2. The English called the feast the First Thanksgiving. **fact** **myth**

3. No one lived on this land when the Mayflower came. **fact** **myth**

4. The Wampanoag brought five deer. **fact** **myth**

5. The Mayflower brought the first Europeans the Wampanoag ever met. **fact** **myth**

6. The Wampanoag still live in Massachusetts today. **fact** **myth**

7. Pick one myth. Write the facts that show it is not true.

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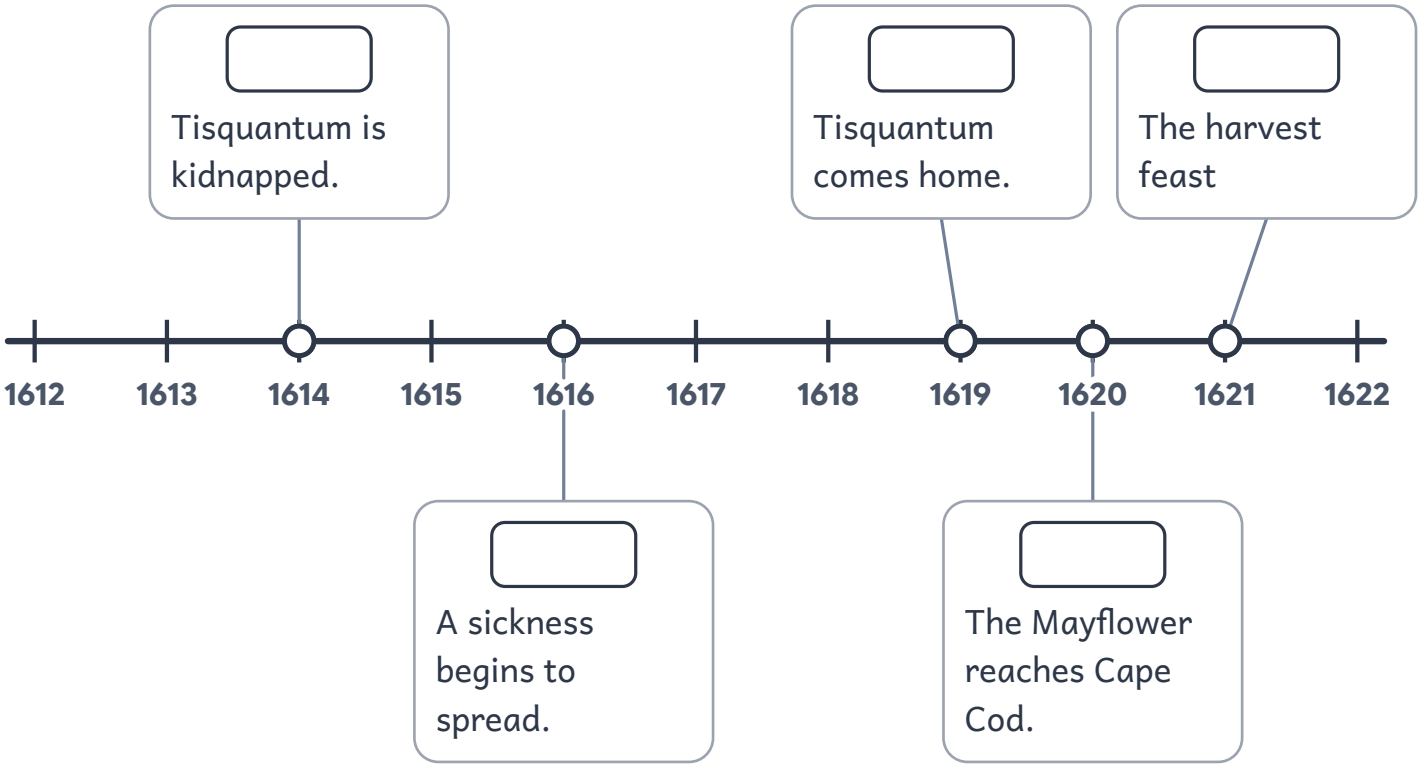
Name _____ Date _____



The 1621 Harvest Feast

Write the year of each event. Then answer the questions.

Years: **1614** **1616** **1619** **1620** **1621**



1. How many years was Tisquantum away from home? _____ years

2. How many years after the sickness began did the Mayflower come? _____ years

3. How many years after Tisquantum came home was the harvest feast? _____ years

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Name _____ Date _____



The 1621 Harvest Feast

Read about the Wampanoag today. Then answer.

The Wampanoag Today



The Wampanoag are still here. Two Wampanoag tribes are recognized by the United States. They are the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe and the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah). Other Wampanoag people live in many places.

For about 150 years, no one spoke the Wampanoag language, **Wôpanâak**, every day. But it had been written down in old letters and books. Now the Wampanoag are bringing it back. Children are learning it again.

For some Native people, Thanksgiving is a sad day. Since 1970, some have met in Plymouth on Thanksgiving Day for a **National Day of Mourning**. To mourn is to feel sad for what was lost. They remember the land and the lives that were lost after the English came. They also speak out about unfair things Native people still face today.

1. No one speaks Wôpanâak today. **true** **false**

2. The Wampanoag language is called **Patuxet** **Wôpanâak** **Plymouth**

___

3. Why might Thanksgiving feel different to different people?

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The 1621 Harvest Feast

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1. The Wampanoag have lived in their homeland for thousands of years. **true** **false**

2. Wampanoag means "People of the ___" **First Light** **River** **Forest**

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4. Why do you think families lived near the coast in summer?

To plant their fields, fish in the sea, and gather food from the shore.

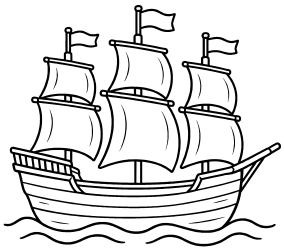
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4. Why was the first winter so hard for the English?

It was cold, and many people got sick.

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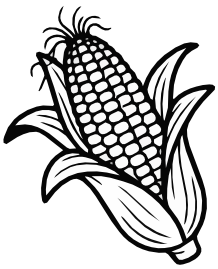


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His people were weaker after the sickness, and he hoped the English would help keep them safe.

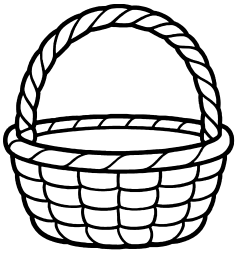
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Corn and squash, and maybe turkey.

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The Wampanoag side. It does not say what they thought.

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The Wampanoag had lived on that land for more than 12,000 years, and the Massasoit led them when the English came.

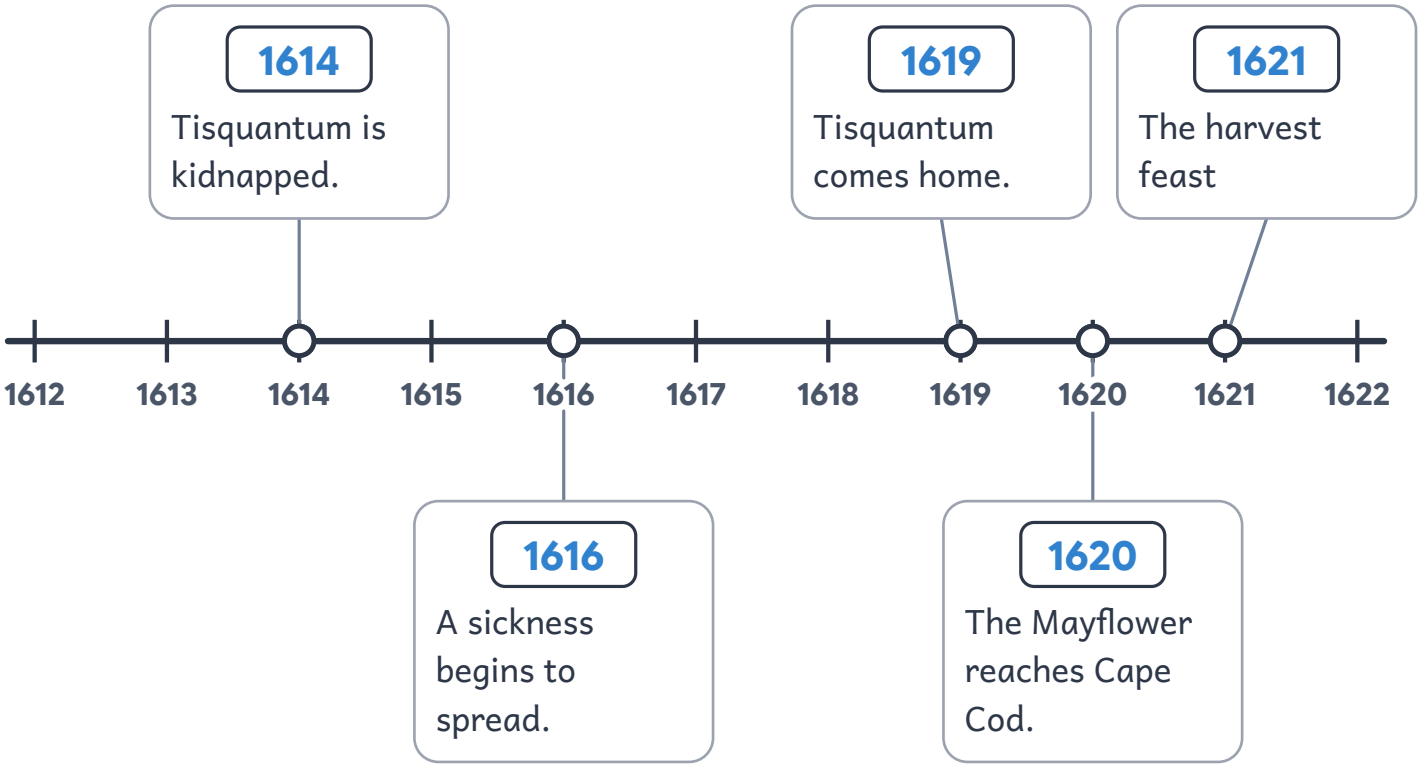
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The 1621 Harvest Feast

Write the year of each event. Then answer the questions.

Years: 1614 1616 1619 1620 1621



1. How many years was Tisquantum away from home? **5** years

2. How many years after the sickness began did the Mayflower come? **4** years

3. How many years after Tisquantum came home was the harvest feast? **2** years

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The 1621 Harvest Feast

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2. The Wampanoag language is called ___ **Patuxet** **Wôpanâak** **Plymouth**

3. Why might Thanksgiving feel different to different people?

For some it is a day of thanks, and for others a day to remember what was lost.

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