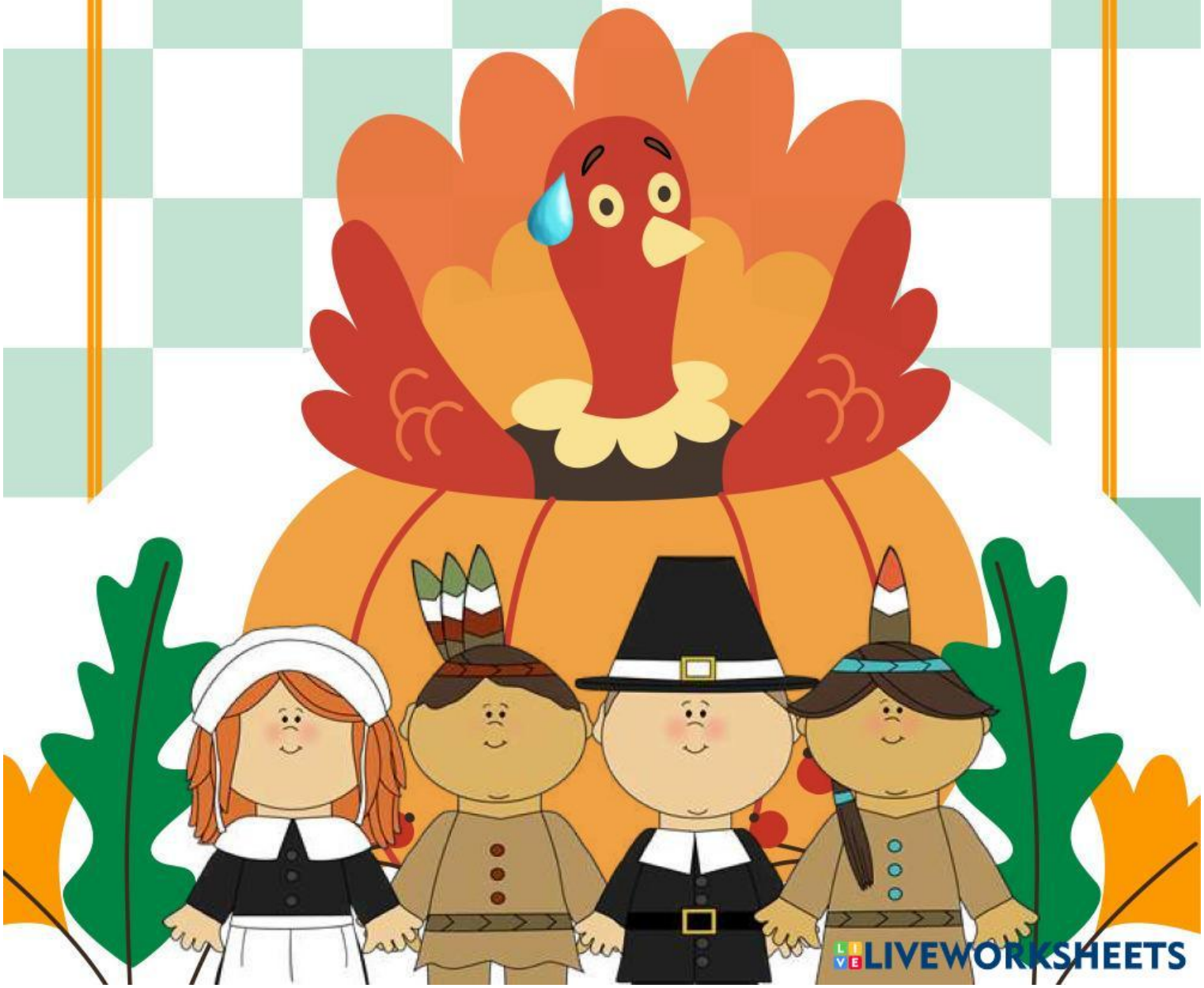
HAPPY ?

THANKS GIVING



LIVEWORKSHEETS

THANKSGIVING

From another perspective

Indigenous Perspective:

How do Native Americans make peace with a national holiday that romanticizes the 1621 encounter between their ancestors and English settlers, and erases the deadly conflicts that followed?



Let's begin with **Squanto** (aka Tisquantum), a Patuxet, one of more than 50 tribes who formed the Wampanoag Confederacy.

Around 1614, when he was perhaps 30, **Squanto was kidnapped** along with others of his people and taken across the Atlantic Ocean to Malaga, **Spain**, where they were sold into slavery. Squanto traveled to **England** after monks in Spain bought him and shared their faith with him. He learned English working for shipbuilder John Slany. Squanto **returned to his homeland** in 1619 to join an exploration expedition. When he arrived at the village where he has been raised, all his family and the rest of his tribe had been exterminated by a devastating **plague**.

Carmen Pinelo

LIVEWORKSHEETS



What about the Pilgrims? In the 1870s, Americans widely used the term "Pilgrim" for separatists who fled from England to Holland to escape religious persecution by English authorities.

After exploring the coast for a few weeks, the Pilgrims landed and began building a permanent settlement on the ruins of Squanto's Patuxet village, now renamed **New Plymouth**. In desperation the Pilgrims initially survived by eating corn from abandoned fields, raiding villages and robbing graves at Corn Hill.

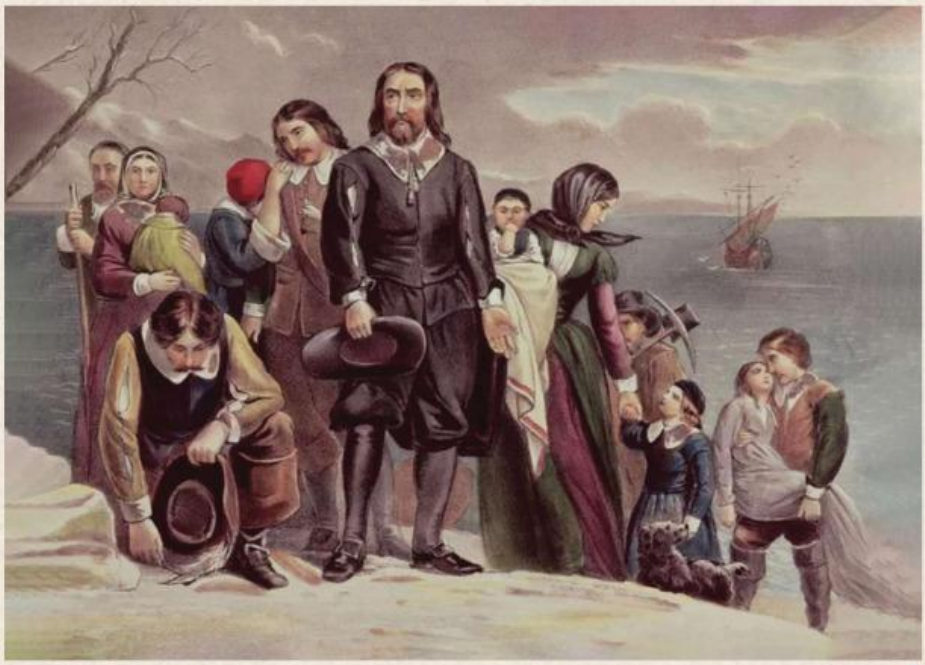
Squanto was introduced to the Pilgrims and became friends with them, and taught them how to hunt and fish in order to survive. The Pilgrims made Squanto an **interpreter and emissary** between the English and Wampanoag Confederacy.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

What really happened at **the first Thanksgiving** in 1621? The Pilgrims did not introduce the concept of thanksgiving; to the original people of this continent, each day is a day of thanksgiving to the Creator.

In the fall of 1621, William Bradford, **the governor of the Plymouth Colony**, decided to have a Plymouth harvest feast of thanksgiving and invited the Wampanoag Federation to join the Pilgrims. Massasoit (leader) came with approximately 90 warriors and brought **food** to add to the feast, including venison, lobster, fish, clams, oysters, corn, maple syrup, etc. (far different from the meals prepared in modern Thanksgiving celebrations).

On May 26, **1637**, near the present-day Connecticut, while their warriors were away, an estimated 400 to 700 Pequot women, children, and old men were **massacred** and burned by combined forces of the Plymouth. Colonial authorities killed most of the Pequot men and enslave the captured women and their children. In 1975 the official number of Pequot people living in Connecticut was 21. It is estimated that **300.000 Indians were killed** violently, and even more were displaced over the next few decades.



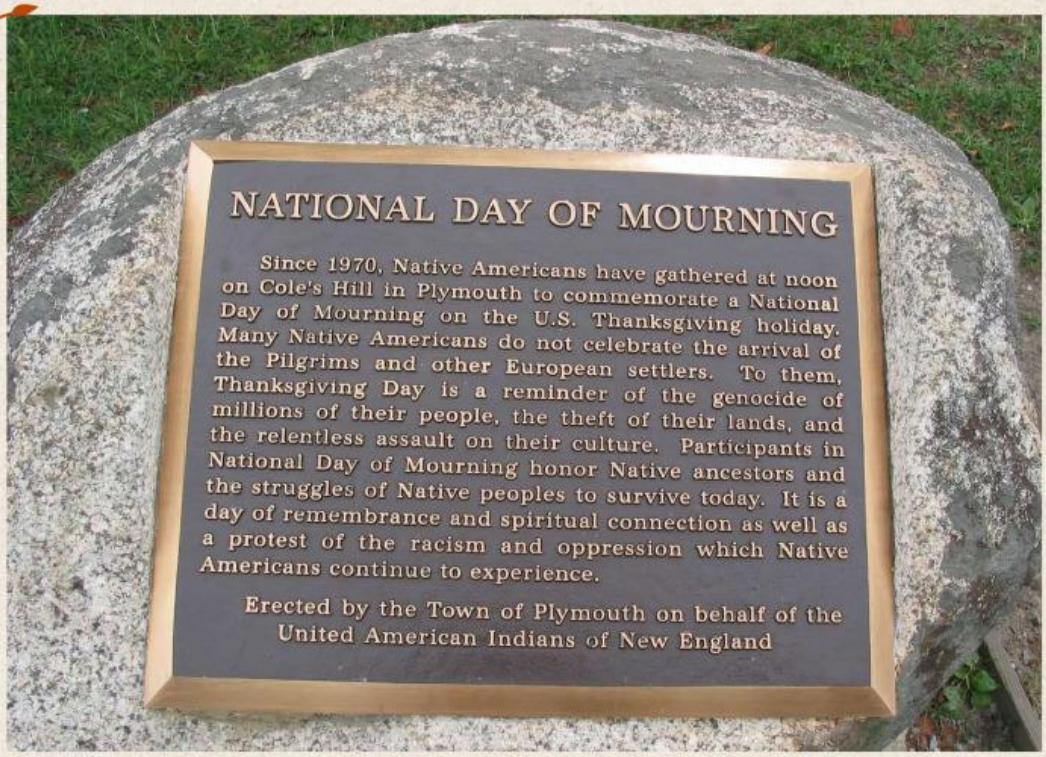
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So...**Why should Native people celebrate Thanksgiving?**
Many Natives particularly in the New England area remember this **genocide** as a factual part of their history. The United American Indians of New England meet each year at Plymouth Rock on Cole's Hill for a Day of Mourning. They gather to remember and reflect in the hope that America will never forget.

Elgin, Oklahoma - "We don't actually celebrate the whole Pilgrim/Indian reasoning for the day. To us it's a day to be together."

South Prairie, Washington - "Giving thanks that the pilgrims and the government have not killed us all. We are still here on Turtle Island."

Washington, D.C. - "Celebrating my elders, recalling what their lives meant."



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Questions:

PART 1

- What does the text talk about? = Main topic
- Can you identify the key events in Squanto's life mentioned in the text and arrange them in chronological order?
- Where was Squanto taken after being kidnapped, and where did he travel to after being in Spain?
- What does the word "plague" mean?
- Why did Squanto return to his homeland in 1619, and what did he discover when he arrived?

PART 2

- Who were the Pilgrims, and where did they initially settle?
- What was the original name of the Pilgrims' settlement, and what was its new name?
- How did the Pilgrims initially survive in the new settlement, and what measures did they take to sustain themselves?
- How did Squanto become involved with the Pilgrims, and what role did he play in their community?
- In what capacity did the Pilgrims use Squanto, and what was his role as an intermediary?

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Questions:

PART 3

- What prompted William Bradford, the governor of the Plymouth Colony, to organize a harvest feast of thanksgiving in the fall of 1621?
- According to the text, what was the perspective of the original people of the continent regarding the concept of thanksgiving?
- Who was invited to join the Pilgrims at the Plymouth harvest feast of thanksgiving, and what types of food were brought to the feast by the Wampanoag Federation?
- How did the meals at the Plymouth harvest feast of thanksgiving in 1621 differ from modern Thanksgiving celebrations?
- What tragic event occurred on May 26, 1637, near present-day Connecticut, involving the Pequot people and the Plymouth Colonial authorities?
- What were the consequences of the event near present-day Connecticut for the Pequot people, and what is the estimated impact on the overall Native American population over the next few decades?

WHAT'S YOUR CONCLUSION?



Carmen Pinelo

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