

BIOGRAPHY: SQUANTO



1911 illustration of Tisquantum

Read the text, and then answer the questions.

Tisquantum, commonly known as Squanto, was probably born sometime around 1580. He was a member of the Patuxet community, which was part of a larger Wampanoag tribe living in what is now Massachusetts and Rhode Island. In 1614, Squanto was kidnapped by Thomas Hunt, an English lieutenant. Hunt took Squanto and other captured Native Americans on a ship to Spain. Spanish friars stopped Hunt from selling Squanto into slavery.

Squanto wanted to return to his home and convinced the friars to help him return to North America. Squanto traveled from Spain to England, where he lived for several years and learned English. In 1619, Squanto traveled with explorers back to his home. When he arrived, he found that most of the Patuxet, along with many other Native Americans, had died from disease.

Squanto lived and worked with surviving members of the Wampanoag tribe. When the Pilgrims arrived in North America in the 1620s, they settled in the area where Squanto was living. Since Squanto spoke English, he was able to communicate with the Pilgrims. He taught them to grow corn and other survival skills. Squanto also helped the Pilgrims trade with the Wampanoag. Around 1622, Squanto died of a fever. Some historians believe that without Squanto's help, the Pilgrims would not have survived in the New World.

Circle the correct answer.

1. Where did Squanto and his Patuxet community live?
 - a. England
 - b. In what is now Virginia and North Carolina
 - c. Spain
 - d. In what is now Massachusetts and Rhode Island
2. Where did the English lieutenant who kidnapped Squanto take him?
 - a. England
 - b. Spain
 - c. Italy
 - d. Virginia
3. What skill did Squanto teach the Pilgrims?
 - a. How to speak English
 - b. How to plant corn
 - c. How to become Christians
 - d. How to read
4. When did Squanto return to his home in North America?
 - a. 1614
 - b. 1580
 - c. 1619
 - d. 1622