

# Thanksgiving Poems, Chants & Performance



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# Pear Families,

We have been learning about the First Thanksgiving! Please join us for our class performance!

Eat. drink.  
Party Like a  
PILGRIM

Who:

:

What:

:

When:

:

Where:

:

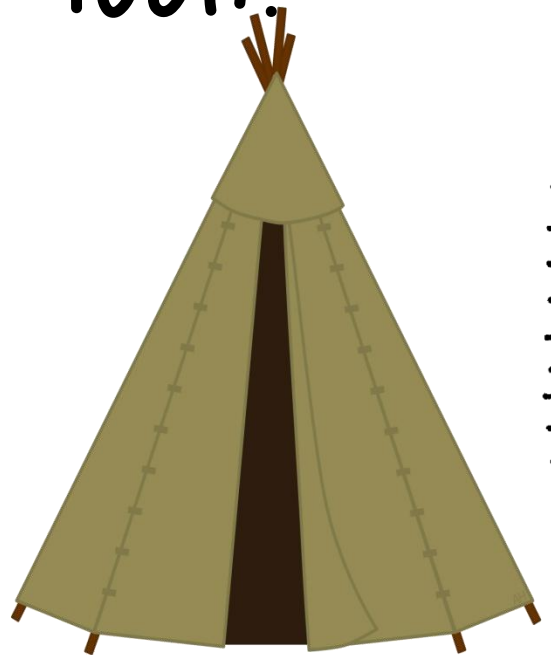


We look forward to sharing our knowledge with you! Thank you for coming!

# November Words

Make a large class chart titled November Words.

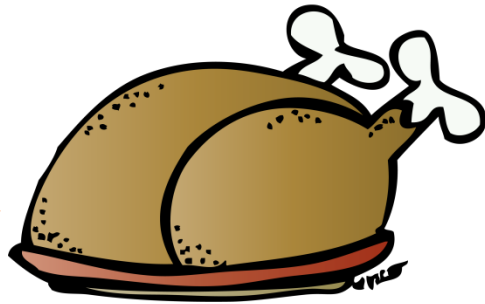
This chart can be in the shape of the Mayflower, a giant turkey, a cornucopia, a large teepee or any other November icon.



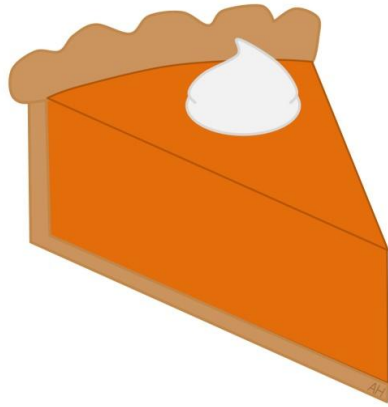
turkey



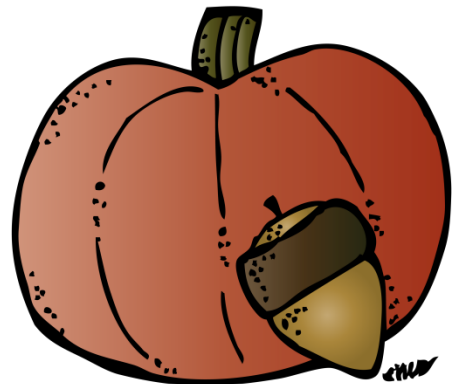
feast



pie



harvest



# Thanksgiving



# hunt



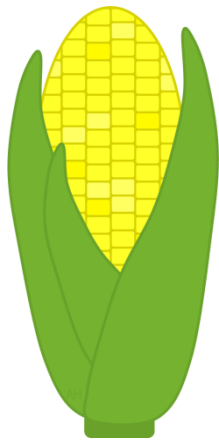
# Pilgrim



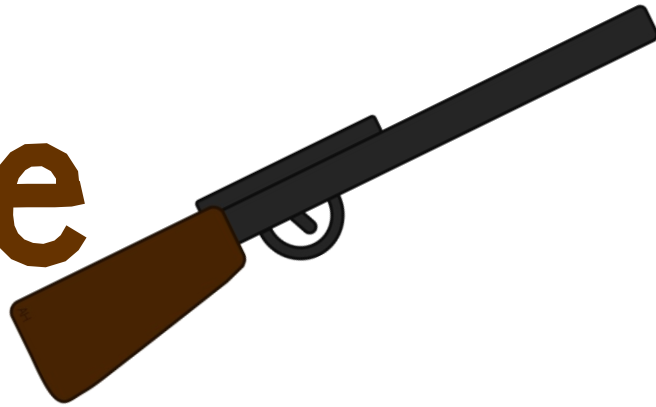
# Native American



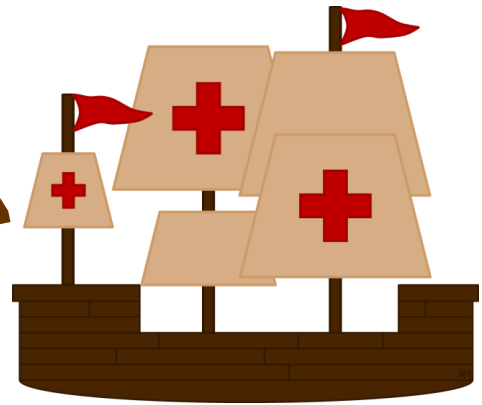
corn



rifle



Mayflower



teepee



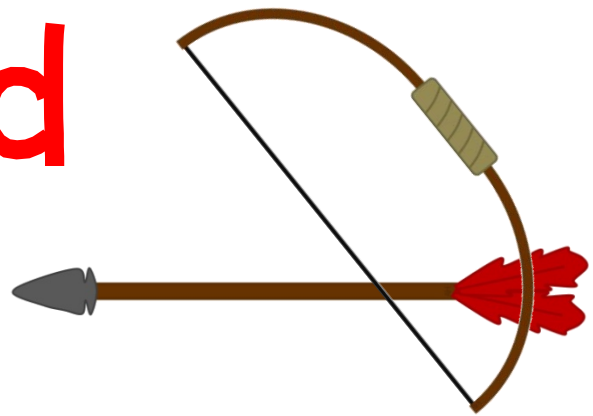
home



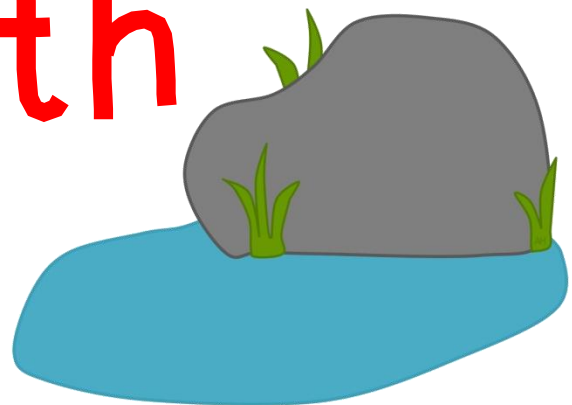
fire



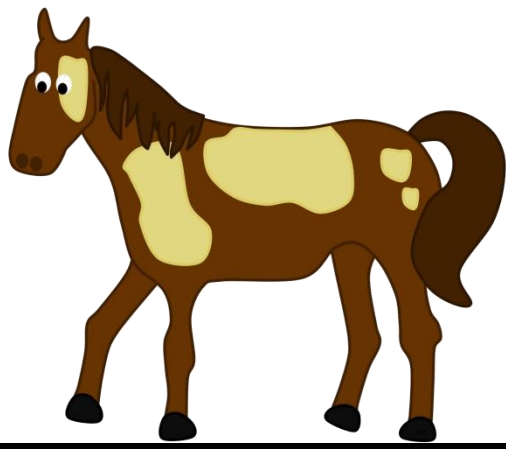
bow and  
arrow



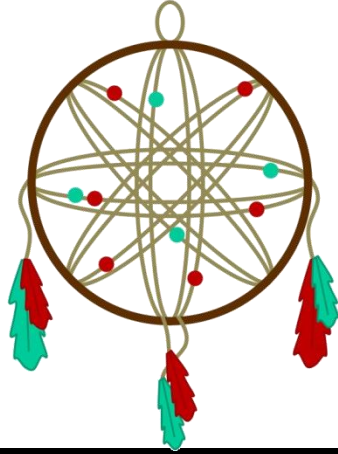
Plymouth  
Rock



horse



dream  
catcher



arrowhead



feather





arrow

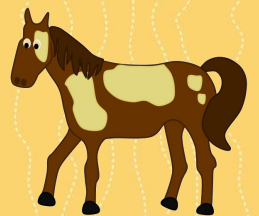
teepee

fire

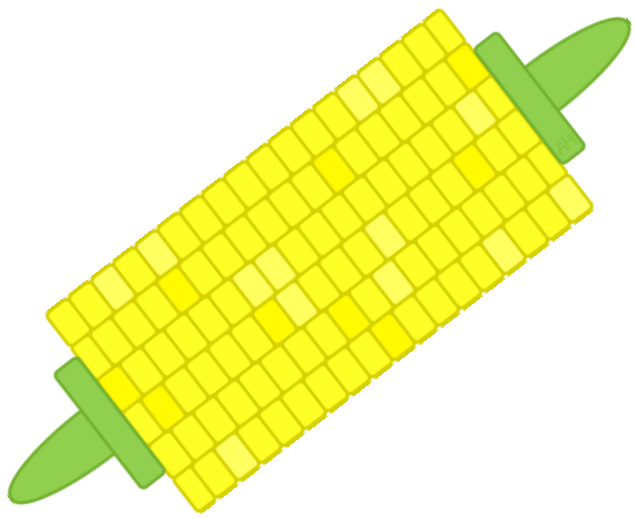
Mayflower



November Word  
Match Up



Match the picture to the word. Put the words in ABC order. Record the words on the recording sheet.

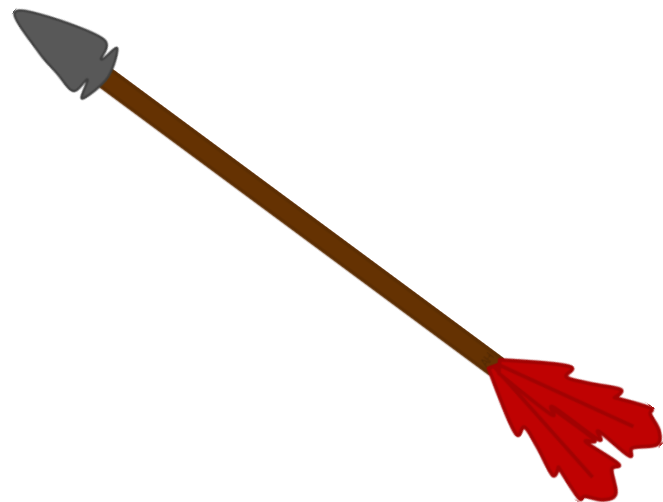
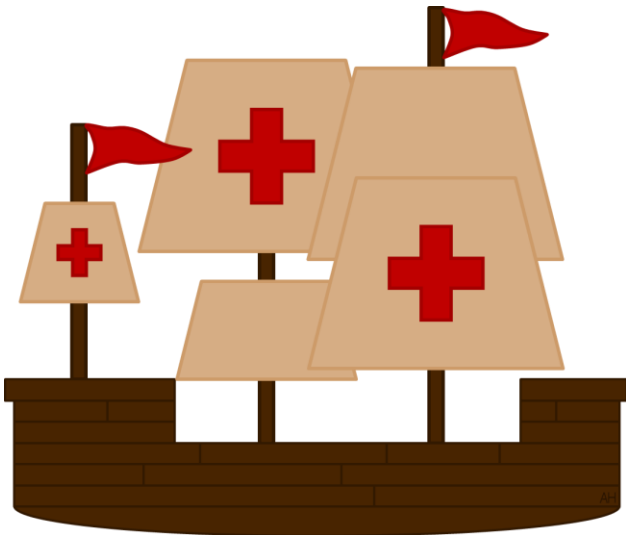
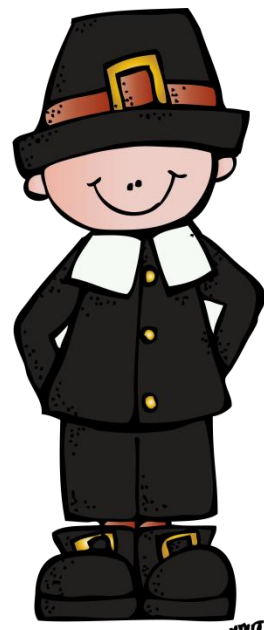
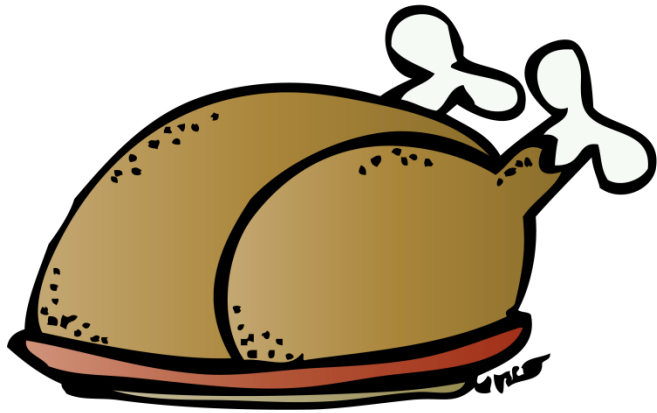


turkey

Pilgrim

Native  
American

corn



Name \_\_\_\_\_

# November Word ABC Order

1.

\_\_\_\_\_

2.

\_\_\_\_\_

3.

\_\_\_\_\_

4.

\_\_\_\_\_

5.

\_\_\_\_\_

6.

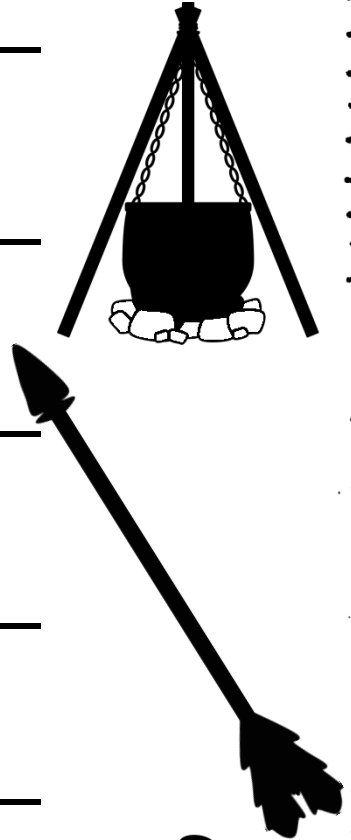
\_\_\_\_\_

7.

\_\_\_\_\_

8.

\_\_\_\_\_



Name \_\_\_\_\_

# November Word Search

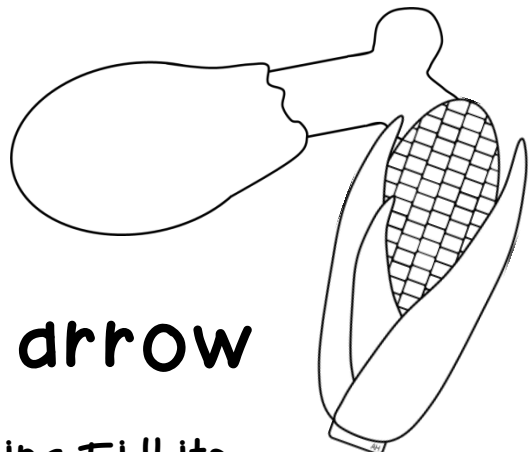
d	p	p	e	a	g	l	e	i	r	h
t	y	i	s	b	m	k	t	n	s	a
c	e	m	l	g	t	h	l	d	p	r
r	d	e	v	g	u	f	t	i	u	v
j	l	w	p	c	r	b	n	a	o	e
s	r	d	a	e	k	i	h	n	y	s
z	p	i	e	h	e	j	m	e	g	t
p	k	f	l	d	y	c	g	f	w	v
b	o	w	a	n	d	a	r	r	o	w
g	d	l	n	f	r	d	p	l	p	a

pilgrim indian

teepee pie

harvest eagle

turkey bow and arrow



# Needs Vs. Wants

Needs	Wants

Create a large class chart.  
Brainstorm and classify wants and needs.  
Place or write the items on the correct side of the chart paper.

This chart can be referenced many times throughout the unit when talking about the journey of the Pilgrims to the new land and the Indian's life and needs. This is also important to discuss in modern day too in the lives of our students. They have different wants than the children in the past but our needs as humans remain constant.

Following the chart pages there is a student activity for Needs vs. Wants

Needs

Wants

For big class chart

shelter

food

love

knowledge

car

toys

phone

pets

money

heat

family

read

communication

shoes

For big class chart



clothing

sports

friends

medicine

computer

bike

games

soda

candy

water

jewelry

television

soap

safety

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Needs

Wants

<b>food</b>	<b>shelter</b>
<b>friends</b>	<b>medicine</b>
<b>computer</b>	<b>bike</b>
<b>games</b>	<b>soda</b>
<b>candy</b>	<b>water</b>
<b>love</b>	<b>television</b>
<b>soap</b>	<b>safety</b>

# Thanksgiving Performance Cheat Sheet

Students enter singing The Pilgrims Came To America and take their places as they continue singing.

Chant-Where We Walk...

Reader's Theatre-The Story of the First Thanksgiving

Song-There are Many Things I am Thankful For by Hap Palmer (on CD or MP3)

Poems:

Pilgrim Boys

Pilgrim Girls

Natives

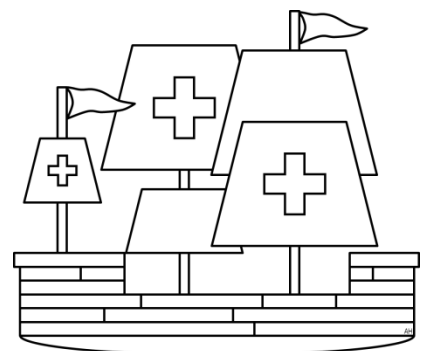
Turkeys

Chant-Turkey Gobbler

Chant-Albuquerque the Turkey

Song-Dinner Bells

Duration: 15 minutes



# The Story of the first Thanksgiving

Gather books both fiction and non-fiction about Indians, Pilgrims, and The First Thanksgiving. Get your students familiar with both the Pilgrims and the Indians and how they lived. Using fiction stories is still very effective in getting them thinking and talking about life during this time. I have always found enough at my school library and my public library to fill my November read aloud basket.

## Directions:

Once the students have the basic knowledge of the First Thanksgiving, I read my large Story of the First Thanksgiving (The following Sheets) I pair students up with a buddy to illustrate one of the pages of the story. (once in awhile you may need three students together) Be sure to mix strong readers with weak readers. We talk about the colors you would be see at the time of the Natives. We talk about how to share a drawing with someone. I explain that many people will see this special drawing. The partners are sent off to illustrate their part of the story. When everyone is finished I have them practice reading their sentence together. Then we sit in order around the rug and retell the story in a reader's theatre style. I gather these pictures and mount them on black construction paper. Then I laminate them and we perform our reader's theatre to other classes, school staff, and our parents.



# The Story of the First Thanksgiving



Retold by \_\_\_\_\_ 's

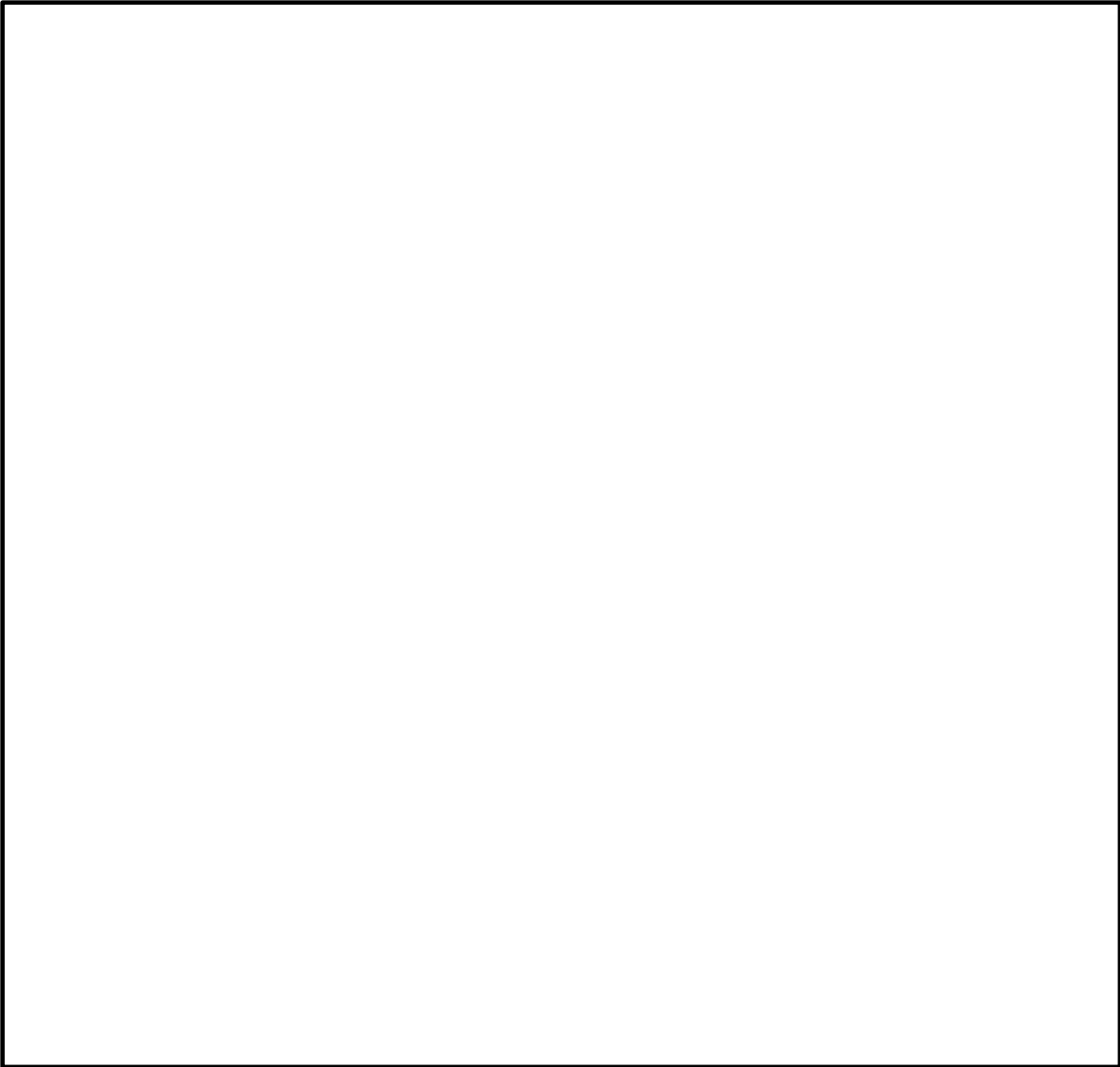
Class

The pilgrims wanted a  
new life without a king  
and queen

They sailed from  
England on the  
Mayflower.

2





**The journey across the  
ocean was dangerous.**

**3**



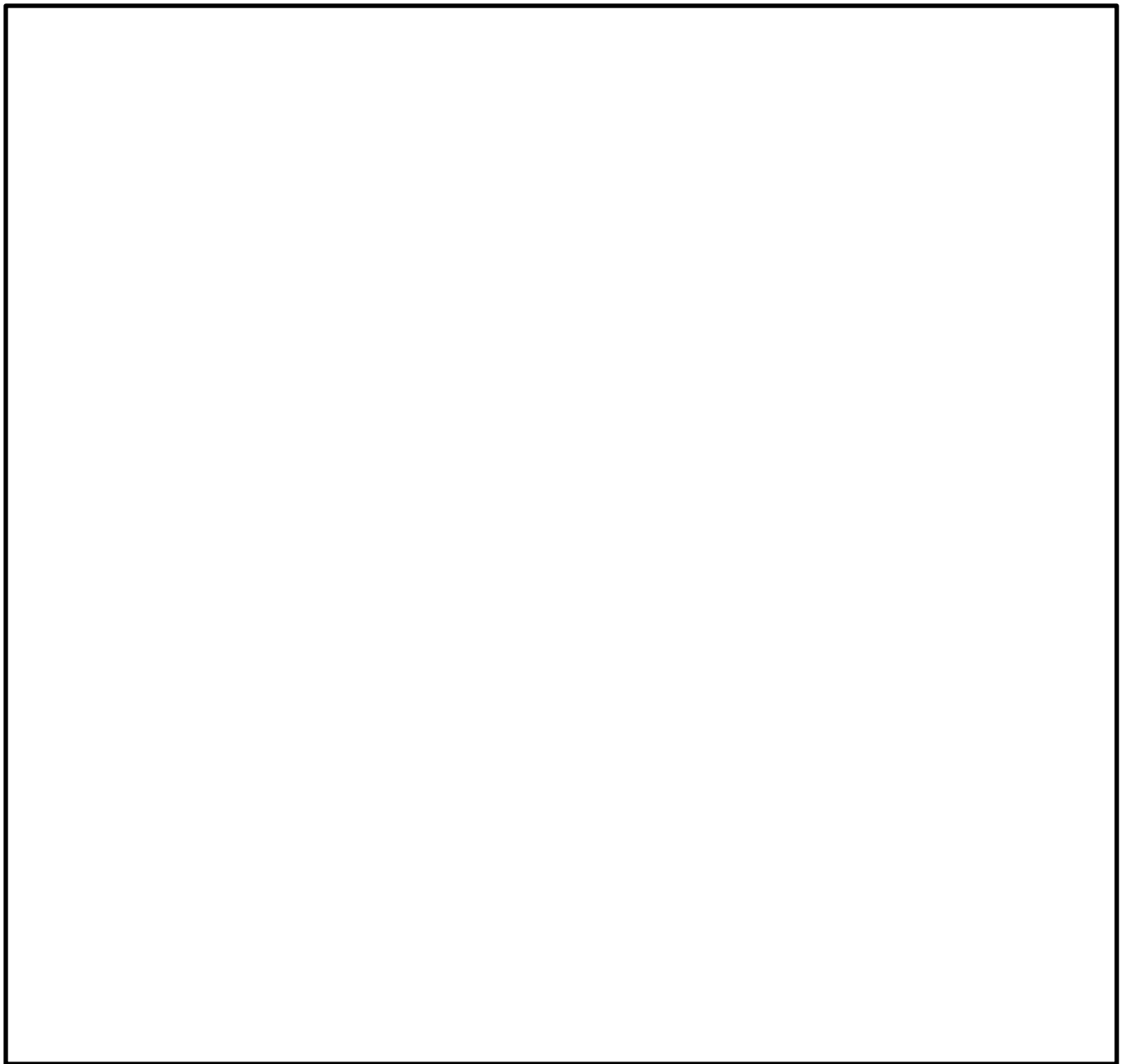
They landed in  
Massachusetts and  
started a new life.

The winter was harsh.  
Many Pilgrims died.

5



In the Spring, they  
made friends with the  
Natives.



**They planted seeds and  
learned to hunt.**

**7**



In the Fall, they  
harvested their crops.

8

To celebrate their  
harvest, a great feast  
was planned.

9

The pilgrims and the  
Indians feasted for  
three days.

10



**It was the first  
Thanksgiving!**

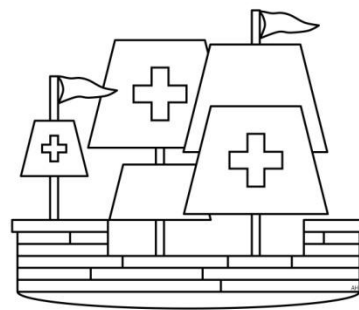
**11**

# The Story of the First Thanksgiving Student Book

The students are very successful with this read aloud after performing it as a reader's theatre. It is a favorite literacy center. Students highlight their November words and illustrate the book.

They read it to a buddy and to a parent at home.

Dear Parents,  
We have been studying the First Thanksgiving. Please listen to your child read this book.



# The Story of the First Thanksgiving

By \_\_\_\_\_

The pilgrims  
wanted a new  
life without a  
king and queen.

1

They sailed  
from England  
on the  
Mayflower.

2

The journey  
across the  
ocean was  
dangerous.

3

**They landed in  
Massachusetts  
and started a  
new life.**

**4**

**The winter was  
harsh. Many  
Pilgrims died.**

**5**

In the Spring,  
they made  
friends with  
the Natives.

6

They planted  
seeds and  
learned to  
hunt.

7

In the Fall,  
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To celebrate  
their harvest, a  
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The Pilgrims and  
the Indians  
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10

It was the

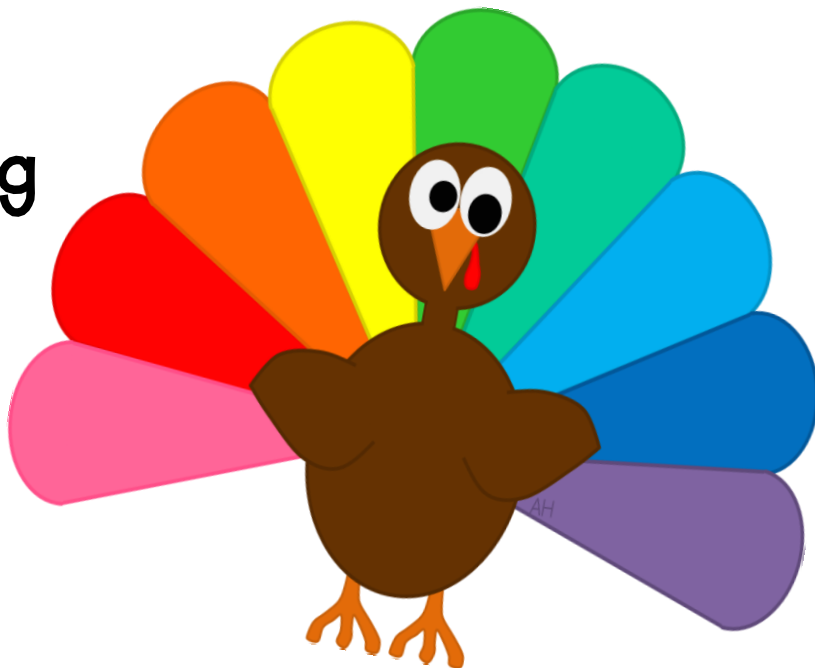
First

Thanksgiving!

11



# Thanksgiving Poems, Songs, and Chants



I teach these poems songs, and chants throughout November. Then, we perform these as well as the readers theatre to our parents and school staff. I divide the class up into 4 groups. Pilgrim boys, Pilgrim girls, natives, and Turkeys. They wear the paper costumes shown in this unit when we perform.



## Turkey Gobbler

This is turkey gobbler sitting on a rail. This is how he shakes his head and how he shakes his tail. He tucks his head beneath his wing just as if to say, "I'd like to find a place to hide on this Thanksgiving day!"

# The Pilgrims Came to America

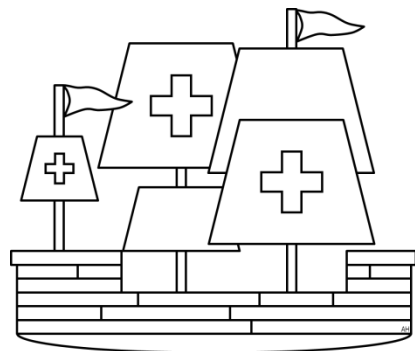
Sing to the Tune of Mulberry Bush

The Pilgrims came to America, America, America  
The Pilgrims came to America  
A long long time ago.

They sailed on the Mayflower, the Mayflower, the  
Mayflower.  
They sailed on the Mayflower  
A long long time ago.

They planted seeds, the corn grew tall, the corn  
grew tall, the corn grew tall.  
They planted seeds, the corn grew tall  
Along long time ago.

They had a great Thanksgiving feast, Thanksgiving,  
feast, Thanksgiving feast.  
They had a great Thanksgiving feast  
A long long time ago!



## Pilgrim Boys

I am a little  
Pilgrim boy  
I like to hunt and  
play.  
I'll go with the  
little native boy  
on a turkey hunt  
today!

## Pilgrim Girls

I am a little Pilgrim  
girl  
I like to shuck the  
corn.  
I'll work with the  
little native girl  
early Thanksgiving  
morn!

## Native Boys and Girls

I am a little native  
I like to fish and  
play  
I'll go with the little  
Pilgrim boy to  
harvest crops  
today!

## Turkeys

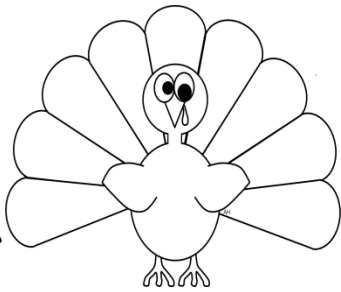
I am a big, big  
turkey  
You can not have  
my head!  
I'll sit with you for  
dinner,  
We'll eat pizza  
instead!

# Where We Walk

Where we walk to school each day,  
Native children used to play.  
All about on Native land, where the  
stores and houses stand.  
And there were no streets at all  
And the trees were very tall  
Not a church, not a steeple  
Only woods and Indian people.  
Only wigwams on the ground, and at  
night bears prowling around.  
What a different world today, where  
we live and walk and play.



# Albuquerque



# The Turkey

(sing to Clementine)

Albuquerque is a turkey,  
and he's feathered, and he's fine.  
And he wobbles, and he gobbles, and  
he's absolutely mine.

He's the best pet that you can get,  
better than a dog or cat.

He's my Albuquerque turkey and I'm  
very proud of that!

He once told me very frankly, he  
preferred to be my pet.

Not the main course at my dinner, so I  
told him not to fret.

Now my Albuquerque turkery is so  
happy in his bed,

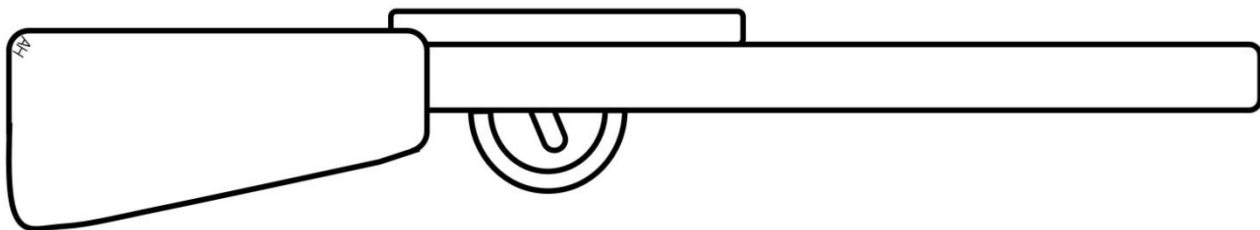
'Cuz for our Thanksgiving dinner, we  
had egg fu young instead!

# Dinner Bells

(sing to jingle bells)

Dashing through our food  
With a knife and a fork so fast,  
Corn and peas do go, while through  
my throat they pass.  
Into my tummy they plop. Making  
growling stop. Oh what fun it is to eat  
and eat until we drop!

Oh dinner bells, shot gun shells, turkey  
got away. What are we supposed to  
do on this Thanksgiving day-ay?!  
Dinner bells, shot gun shells, turkey  
got away. What are we supposed to  
do on our Thanksgiving day!



# Thanksgiving Writing

Make a class chart with the students asking them what they are thankful for. Then pass out the I am thankful prewriting paper. Have students write 6 things they are thankful for and illustrate those 6 things. One in each box.

On another day, have students take their I am thankful prewriting paper and create sentences on the "I am Thankful" writing paper. I use the turkey art to go with the I am thankful writing for a bulletin board.



Me

Are



Thank you!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# I am Thankful

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---

---

---

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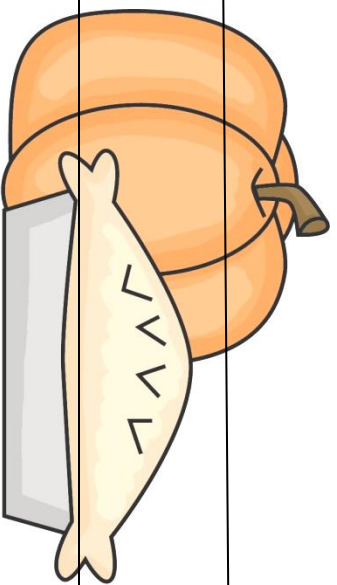
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I am Thankful



by

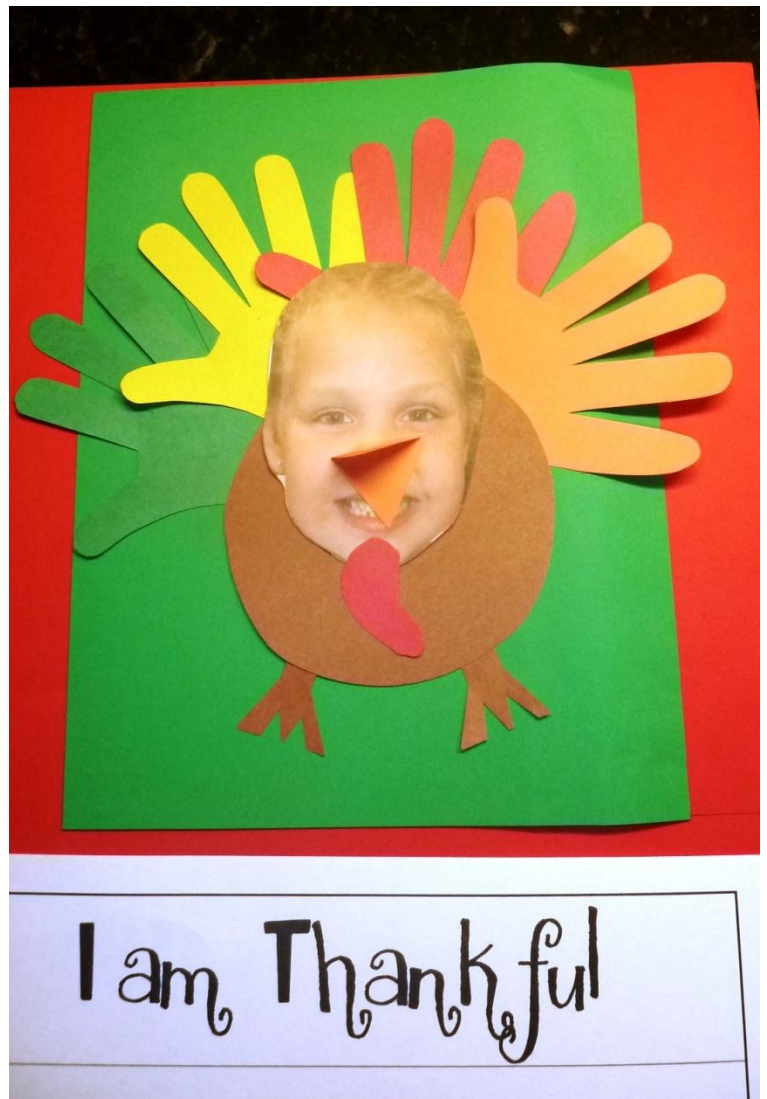
# Turkey Art Project

For this project, you will need a color picture of each student's head.

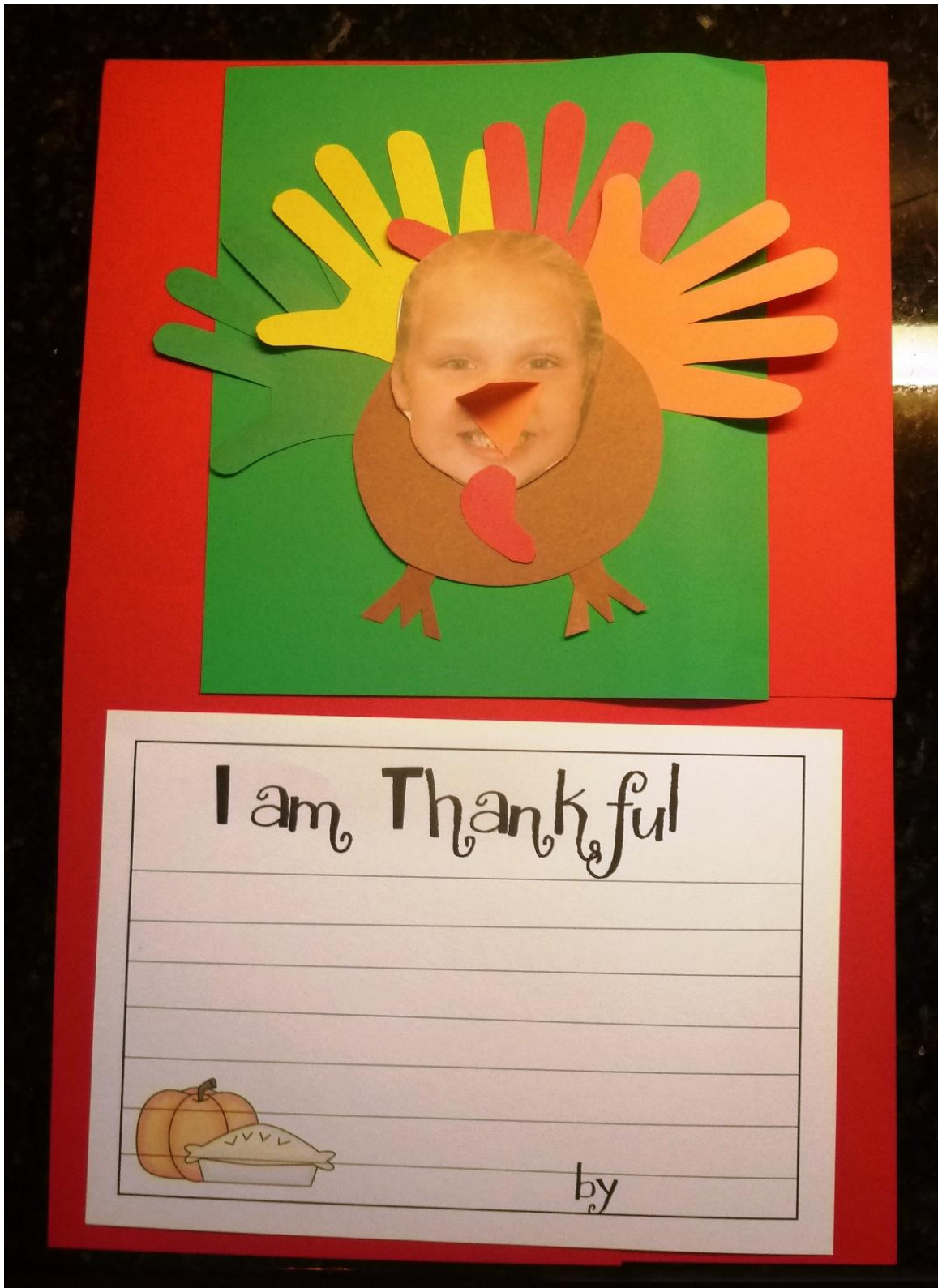
Cut each student's head before the project. It is best if it is on cardstock or photo paper rather than regular paper.

You can use colored feathers from the craft section of a store if you want to really enhance the effect of this cute turkey.

Students make a large brown construction paper circle. They use their hands as the turkey body. They trace and cut out their hand on red, yellow, green, and orange construction paper. Next, they make a red gobbler and a diamond shaped yellow diamond that folds into a beak on the child's nose and mouth. Here's the finished product:



Here's how I put it together with their writing. I use it for a bulletin board and then at the end of the year it becomes a page in their art and writing book.



# Program Costumes

## Pilgrim Girl

The Pilgrim girl gets a paper bonnet with a rounded collar. I also hot glue a little bow to the front of the collar. The most elaborate costume I ever did had a little apron. The apron is not necessary.



# Pilgrim Boys

Pilgrim boys get a hat headband with a square collar. I also make a black paper belt with a yellow buckle.



# The Turkey

All the turkeys get a turkey headband. This year we added real feathers instead of construction paper feathers for fun. A parent also made little paper hand sleeves covered in feathers. Normally just the headband is what my turkeys wear. The turkeys can be both girls and boys.





# Indians

Indians get a head band and a paper vest. This picture below was a special year that I had a mom that helped. Normally it is all just made out of paper. Indians can be girls and boys.



# Thank you for downloading!

If you have questions, comments, or problems with this packet please contact me by email :

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