



Thanksgiving and the Pilgrims

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Holiday
Grades 3–5



Introduction

What was it like to be a pilgrim? What did it the voyage across the Atlantic feel like and what was it like to celebrate the first Thanksgiving? In this lesson, students will write about how they think the pilgrims felt during these two major events in their lives.

Learning Objectives

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.3](#)

- Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.

Materials Needed

- *The Story of the Pilgrims* by Katharine Ross
- Paper and pencil

Procedure

1. Tell students that a long time ago there were a group of English people who came to America. They took a long and sometimes dangerous voyage across the Atlantic. They also endured a harsh winter before they celebrated a large feast known as Thanksgiving.
2. “Today we are going to read a text called *The Story of the Pilgrims* that describes these events. You will then write a short story explaining how you think the pilgrims felt during these lifechanging events.”
3. Give students some flexibility as to how they will organize their writing. Will they talk from the perspective of a pilgrim? Or will they speculate on what it would have been like to be a pilgrim? Have students be sure to include feelings the pilgrims may have had during their voyage, the harsh winter, and the first Thanksgiving.

Evaluation

Students should turn in their pieces to be graded. They should include feelings or reflections on 3 parts: the pilgrims voyage, the winter months, and the first Thanksgiving.