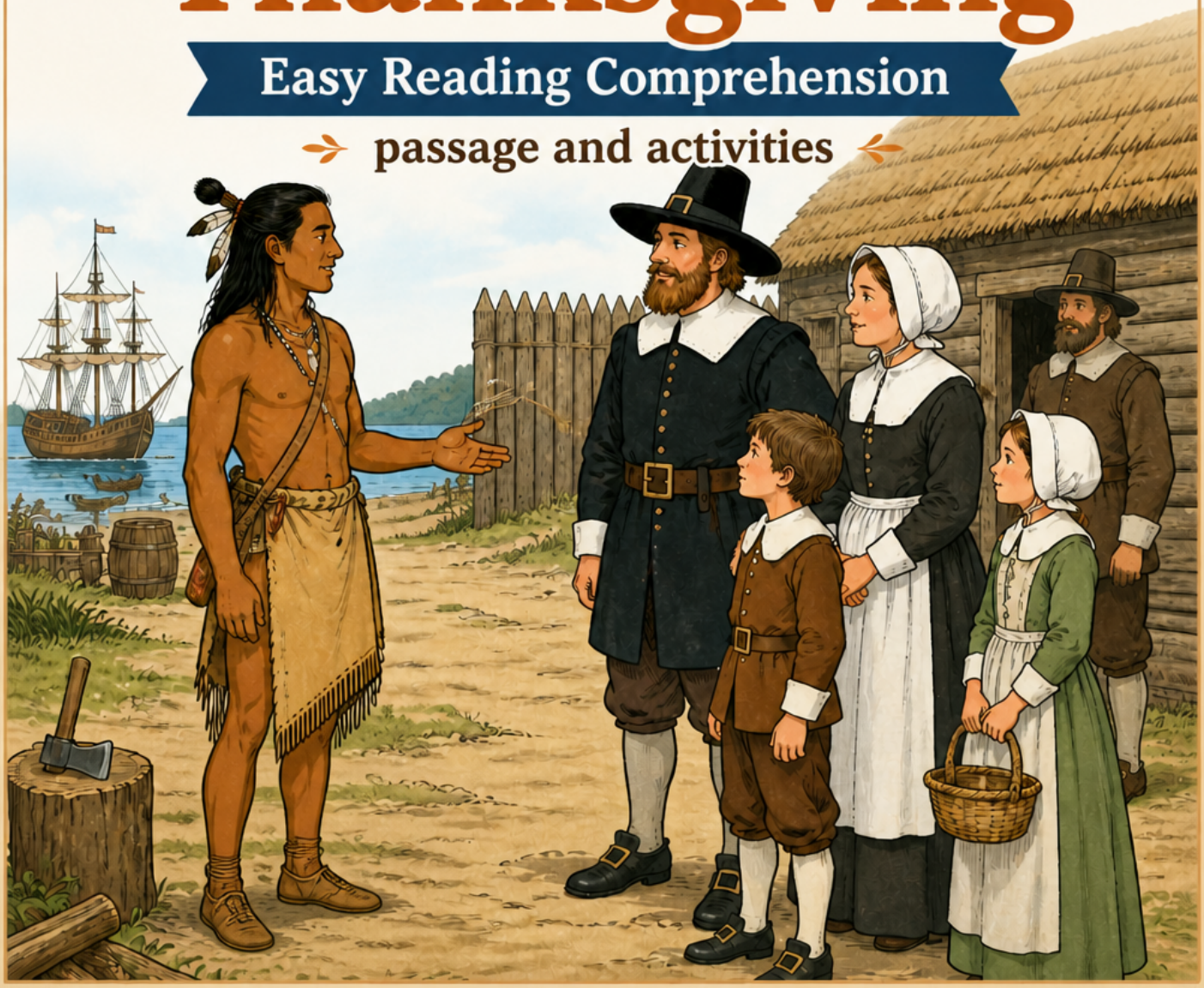
The First Thanksgiving

Easy Reading Comprehension

passage and activities



Map Work, Matching, Multiple choice,
Fill in the Blanks, Copy Work, and more!
For Grades 1-3

MercyforMarthas.com

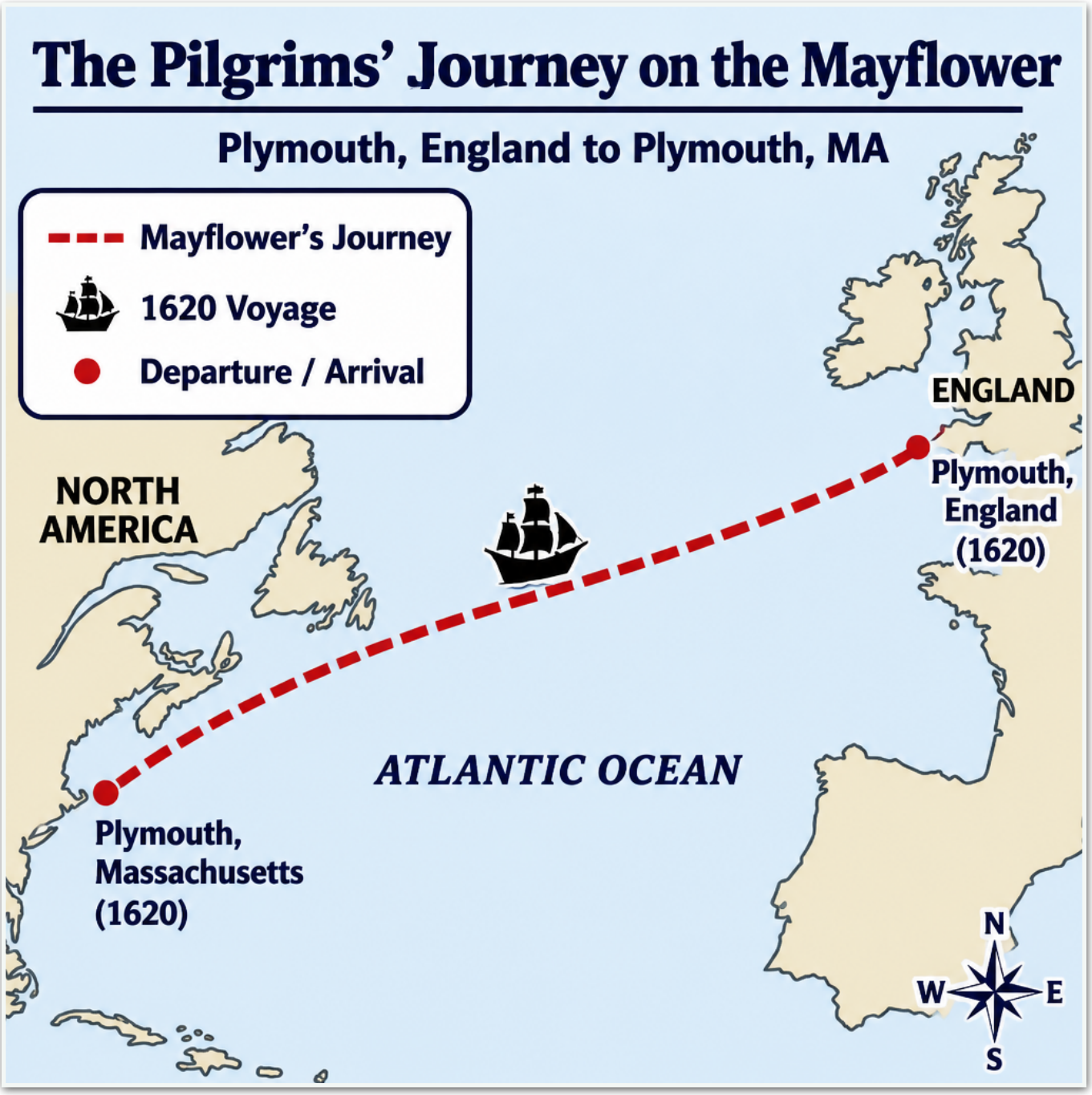
The First Thanksgiving



In 1620, a group of people called Pilgrims sailed across the ocean on a ship called the Mayflower. They left England because they wanted to worship God in their own way. The trip was long and cold, and the sea was rough.

After two months of sailing, they finally reached the new land. Winter was already coming. Many of them were sick and hungry. They began a settlement which they called Plymouth .

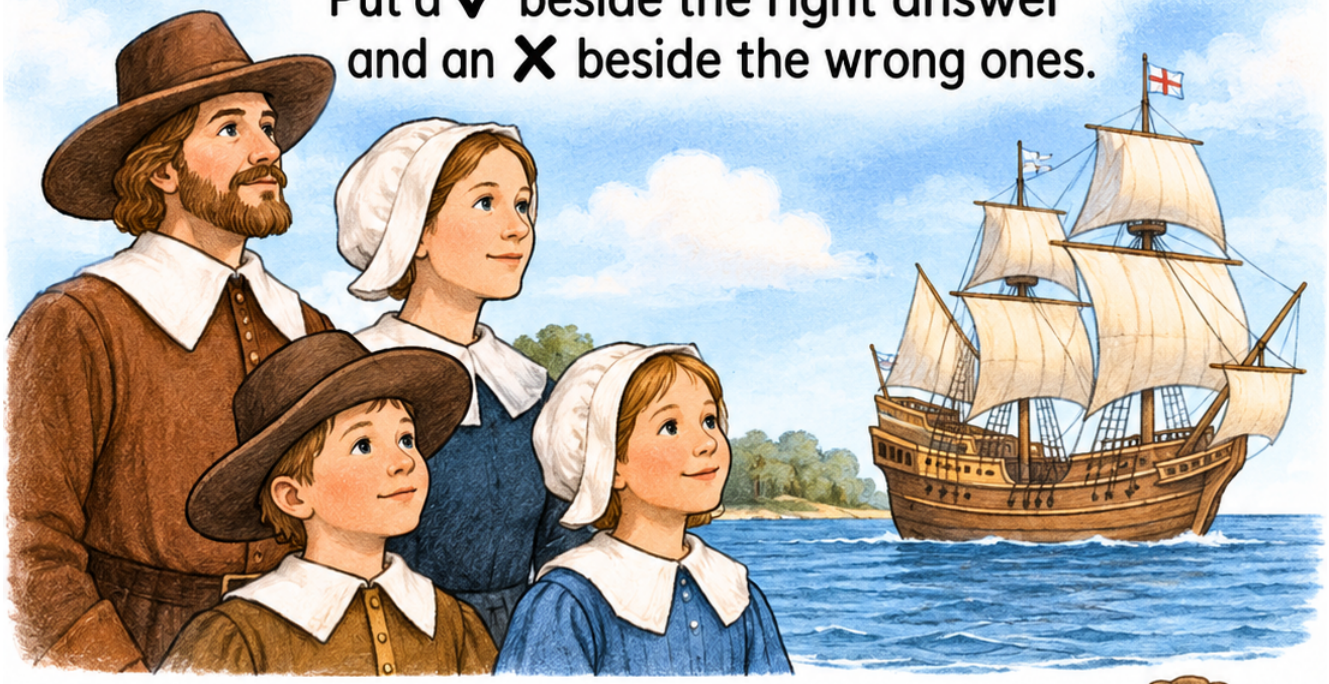
The First Thanksgiving



1. Trace the red line from England to North America. This is the path the Pilgrims sailed to their new land.
2. Color England red. Color North America green.
3. Which ocean did they cross? _____

Why did the Pilgrims leave England for the New Land?

Put a ✓ beside the right answer
and an ✗ beside the wrong ones.



- ☐ They wanted to get rich.



- ☐ They wanted to go on vacation.



- ☐ They wanted to worship God in their own way.



- ☐ They liked sailing.



The First Thanksgiving



The first winter was very hard. Their houses were not finished, so some Pilgrims had to live on the ship or in small shelters.

The Pilgrims had very little food or warm clothing. Many suffered from cold, hunger, and illness. Nearly half of the pilgrims died. The pilgrims were heartbroken and discouraged. How could they live in this harsh new land?

Why was the first winter hard for the pilgrims?

Put a ✔ beside the right answers and an ✘ beside the wrong ones.



- ☐ The pilgrims' houses were not finished.
- ☐ They had little food.
- ☐ They were very cold.
- ☐ Many died of sickness.
- ☐ They had a lot of parties.

The First Thanksgiving



Then, one day, a friendly Native American man named Squanto walked into their village. He belonged to the Wampanoag people, but he could speak English. Squanto felt sorry for the Pilgrims.

Squanto showed them how to plant corn, catch fish, and find food in the woods. With the help of Squanto and some of his people, the Pilgrims planted their fields in the spring.

The First Thanksgiving



1. Draw a red line from Wampanaog Village to Plymouth to show how Squanto might have gone to see the Pilgrims by land.
2. Draw a green line from Wampanoag Village to Plymouth to show how Squanto might have gone on a canoe to see the Pilgrims by water.

What did Squanto teach the Pilgrims?

Put a check (✓) beside the right answers and an ✗ beside the wrong ones.



- ☐ How to light a fire. 
- ☐ How to catch fish. 
- ☐ How to plant corn. 
- ☐ How to find food in the woods. 
- ☐ How to build houses. 

The First Thanksgiving



In the fall, their hard work paid off. The Pilgrims had a good harvest of corn, beans, and pumpkins. The Pilgrims wanted to thank God for the food and for the new friends who had helped them survive. Squanto was a gift from God in a time of need. The Pilgrims never forgot his help. They decided to hold a special feast.

The First Thanksgiving



1. Circle where the Pilgrims planted their crops.

2. Can you remember what the Pilgrims planted?

_____

_____

_____



The First Thanksgiving

Why did the Pilgrims want to thank God?

Put a ✓ beside the right answers and an ✗ beside the wrong ones.

- ☐ They found gold. 
- ☐ They had a good harvest. 
- ☐ The Wampanoag people had helped them. 
- ☐ They had fancy new clothes. 
- ☐ Squanto had helped them. 

The First Thanksgiving



In the autumn of 1621, the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag people shared a great feast together. They ate turkey, deer, corn, and pumpkins. They played games and shared stories for three days.

This feast is remembered as the first Thanksgiving. Each year, like the Pilgrims, we celebrate Thanksgiving to thank God for His blessings and to be grateful for the people who help us.

How did the Pilgrims celebrate Thanksgiving?

Put a check (✓) beside the right answers and an ✗ beside the wrong ones.

They shared a feast with the Wampanoag people.



☐

They wrote a letter to the Queen of England.



☐

They ate turkey, deer, corn, and pumpkin.



☐

They lit fireworks.



☐

They played games and told stories.



☐

The First Thanksgiving

Match each word with its picture.

Plymouth

Mayflower

crops

Squanto

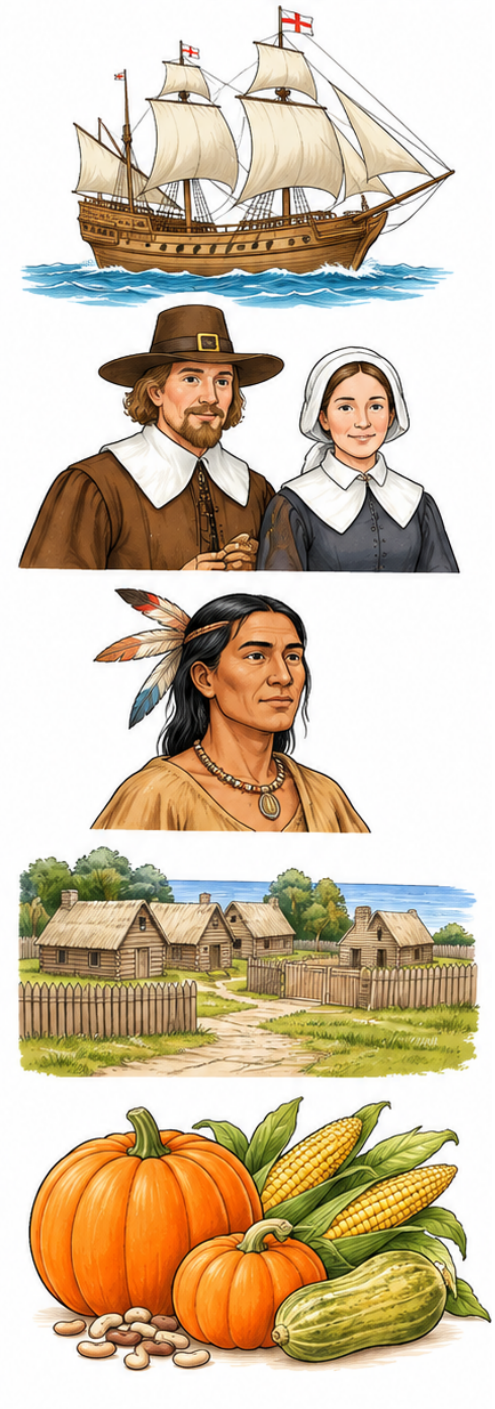
Pilgrims



The First Thanksgiving

Write the name of each picture.

Plymouth Mayflower crops Squanto Pilgrims



The First Thanksgiving

Circle the right answer.



1. What ship did the Pilgrims sail on to reach the new land?

A. Santa Maria
B. Mayflower
C. Titanic
D. Nina



2. What was the name of the friendly man who helped the Pilgrims?

A. Squanto
B. Samuel
C. Thomas
D. Peter



3. What did Squanto teach the Pilgrims to plant?

A. Apples
B. Wheat
C. Corn
D. Potatoes



4. What did the Pilgrims want to thank God for?

A. A new ship
B. A good harvest and new friends
C. A big snowstorm
D. A new king



5. Which people shared the first Thanksgiving feast with the Pilgrims?

A. The Wampanoag people
B. The Spanish explorers
C. The Vikings
D. The Romans

The First Thanksgiving

Fill in the blanks.

Word Bank:

Wampanoags corn Mayflower Thanksgiving Squanto



Pilgrims sailed on the _____

_____

_____



The Pilgrims were helped by _____

_____

_____



He taught them to plant _____

_____

_____



The Pilgrims celebrated with the _____

_____

_____



This was the first _____

_____

_____

The First Thanksgiving

Trace the words.



GIVE

THANKS

The First Thanksgiving

Copy this sentence.



O give thanks to the LORD, for He is good.
Psalm 136

The First Thanksgiving

Use these pictures to retell the story of the First Thanksgiving.













Additional activity: cut the pictures out, mix them up, and put them in the correct order.

The First Thanksgiving

Write about the First Thanksgiving.



What are you thankful for?

Circle the things your are thankful for:



Family



Friends



Faith



Good health



Good food



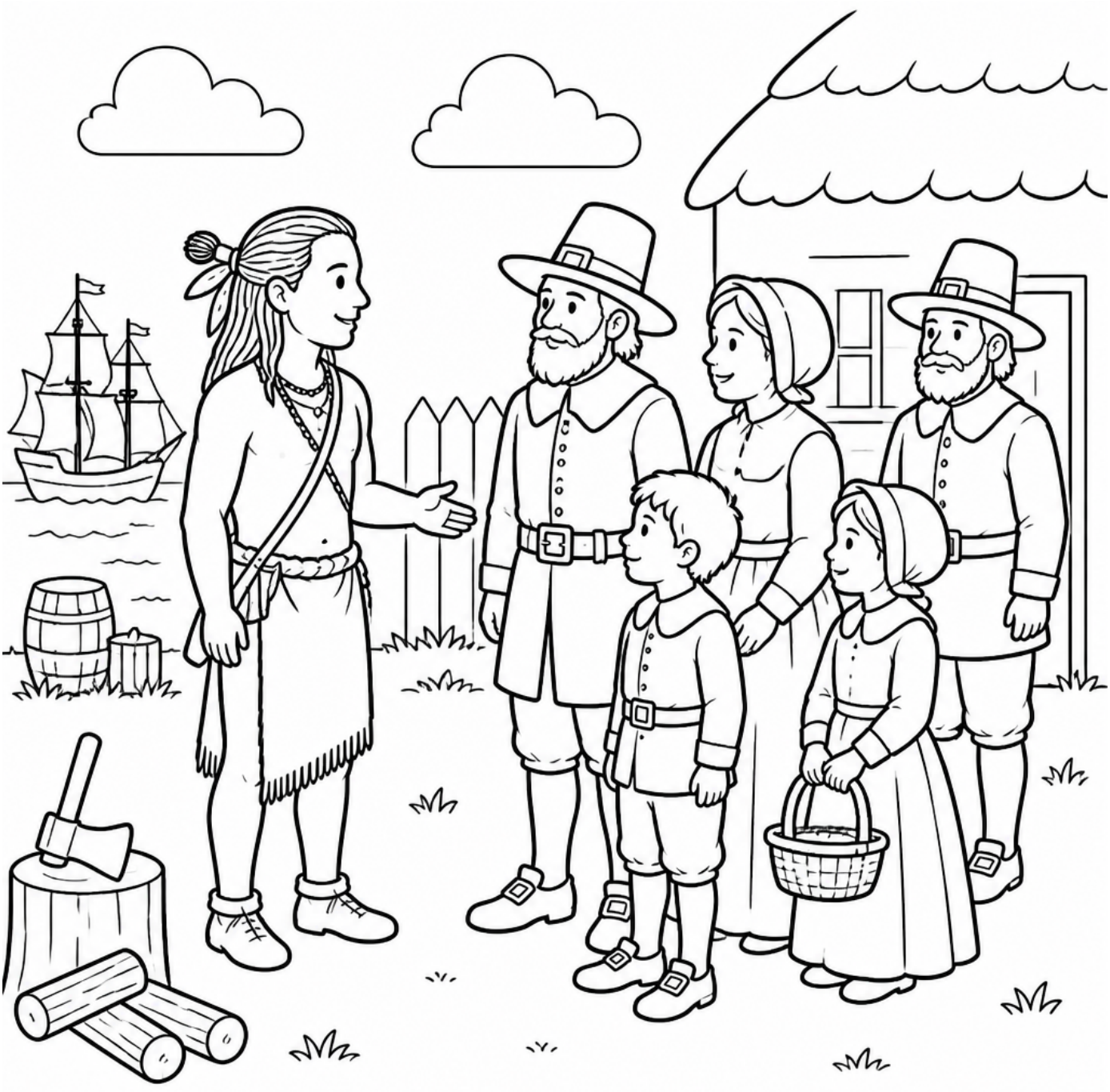
My home



My toys

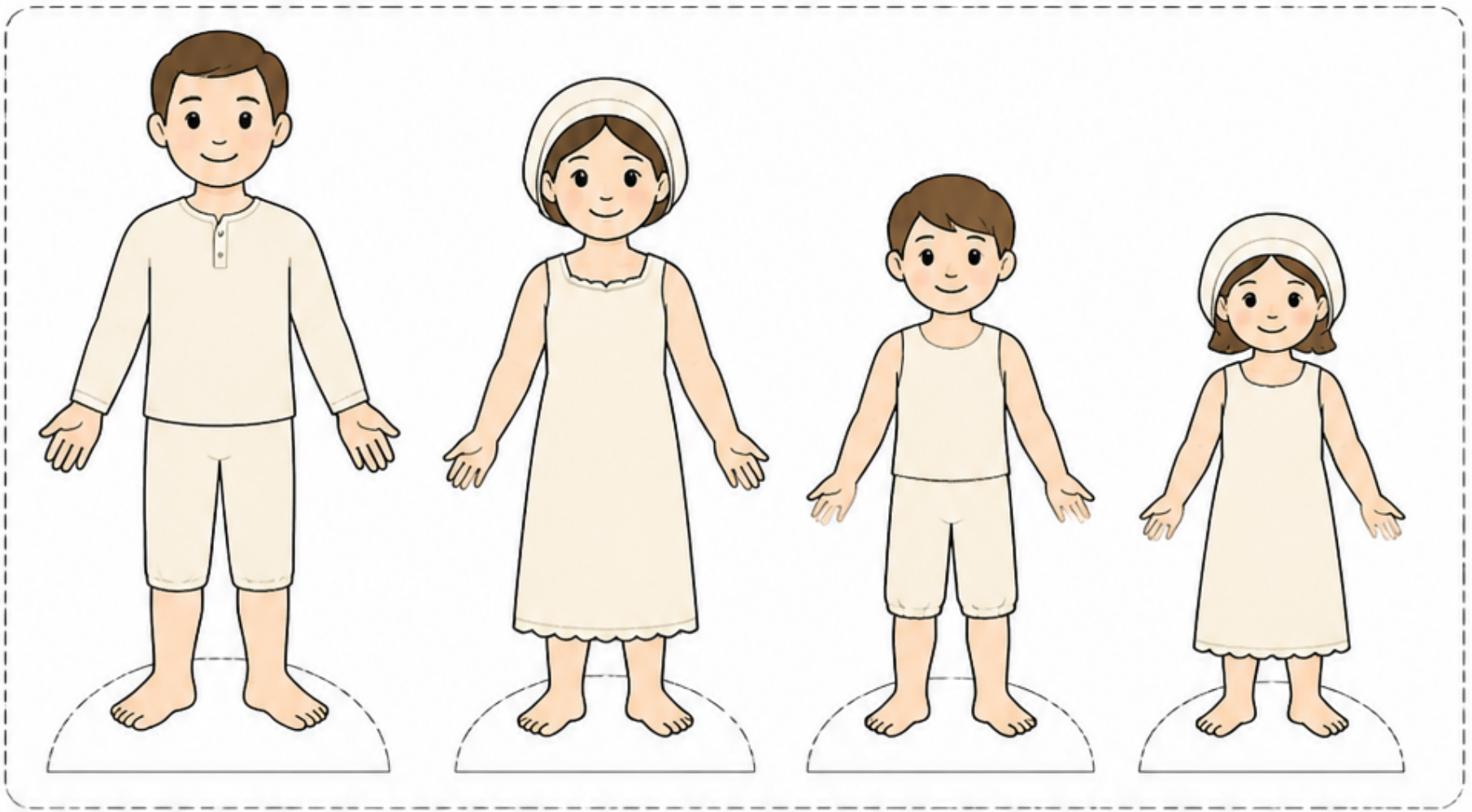
What else are you thankful for?

The First Thanksgiving



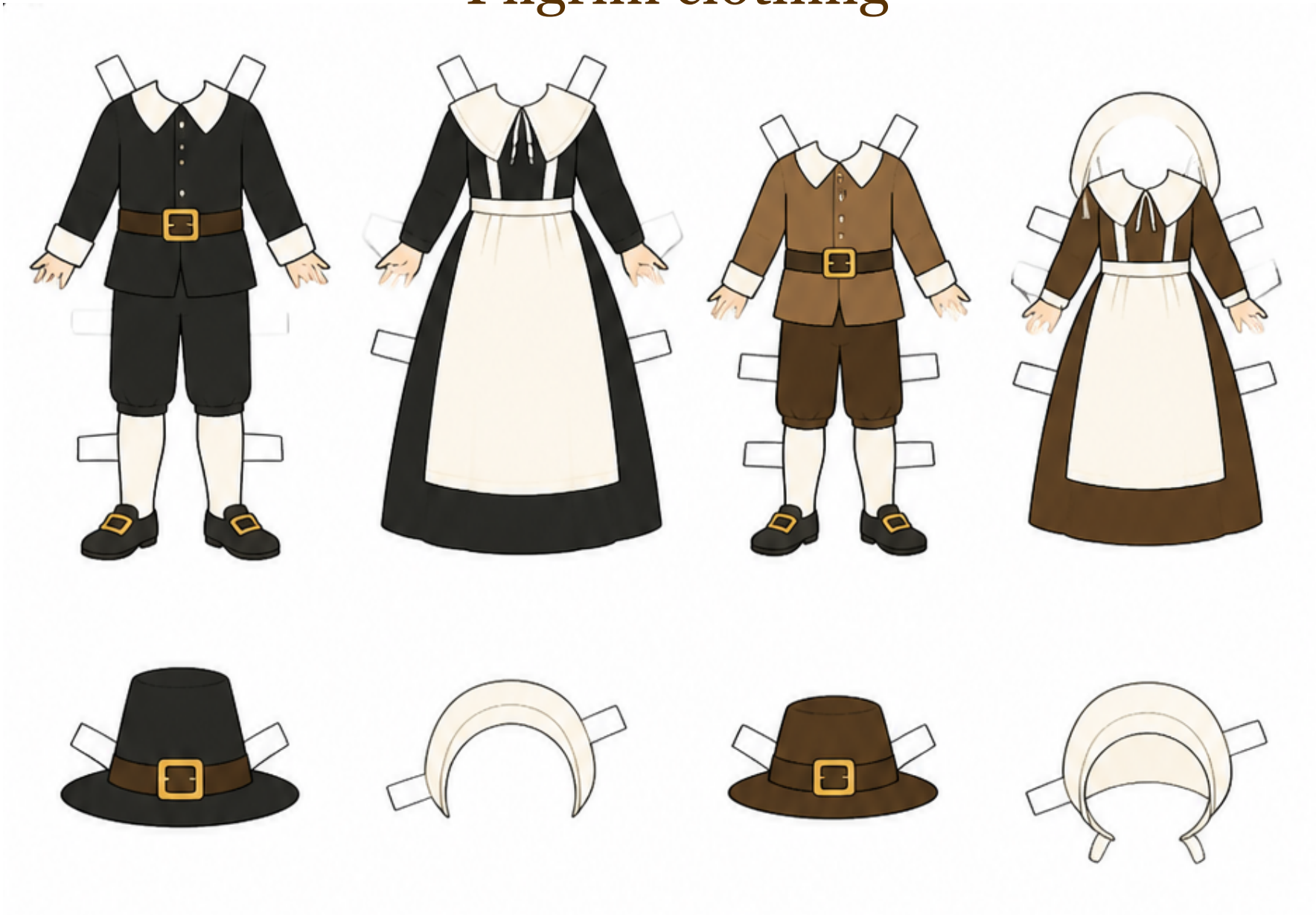
Squanto helped the Pilgrims.

Dress the Pilgrims.



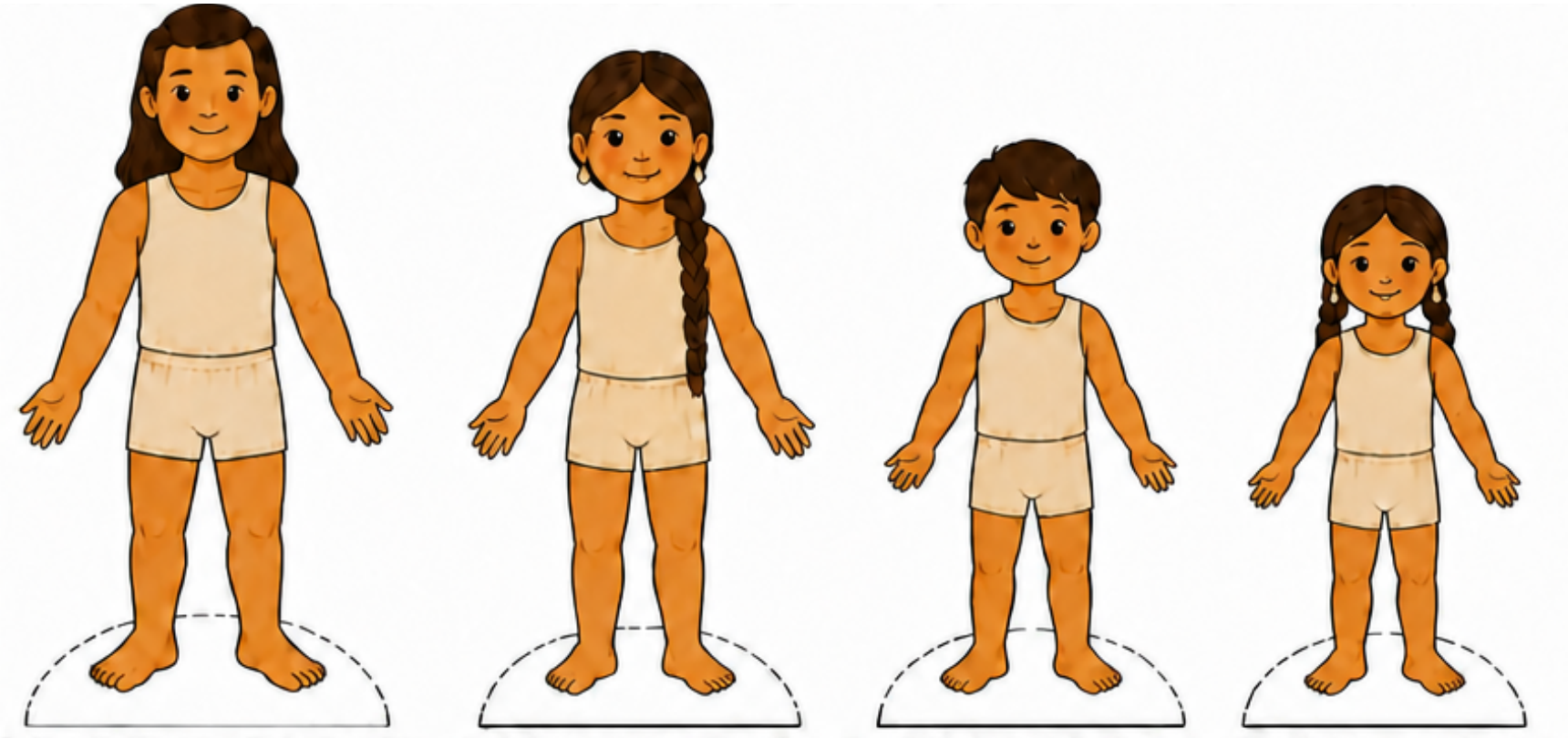
mercyformarmas.com

Pilgrim clothing



MercyforMarthas.com

Dress the Wampanoag Family



MercyforMarthas.com

Wampanoag clothing



MercyforMarthas.com

Credits:

Text and images generated by Acutis AI and edited by Mary Cooney
Maps generated by Acutis AI and ChatGPT
Worksheets generated by Acutis AI and ChatGPT
and edited by Mary Cooney

Font by KG Fonts

You may also be interested in:
A Child's History of the Middle Ages Text and Workbook
available at MercyforMarthas.com