



# Smithsonian's History Explorer Podcast

## Teacher Guide



## Thanksgiving and Harvest Celebrations

*with curator Rayna Green*

**Podcast Link:** <http://amhistory.si.edu/thinkfinity/podcast/thanksgiving.mp3>

**Before listening, consider the following as a class:**

- What do you eat on Thanksgiving? Why are those dishes served on this holiday? What is the purpose of Thanksgiving?

### Discussion Questions/Activities

- What is the value of sharing a meal with someone? Consider who joins your family for special meals. Who are they and why are they invited?
- Have you ever had lunch with someone you didn't know well? What did you learn from the experience? *Teachers:* Try extending the discussion and building understanding and an inclusive environment at school with the Mix it Up at Lunch program from Teaching Tolerance: <http://www.tolerance.org/mix-it-up>
- Share with the class any special meals or recipes you eat at home. Are these meals the same or different across the class? What can you learn about each other, and about your own family, by looking at the food you eat? When studying other regions or cultures, how often do you study traditional foods?

### Related Resources from the National Museum of American History

- Harvest Ceremony: Beyond the Thanksgiving Myth—from the National Museum of the American Indian [http://nmai.si.edu/sites/1/files/pdf/education/NMAI\\_Harvest\\_Study\\_Guide.pdf](http://nmai.si.edu/sites/1/files/pdf/education/NMAI_Harvest_Study_Guide.pdf)
- American Indian Perspectives on Thanksgiving—from the National Museum of the American Indian [http://nmai.si.edu/sites/1/files/pdf/education/thanksgiving\\_poster.pdf](http://nmai.si.edu/sites/1/files/pdf/education/thanksgiving_poster.pdf)

### Related Thinkfinity Resources

- Myth and Truth: "The First Thanksgiving"—from ReadWriteThink <http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/lesson-plans/myth-truth-first-thanksgiving-65.html>
- My Family Traditions: A Class Book and a Pot Luck Lunch—from ReadWriteThink <http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/lesson-plans/family-traditions-class-book-941.html>
- America Celebrates Thanksgiving Today—from ReadWriteThink <http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/calendar-activities/america-celebrates-thanksgiving-today-20360.html>

### Related National Standards for U.S. History (National Center for History in the Schools)

- NSH (5-12) USHE1: Three Worlds Meet (Beginnings to 1620)
- NSH (5-12) USHE2: Colonization and Settlement (1585-1763)

**Have your students email their question, comments, and discoveries to [thinkfinity@si.edu](mailto:thinkfinity@si.edu)**

**Find this podcast and more at <http://americanhistory.si.edu/podcasts>**



# Smithsonian's History Explorer Podcast



Name:

Date:

Period:

Topic:

*Listen to the podcast. Take notes and answer the questions.*

1. What were some of the foods that the Wampanoag (native people of coastal Massachusetts) ate that we continue to eat today?

2. What are some of the foods that Native American groups might have eaten that are not part of our Thanksgiving meal?

3. When was the Thanksgiving holiday created, and why?

4. Write down any information that surprises you or anything new that you learn as you listen.

**Email your question, comments, and discoveries to [thinkfinity@si.edu](mailto:thinkfinity@si.edu)**

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