

1621: A NEW LOOK AT THANKSGIVING

THEN/NOW

A BOUNTIFUL HARVEST

THEN:

Native harvests varied from season to season. Wampanoag people grew corn and other vegetables in gardens and gathered nuts, berries, and other wild plant foods. They also hunted game and caught fish in both fresh and salt water.

NOW:

Harvests now are gathered usually on large farms, or small home gardens. The food is shipped to grocery stores, and farmers' markets, where Americans go to purchase what they want.

PEOPLE OF THE FIRST LIGHT

THEN:

Wampanoag people gathered an abundance of food from the sea, including mussels, clams, and fish.

NOW:

Today, quahaugs (hard-shelled clams) are still an important food source, and their shells are made into wampum beads. Fish are shipped from various parts of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans to provide Americans with meals.

THEN:

Mats of woven bulrush hold the heat of the fire in the wetu (Native home) as a family shares a meal.

NOW:

Today Americans have furnaces that provide heat for their homes while they eat their meals at tables.

COLONIZING THE NEW WORLD**THEN:**

The English carried water through the streets of Plymouth using a yoke and buckets. They had many springs to fetch the water from.

NOW:

Americans now have water treatment plants that purify their water. The water comes through water pipes into their homes for easy access.

THEN:

The English brought their own clothes, furniture, seeds, and other goods along with them on their journey, hoping to create a "new" England.

NOW:

When Americans want new clothes they go to stores to buy them. Americans shop for furniture, and other items from malls, or large stores. The goods are shipped in from various sources around the world. Seeds are purchased from garden stores.

THE HARVEST:

THEN:

The English went fowling, making their way through the marsh grasses to hunt birds, ducks, geese and swans. A messenger ran to spread the news that Massasoit and the Native people were coming to celebrate the Harvest with the English. The meal lasted three days, and they didn't have cranberry sauce, nor pumpkin pie. The Native Americans did not dress with woven blankets over their shoulders and large headdresses. The Wampanoag men built shelters to sleep in during their three-day stay.

NOW:

Today Americans go to grocery stores to purchase the food that will be eaten for the Thanksgiving meal, which lasts one day. Traditionally they gather with friends, and family. Most people eat turkey, pumpkin pie, stuffing and cranberries.

ALL:

Many Native people gather each Thanksgiving Day in Plymouth, Massachusetts, to keep the vigil in memory of the struggles of their ancestors and the strength of Wampanoag people.