



Supporting Question 2

Featured Source

Source A: Edward Winslow, description of the first Thanksgiving, *Mourt's Relation: A Journal of the Pilgrims at Plymouth* (excerpt), 1622

NOTE: Mourt's Relation was an early Pilgrim booklet written mainly by Edward Winslow with significant contributions from William Bradford. Published in England (likely by George Morton), it provides a firsthand account of the early struggles of Pilgrims in exploring Cape Cod and then settling at Plymouth, as well as in early interactions with native inhabitants. In a later 1841 edition, an editor's note became the first ever reference to the 1621 Wampanoag-Pilgrim feast as "the First Thanksgiving." The excerpt below recounts the story of this "First Thanksgiving."

Mourt's Relation, Part VI Transcribed by Caleb Johnson

Our harvest being gotten in, our governor sent four men on fowling, that so we might after have a special manner to rejoice together after we had gathered the fruit of our labors; they four in one day killed as much fowl, as with a little help beside, served the company almost a week, at which time amongst other recreations, we exercised our arms, many of the Indians coming amongst us, and among the rest their greatest King Massasoit, with some ninety men, whom for three days we entertained and feasted, and they went out and killed five deer, which they brought to the plantation and bestowed on our governor, and upon the captain, and others. And although it be not always so plentiful as it was at this time with us, yet by the goodness of God, we are so far from want that we often wish you partakers of our plenty.

We have found the Indians very faithful in their covenant of peace with us; very loving and ready to pleasure us; we often go to them, and they come to us; some of us have been fifty miles by land in the country with them, the occasions and relations whereof you shall understand by our general and more full declaration of such things as are worth the noting, yea, it has pleased God so to possess the Indians with a fear of us, and love unto us, that not only the greatest king amongst them, called Massasoit, but also all the princes and peoples round about us, have either made suit unto us, or been glad of any occasion to make peace with us, so that seven of them at once have sent their messengers to us to that end. Yea, an Isle at sea, which we never saw, hath also, together with the former, yielded willingly to be under the protection, and subjects to our sovereign lord King James, so that there is now great peace amongst the Indians themselves, which was not formerly, neither would have been but for us; and we for our parts walk as peaceably and safely in the wood as in the highways in England. We entertain them familiarly in our houses, and they as friendly bestowing their venison on us. They are a people without any religion or knowledge of God, yet very trusty, quick of apprehension, ripe-witted, just.

Johnson, Caleb. *Of Plymouth Plantation*, Xlibris, 2006 and *A Relation or Journal of the Beginning and Proceedings of the English Plantation Settled at Plymouth in New England by certain English Adventurers both Merchants and others.* © 2009, MayflowerHistory.com All Rights Reserved. Used with permission..

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Source B: William Bradford, treaty with Massasoit, *Of Plymouth Plantation* (excerpt), 1651

NOTE: The treaty with Massasoit was included in the record of activities in the Plymouth colony keep by William Bradford called Of Plymouth Plantation.

Text of the treaty

Their great Sachem[chief], called Massasoiet. who, about four or five days after, came with the chief of his friends and other attendance, with the aforesaid Squanto. With whom, after friendly entertainment and some gifts given him, they made a peace with him (which hath now continued this 24 years) in these terms:

- I. That neither he nor any of his, should injure or do hurt to any of their people.
- II. That if any of his did any hurt to any of theirs, he should send the offender that they might punish him.
- III. That if any thing were taken away from any of theirs, he should cause it to be restored; and they should do the like to his.
- IV. That if any did unjustly war against him, they would aid him; and if any did war against them, he should aid them.
- V. That he should send to his neighbours confederates to certify them of this, that they might not wrong them, but might be likewise comprised in the conditions of peace.
- VI. That when their men came to them, they should leave their bows and arrows behind them.

From: William Bradford, *Of Plymouth Plantation*, edited by Samuel Eliot Morison. Copyright © 1984. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, pp. 80–81. http://www.pilgrimhallmuseum.org/pdf/Text_Treaty_with_Massasoit.pdf.