History in a New Light.
Community Leadership
Civics
Self-government

Themes as relevant today as they were 400 years ago.

For centuries, the stories of indigenous and colonial communities, like Patuxet and Plymouth, have been told in isolation, implying little to no cross-cultural interaction. But new research by archaeologists and historians reveals far more integrated communities. Explore the ancient homelands of the indigenous people of the Northeast, the new lives begun on those shores by Mayflower’s passengers, and the complex geopolitical landscape the two communities shared.

MORE THAN 100,000 teachers and students visit us annually to explore intertwined cultures, investigate changing landscapes, and understand 17th-century worldviews through immersive hands-on programs. Learners of all ages explore stories of risk, community, and change while they engage with historical objects, written documents, and oral tradition.

✓ Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks
✓ National Common Core Standards

Workshops at the Museum

Discover unique cultures, investigate the changing landscapes, and understand 17th-century worldviews through immersive hands-on programs. Learners of all ages explore stories of risk, community, and change while they engage with historical objects, written documents, and oral tradition.

How did Wampanoag and Colonial children work and play? Learn about work, then play the Native and English games children would have played in 17th-century New England!

Experience the 1621 harvest feast through play! First, hear the story, then play the story by rotating through stations with reproduction Wampanoag and Colonial objects from the first Thanksgiving.

Students learn the alphabet and practice writing with chalk on slate or quill pen on traditional paper.

People in the past recorded stories in different ways — the written word, shared stories, or art. Practice the 17th-century alphabet and on a slate or with quill and ink, then learn about wampum belts and create an original design.

Native Museum staff discuss their relationship to the land, respect for all living beings, and seasonal ways of life. Students handle Wampanoag artifacts and animal furs, and may also play a traditional Wampanoag game.

Young citizen-students explore the Mayflower Compact as a founding document of our democracy and create their own 17th-century signature with quill and ink.

Work in teams and use clues hidden in historic art to discover the identity of a mysterious artifact.

Students discuss the different ways 17th-century children were educated, whether in a classroom, at an apprenticeship, or at home! Try writing with a quill pen and ink and compare it to today’s writing tools. Create a personalized 17th-century signature to take home!

Students study the Mayflower Compact, and those who crafted it, as an inspiration for the democratic vision of our Nation’s founders. Discuss government by the consent of the governed and draft a classroom compact.

What really happened at the First Thanksgiving? Who was at the table and why? Explore the history behind the legend by comparing accounts of the harvest feast and examining colonial and indigenous artifacts.

This comprehensive program provides a solid foundation for a unit on the Pilgrims. The two-part workshop includes a classroom visit, a hands-on workshop at the Museum, and a packet of teaching resources.

Hard work was the norm for English families in 17th century, but children and adults also played games! Learn about the role of play in a Pilgrim child’s life and try popular pastimes like nine-pins, hoop-rolling, and telling riddles.

QUESTIONS? READY TO BOOK?

Contact the Education & Outreach Department
EMAIL programs@plimoth.org
CALL (508) 746-1622 ×8359
VISIT www.plimoth.org/learn
Outreach Programs

The Wampanoag Way
PK K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
This special version of our popular “People of the Dawn” program especially for our youngest learners features traditional indigenous stories that have been passed down for generations. Explore Wampanoag life through reproduction artifacts and animal furs.

First Families: Their New Worlds and Everyday Lives
PK K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
Learn about early Plimoth Plantation from an actual Pilgrim in your classroom! Our Museum teacher will portray a resident of Plimoth Colony, speaking with the regional dialect and wearing accurate clothing of the 17th century. Using reproduction artifacts, your visitor will share the Pilgrim story from hiring the Mayflower in England, to the journey and the first winter, to Thanksgiving in Plymouth. Two students will be invited to try on Pilgrim children’s clothing! A teacher’s booklet is provided.

Peoples of the Dawn Land
PK K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
Learn about the daily life of the Wampanoag in the 17th century, as well as their current lives and communities with our Native Museum Educators. In this one-hour program, students will gain an understanding of the connection the Wampanoag and other Native People have to Mother Earth, their seasonal way of life, and their respect for all living beings.

Traveling Hands-On Workshops
PK K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
Explore the lighter side of 17th-century life! Each fun-filled program blends historical background with hands-on exploration and activities. Workshops are led by non-costumed Museum teachers and require a large open area such as a gymnasium. Programs can be held outside, weather permitting, but please make sure to have a back-up indoor space reserved. Our most popular workshops include:
- Pilgrim Games
- Pilgrim Music and Dance
- Wampanoag Hands-On Craft

Night at the Museum
Take your students’ engagement with historic New England to the next level and sleep over in the 17th century! Each program includes a themed historically-inspired meal, hands-on activities using traditional techniques and materials, and a nighttime visit to the Living History sites to discover the sights, sounds, smells and stories of Plimoth Colony and the Wampanoag Homeland after dark. Workshops are flexible and easily adapt to any grade level or area of interest.

Virtual Field Trips to Plimoth Plantation!
Can’t travel to us? We can visit you online! Using Skype, students can learn from a Plimoth Plantation Museum Educator during engaging, informational and interactive hour-long virtual field trips. Your class can talk with a Native Museum teacher, chat with a Pilgrim, or learn all about the history of Thanksgiving.

Chart Your Own Course
Collaborate with us to design a visit that meets your unique curricular needs and interests. To begin, choose from the following topics, then contact the Education & Outreach Department.
- Peoples of the Dawn Land
- Communities in Collaboration and Conflict
- First Families: Their New Worlds and Everyday Lives
- New England’s Dual Spiritual Realms
- The Legend and Legacy of Mayflower
- Thanksgiving: Plymouth and America’s Holiday

National History Day at Plimoth
The establishment of a permanent English colony at Plymouth in 1620 accelerated the transformation of New England in the 17th century — creating American institutions and traditions, fostering a hybrid colonial-Native regional society and, two centuries later, becoming the stuff of legend. Plimoth Plantation is proud to support National History Day, and we are excited to work with students and teachers on projects that explore America’s early beginnings — both Colonial and Indigenous.

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New for 2020

Teacher Partner Program

Planning your next field trip? Come for a planning visit! New England K-12 educators enjoy free admission to the Museum’s main living history exhibits (including our STEM exhibits at the Plimoth Grist Mill) as well as discounts on professional development, teacher resources, and more!

To sign up, visit www.plimoth.org/teacherpartner.

Book your 2020 field trip before December 31, 2019 to receive special discounted rates!

For more information about The Center, visit plimoth.org/center

The Center for 17th-Century Studies at Plimoth

HISTORY IS TRANSFORMATIVE.

It empowers us with stories of peoples and ideas. It enables us to cultivate a better understanding of who we are. At The Center, we create space for conversations and experiences interwoven with elements that are immersive and participatory, inclusive and social, personal and relevant, lively and fun.

Professional Development for Educators

Designed to excite and inspire teachers, our professional development workshops blend classroom instruction with hands-on, experiential activities and visits to the Museum’s living history sites. Workshops taught by Native and non-Native presenters meet state and national curriculum standards for humanities and social sciences content while also addressing the processes of studying American History and effective methods for incorporating museum resources into the classroom. Our workshops are flexible and easily adapt to any grade level or area of interest.

New for 2020 Teacher Partner Program

Planning your next field trip? Come for a planning visit! New England K-12 educators enjoy free admission to the Museum’s main living history exhibits (including our STEM exhibits at the Plimoth Grist Mill) as well as discounts on professional development, teacher resources, and more!

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Book your 2020 field trip before December 31, 2019 to receive special discounted rates!

For more information about The Center, visit plimoth.org/center

Workshops for High School and University Students

Dig deeper into the history of Plymouth Colony and Wampanoag Homeland and explore new ideas about community with a multi-day workshop for high school and university groups. For more information about The Center for 17th-Century Studies at Plimoth, including overnight accommodations, visit www.plimoth.org/center.

Questions?

Ready to book?

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Summer 2019 intern class
“Amazing journey to the past - 400 years!”

“Wow! ...and, Wow! What a wonderful experience... A MUST for history buffs and school-aged children.”

“Hours of entertainment and education!”

“This museum offers something for everyone starting with a 12 minute video overview, and then continuing with galleries, winding trails with signs, handicap accessibility, interactive displays, featuring both Wampanoag and Colonial perspectives, wonderful places to eat with views providing authentic early cuisine, colonial craft demonstrations and several gift shops. This museum tells the story of the early settlers and allows you to authentically experience life in the 1600s.”

“I loved Plimoth Plantation!”

“The attention to detail in and around the houses was amazing. Having conversations with John and Priscilla Alden, Mary Brewster, and William Bradford (and others) was truly special.”

“Best historical village we have seen!”

“The museum educators in role play are outstanding. Be sure to engage them and ask them questions about their everyday lives beyond the physical dwellings and artifacts.”

One fact I learned about the Wampanoag is...

“It takes 2 weeks to finish a mishoon.”

“The families shared one long house”

One fact I learned about the Pilgrims is...

“The girls wore two skirts to stay warm.”

“They talk different than today!”