

Dear

As many prepare to celebrate the Thanksgiving season, I think it is important to remember that November is also Native American Heritage Month. To incorporate Native American heritage in your lessons, you can find many great, inclusive projects, activities, lesson plans and educational materials online. Members from the Society for American Archaeology's Thanksgiving Initiative have prepared a list of resources available at:

archaeologyeducationclearinghouse.wordpress.com/resources/thanksgiving/teacher

For students of all ages, I hope you will:

- Investigate the “myths” of Thanksgiving at Plymouth and discuss what we actually know from the perspective of the colonists *and* the Wampanoag.
- Emphasize that Native people are still here and are not just part of history. When discussing lifeways of Native people in the past, also talk about ways the colonists lived and how *both* peoples were different from today.
- Explain to students that Native groups are all different. Research where you live. Whose territory do you live on today? What are the names of these groups in their own language? Where do they live now?
- Shift your unit focus to celebrations of gratitude and harvest.

It is important to me that my child learn to respect all cultures and histories.

Thank you for taking the time to consider incorporating these perspectives in teaching the Thanksgiving experience in your classroom. I hope the resources provided are useful to you.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,