



An American Indian Child

OBJECTIVE: Read to learn about the lives of Wampanoag children long ago.

STANDARDS: Social Studies (NCSS): Culture; time, continuity, and change

“The Wampanoag taught the Pilgrims how to live a better life in America.”

BEFORE READING

Build Background

Give children some information about the Wampanoag people.

Explain to children that America was a brand-new place to the Pilgrims who came to the New World. But it wasn't new for everyone—the Wampanoag people were already living there! The Wampanoag taught the Pilgrims how to live a better life in America. They already knew which plants grew best on the land and how to stay warm during the winter.

DURING READING

Use Word Parts

Help children find the meanings of compound words.

After reading the text in the first box, pause to reread the word *deerskin*. Ask, “What two smaller words can you find in this big word?” (*deer*, *skin*) “What do you think the big word means? (*the skin of a deer*) If you would like, give students other examples of compound words, such as *skateboard*, *goldfish*, and *newspaper*. Challenge students to find the two smaller words and to define the compound word.

AFTER READING

Compare/Contrast

See how Wampanoag children and Pilgrim children were alike and different.

Look at this issue alongside the issue about Pilgrims, and help children compare and contrast things about Pilgrim and Wampanoag life. You might want to create a chart. Label the columns *Pilgrim Children* and *Wampanoag Children*. Label the rows *Clothes*, *Food*, *Help*, and *Fun*. Help children use the information from the issues to fill in each space on the chart.

READ-ALoud BACKGROUND

Ways of the Wampanoag

- **Home:** Wampanoag homes were called **wetus**. They were round and had a hole at the top. The hole worked like a chimney to let out the smoke when a fire was built inside. In rainy or snowy weather, the Wampanoag used bark to cover the hole so the inside of the house would stay dry.
- **Clothes:** When the weather was cool, both men and women wore leg coverings called **leggings**. Women's leggings went up to the knee, and men's went all the way up to the waist. The Wampanoag wore jewelry too, such as bracelets, necklaces, and earrings.
- **Work:** Wampanoag children did many of the same chores as Pilgrim children. They did not go to school either, but their parents taught them all about animals, plants, and nature. Children also learned how to make things, like clothes and clay pots.
- **Fun:** Wampanoag children played **football** the way children today play soccer. The ball was made out of deerskin. Children also used purple and white shells to play a game called **hubbub**.

Working at Plimoth Plantation

- When Autumn works at Plimoth Plantation, she plays a Wampanoag child from long ago. But she also is one of the Wampanoag people today! There are some Wampanoag ways of life that have not changed.
- Autumn works at Plimoth Plantation with her mother. She says her favorite part of the job is helping her mom cook. Visitors sometimes ask her if they can taste the food. Autumn has to say no, because there is not enough for everyone.
- Autumn says she would like to have lived long ago. “There would be no littering, no chopping down trees, and I could live among the animals,” she says.