



# 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

Provide children with basic information about the Wampanoag people.

Explain to children that although America was a brand-new place to the Pilgrims who arrived in Massachusetts, 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 in the winter.

## DURING READING

### Use Word Parts

Help children dissect compound words to determine their meanings.

After reading the text in the orange box, pause to reread the word *deerskin*. Ask, “What two shorter words can you find in this longer word?” (*deer, skin*) “What does the word mean?” (*the skin of a deer*) Next, pause after reading the blue box. Challenge students to find the compound word. (*watermelon*) Have students come up with a definition based on its two shorter words.

## AFTER READING

### Compare/Contrast

Find ways in which Wampanoag children and Pilgrim children were alike and different.

Review this issue alongside the issue about Pilgrims, and help children compare and contrast each aspect of Pilgrim and Wampanoag life. You might want to create a chart. Label the columns *Pilgrim Children* and *Wampanoag Children*. Label the rows *Clothes*, *Food*, *Chores*, and *Play*. Have children use the information from the issues to fill in each space on the chart.

## READ-ALoud BACKGROUND

### The Wampanoag's Ways

- **Home:** Wampanoag homes were called **wetus**. They were round and had a hole at the top. The hole worked like a chimney to let smoke escape when a fire was built inside. In rainy or snowy weather, the Wampanoag used sheets of 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, such as clothes and clay pots.
- **Play:** Wampanoag children played **football** the way children today play soccer. The ball was made out of deerskin and had deer hair inside. 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! She tells people about some of the traditions that the Wampanoag carry on today.
- Autumn works at Plimoth Plantation alongside her mother. She says her favorite part of the job is helping her mom cook. She also says that visitors sometimes ask if they can taste the food. Autumn has to say no, because there is not enough for everyone!