

TEACHER MATERIALS - Thanksgiving

ELA

CONCEPTS:

-Standard 1.2- Speaking and Writing

-Standard 4.2- Reading and Writing

Career Development

-Standard 3a.1- Basic Skills

-Standard 3b.1- Basic Business Understanding

-Standard 3b.2- Business Related Technology

Social Studies

-Standard 4.1- Economics

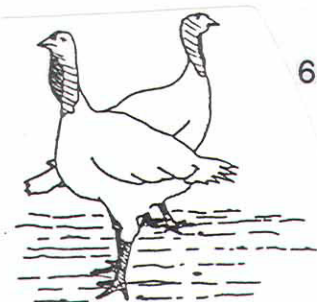
OBJECTIVES:

Students will fill a bulletin board cornucopia with foods served at their Thanksgiving dinner.

BACKGROUND: Thanksgiving is a uniquely American Tradition as are most of the foods traditionally served. Turkey, potatoes, sweet potatoes, squash, cranberries, and pumpkin were all products of Native Americans. For more information, see the Teacher Information page.

ACTIVITY:

1. On a bulletin board, make a large cornucopia. (Make a transparency of the cornucopia provided and project it on the bulletin board and trace it.)
2. Have the students describe what they eat at Thanksgiving. Make copies of the enclosed art, label each and place it on the cornucopia or cut pictures out of magazines.
3. Discuss that all these foods (listed above) came from America and where they are now produced—farms.
4. Complete the "**Feed a Turkey**" lesson on pages K-67 through K-75 in language arts.
5. Have the students make their own "**Indian Story Cloth**" on pages K-184 and K-185 and display at Thanksgiving time.
6. If you have any American Indian children in class, have them tell how they raise crops, give thanks, and describe other interesting areas of their heritage.



7. As a group or individuals, create your own ways to give thanks and/or utilize the ideas on page K-186.



Teacher Information - Thanksgiving

Early History

The first Thanksgiving supposedly took place in 1621 when the pilgrims celebrated surviving the winter. Of the original 102 settlers who arrived in Plymouth in the winter of 1620, only 55 were alive in the spring of 1621. Governor William Bradford declared a three-day celebration. Neighboring Wampanoag Indians were invited. When they arrived they were appalled at the meager food. The Indians left and returned with plenty— venison, wild turkey and other game birds, pumpkins, squash, corn, and popcorn. Yes, popcorn! Chief Massasout's brother brought a deerskin bag full of popcorn to the Thanksgiving feast. They then taught the colonists how to raise corn, beans, squash, and pumpkins and how to hunt and fish as well. Without this help, the colony would have most likely perished.

Making it Official

Thanksgiving was celebrated sporadically for the next two centuries. A Thanksgiving was held at the victory over the British at the end of the American Revolution, adoption of the United States Constitution, and again at the end of the War of 1812. It wasn't until Sarah Josepha Hale made a National Day of Thanks her goal, that it became a reality.

Sarah Josepha Hale was the editor of "Godey's Lady's Book." She spent almost twenty years of her life (from 1846 to 1863) lobbying—some say relentlessly—for a national day of Thanksgiving. Sarah would dedicate the November issue of her magazine to the effort. She wrote letters to congressmen and governors and petitioned the president year after year for two decades. Finally, (after Gettysburg) on October 3, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln declared Thanksgiving Day a national holiday on the last Thursday in November, but it was up to each state to set their own date. In 1941, the Congress permanently fixed the date as the fourth Thursday in November.

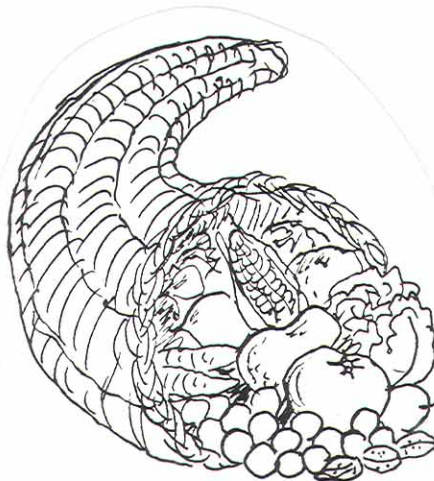
Today

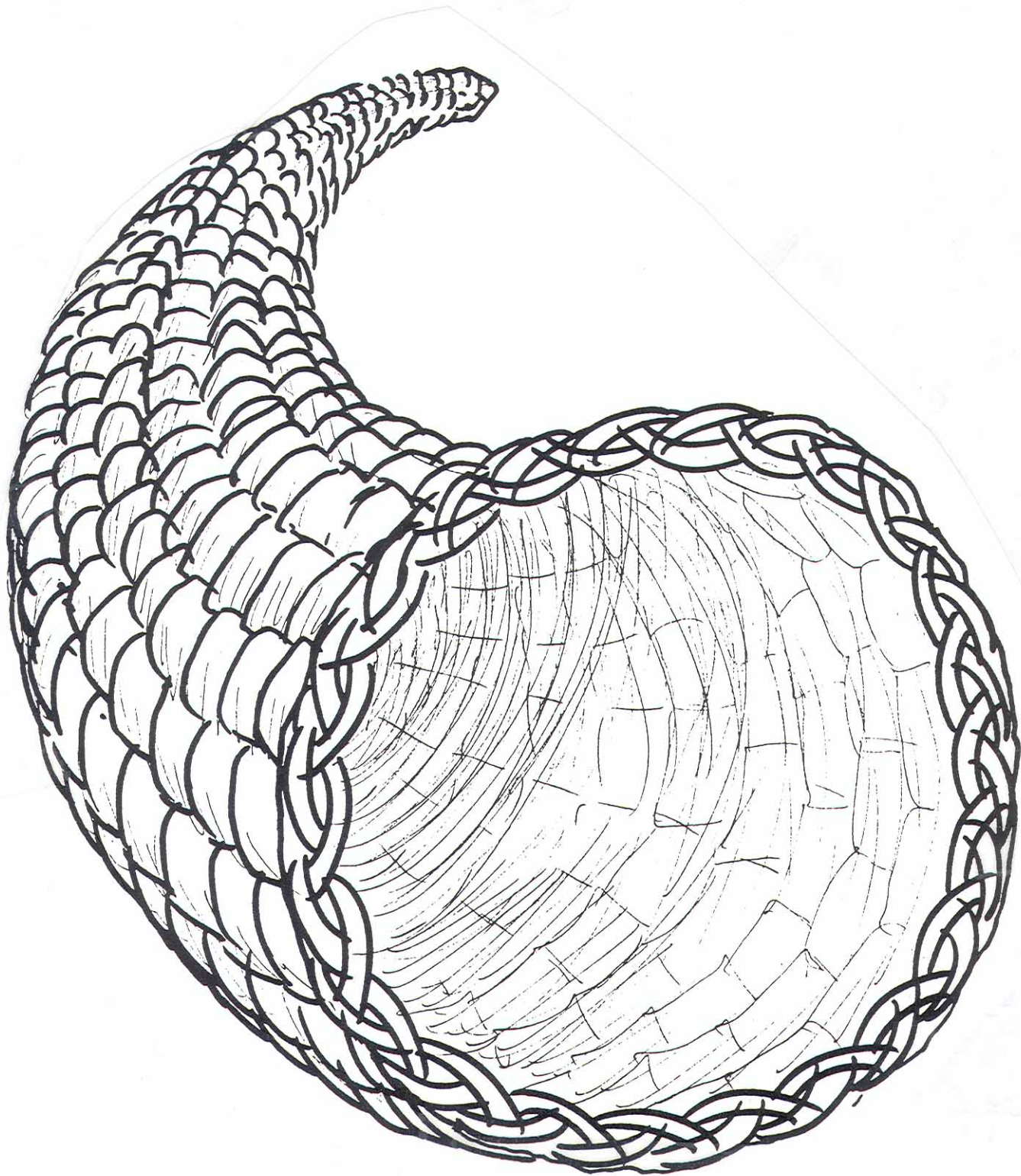
More people go home for Thanksgiving than any other holiday. Most of the traditionally Thanksgiving Day foods are foods which originated in America—turkey, white potatoes, sweet potatoes, squash, cranberries, pumpkin, wild rice, and corn.

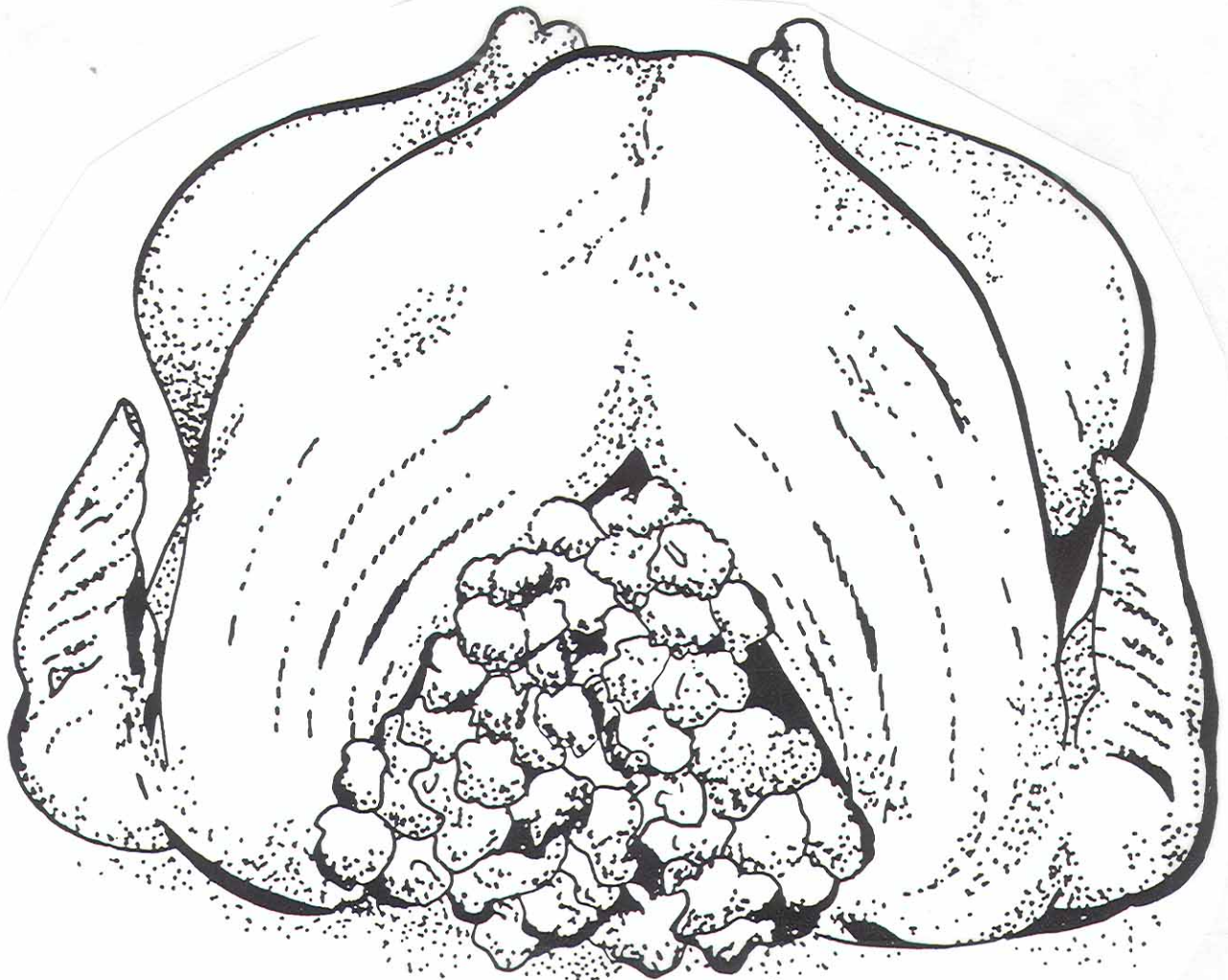
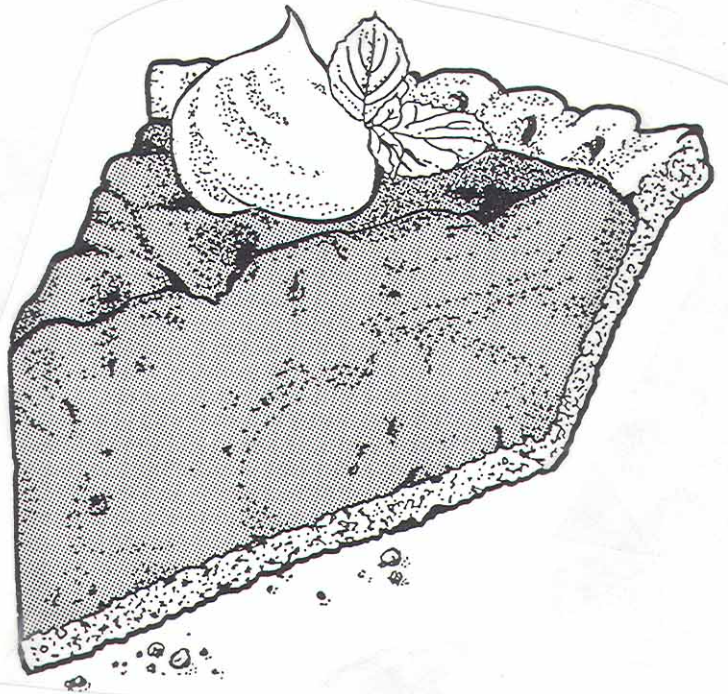
It is hard for us to imagine what it must have been like to spend most of one's time

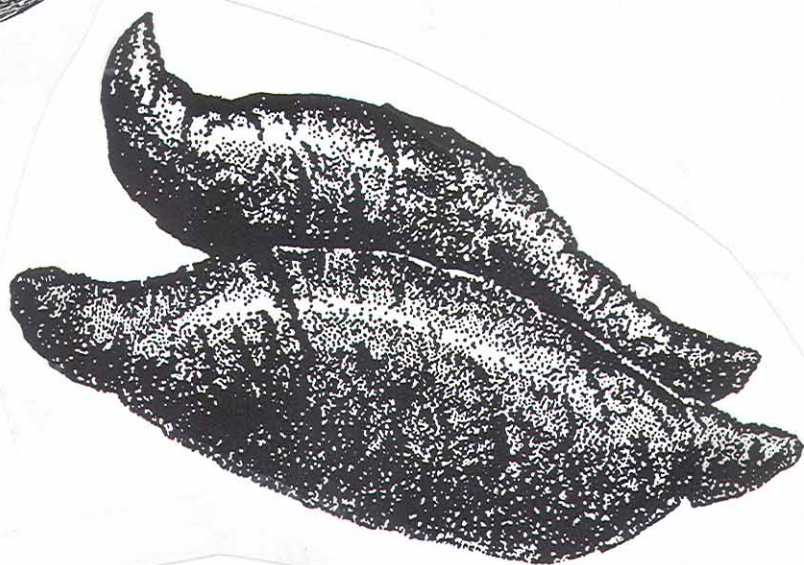
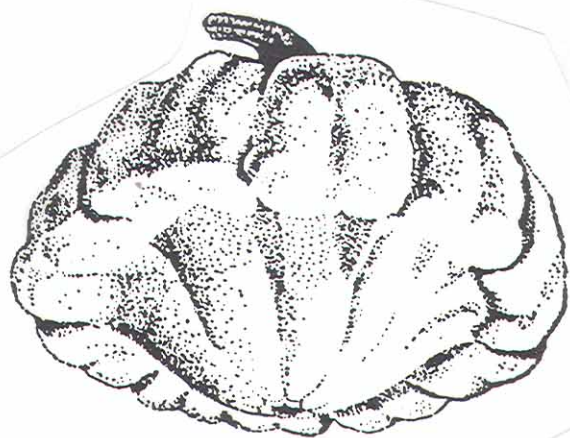
raising, growing, and preserving food for the winter and the relief when that hard work was done. It is also difficult for us to think of food being the difference between living and dying. While we don't worry in the United States today about starvation because of having no food, we still should feel fortunate. Very few of us produce food. Yet, we have a wider variety of foods for a smaller percentage of our disposable income for food than any other country in the world.

It only takes a short viewing of famine scenes from Ethiopia or Somalia to appreciate our stable, healthy abundance. That and so much more should be the focus of our day of celebration.









Teacher Information - Indian Story Cloth

Much is made of the pilgrims at Thanksgiving while the true heros are the American Indians. At the time colonists landed on America's shores, North American Indians did not have a written language. They used sign language and drew pictures to communicate. As a result, much of their heritage has been lost or denied by those currently in power.

This lesson allows children to tell a story without words much like Indians would have done long ago. Some Indian symbols were mentioned in Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem, "The Song of Hiawatha."

"For the earth he drew a straight line,



For the sky a bow above it;



White the space between for daytime,

Filled with stars for night-time;



On the left a point for sunrise,



On the right a point for sunset



On the top a point for noon tide,



And for rain and cloudy weather
waving lines descending
from it."



Indian Story Cloth

MATERIALS: large sheets of paper - newsprint or brown paper
crayons or paint
scissors

ACTIVITY: 1. Using the brown paper as a "deerskin," have the students design and draw or paint their own story of thanks with symbols of their own design.

i.e.



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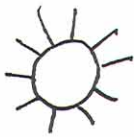
am happy
for



Daddy,
Mommy,
Sean,



my cat
Spot,



sunshine,



flowers,

+

and



my friend
Wynona.

Expressing One's Thanks

1. Hold a can drive to provide food to a local food kitchen.
2. Feed the birds.
3. Make a "Thanks Board" in the hallway for everyone to thank someone.
4. Send a thank you note to someone who has helped you.
5. Make breakfast for your parents on Thanksgiving morning - toast and orange juice will do.
6. Have every family member tell what they are thankful for before eating Thanksgiving Dinner.