In this activity, you will discover why the English colonists at Plymouth and a Wampanoag village both decided to sign an alliance promising mutual support. You also will find out how we know about the harvest feast now called the “First Thanksgiving.”

***Before You Watch***

* *Think about*:
  + What do you think of when you think about Thanksgiving?
* Class discussion:

1. Do you have particular family traditions for Thanksgiving?
2. Does your community or state or region have any particular Thanksgiving traditions? Do you eat turkey or lasagna? Do you play any games or sports?

***While You Watch***

* *Look for answers to these questions while watching the video. Watch the video more than once, as needed.*

1. What happened during the Pilgrim’s first winter?
2. What did Samoset tell the Pilgrims about the site where they built their colony? What language did Samoset use when he spoke to the colonists?
3. What were the key points of the alliance between Massasoit and the colonists?
4. How many historical documents describe the harvest feast now known as the “First Thanksgiving”? What do we know about it?

***After You Watch***

1. How does the First Thanksgiving compare to the holiday that Americans celebrate today? How does it compare to your community’s or family’s traditions?
2. Why did it make sense for Massasoit and the English colonists at Plymouth to make an alliance?
   * + What did each stand to gain?
     + What were the risks of signing the agreement? Of not signing it?