

## THANKSGIVING DAY ALPHABET

In the fall of 1621, English colonists in America, today known as Pilgrims, celebrated a harvest festival. They were joined by the Native Americans, who were members of the Wampanoag (WOM puh No ag) Nation. Two years later, the colonists observed a Thanksgiving holy day. They thanked God for the rain that helped their crops grow. As time passed, people combined the two celebrations and called it Thanksgiving Day. This holiday is a time when families give thanks to God for their blessings.





A is for America. About four hundred years ago, America was part of what was called the New World. Europeans saw this new country as a vast wilderness that offered people space to settle as well as more freedom.



B is for Bradford. William Bradford was the second governor of Plymouth Colony. He was thankful for its survival and for the good crops, so he called for a harvest celebration.



C is for colony. The colonists' settlement in the New World was called Plymouth Colony. They built their homes where the Wampanoag village of Patuxet (pa TUCKS et) once stood.



D is for deer. These animals roamed the land near Plymouth Colony and were hunted for food. The Wampanoag brought five deer to the 1621 harvest celebration.

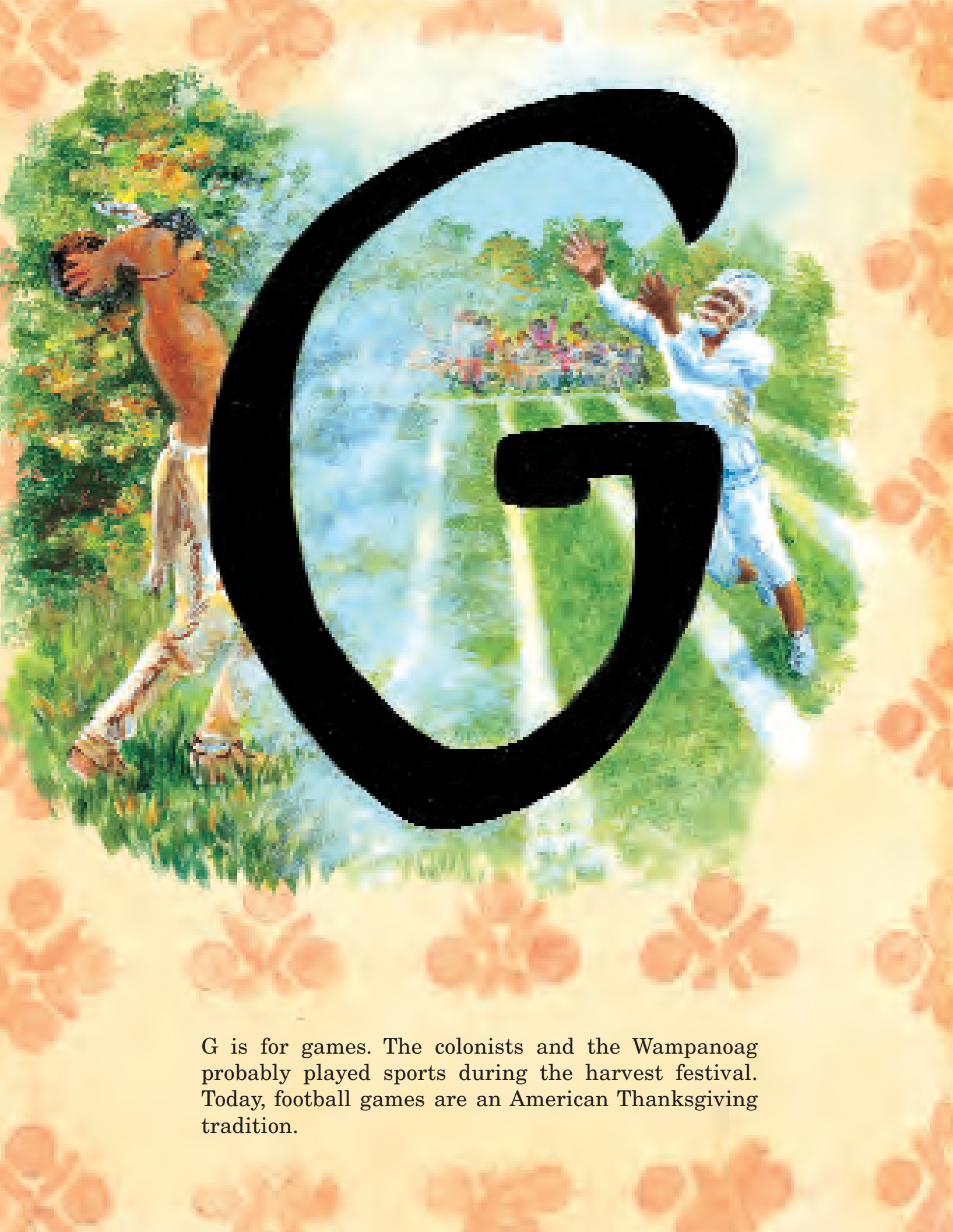


E is for English colonists. This group of people from England left their country to live, work, and make a better life in America. The men, women, and children settled in a place now called Plymouth, Massachusetts.

F



F is for feast. The colonists and their Wampanoag guests shared many meals during the harvest celebration. They ate corn, wild turkey, and deer meat called venison.



G is for games. The colonists and the Wampanoag probably played sports during the harvest festival. Today, football games are an American Thanksgiving tradition.

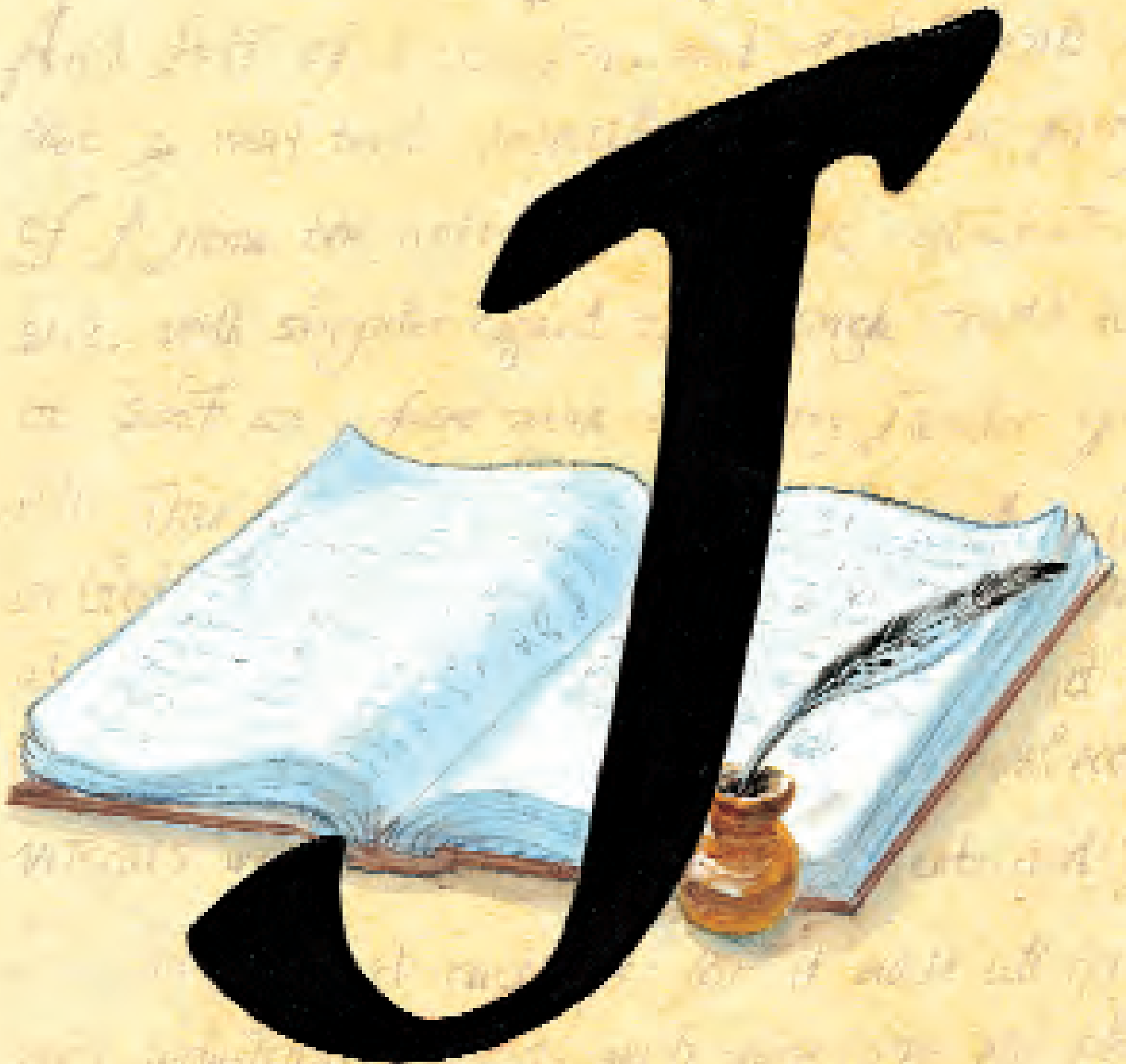




H is for harvest. When the crops were gathered, the colonists rejoiced. There was enough corn for the celebration as well as for the coming months until the next harvest.



I is for Indians. Tribes of Native Americans were living in the New World when the colonists arrived. One of these tribes was the Wampanoag, who showed the colonists how to plant, hunt, and fish.



J is for journal. Two of the colonists kept a daily record of their adventures. The journal describes how the settlers explored the area, built their colony, and met with the Wampanoag.