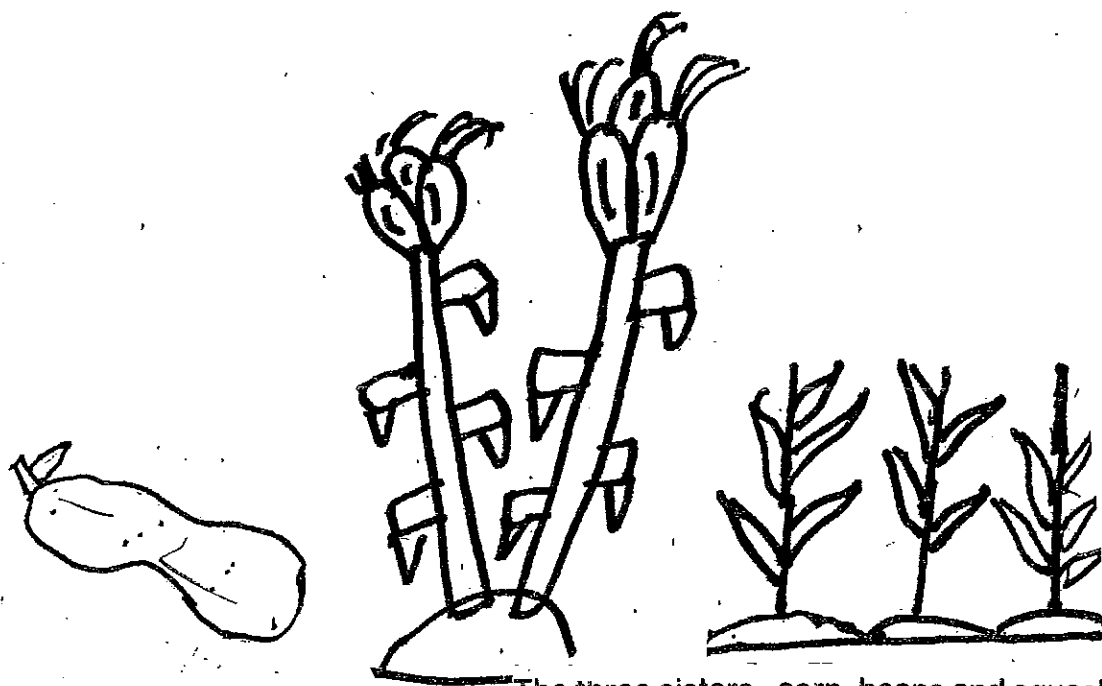
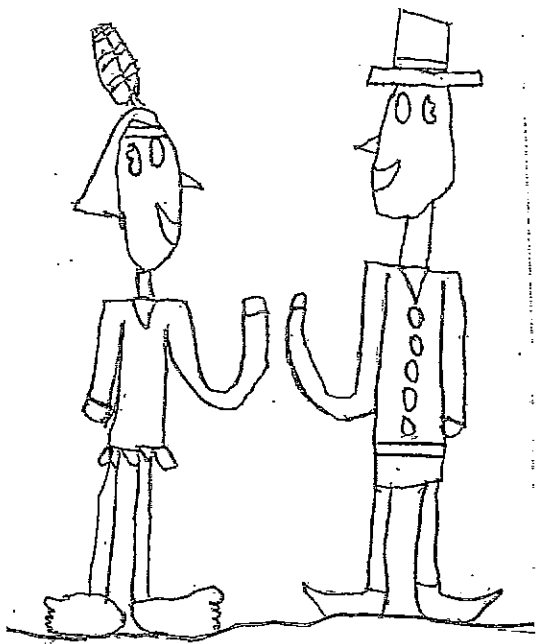
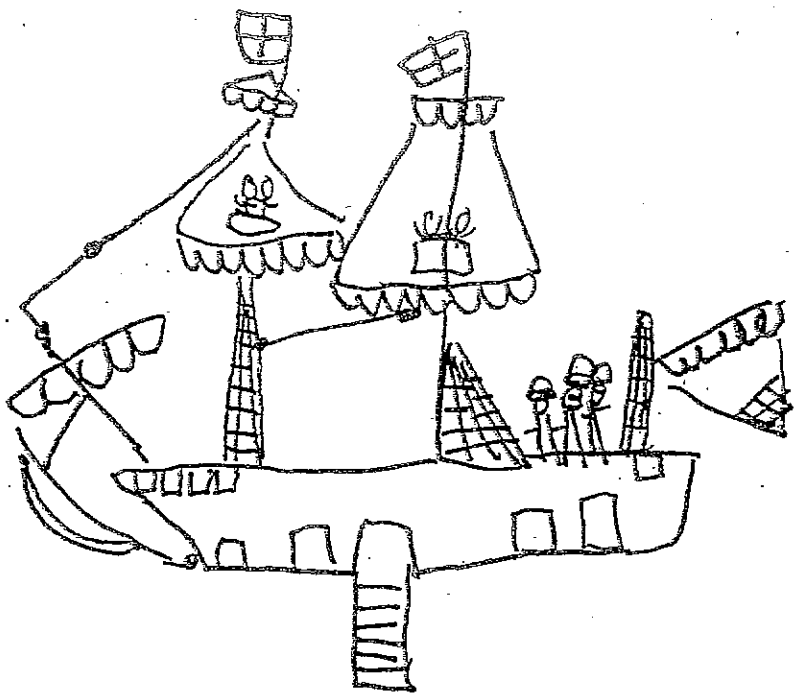


The Truth about Thanksgiving

Written and illustrated by
Grade Three Students at the
Alice B. Beal
Elementary School



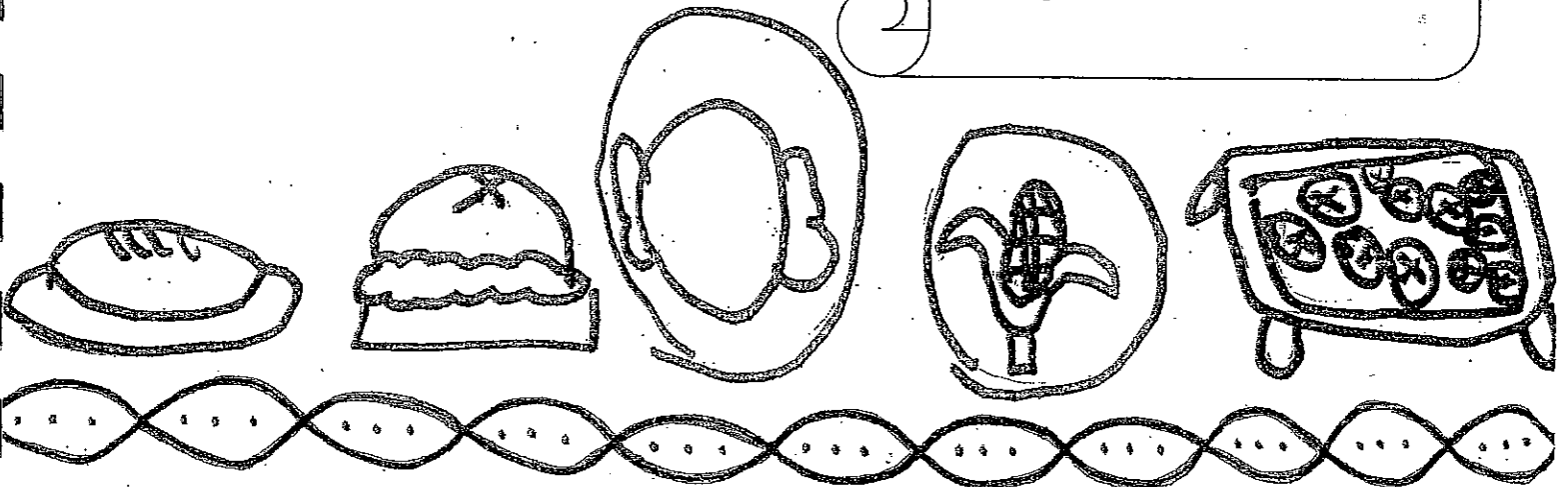
The three sisters— corn, beans and squash

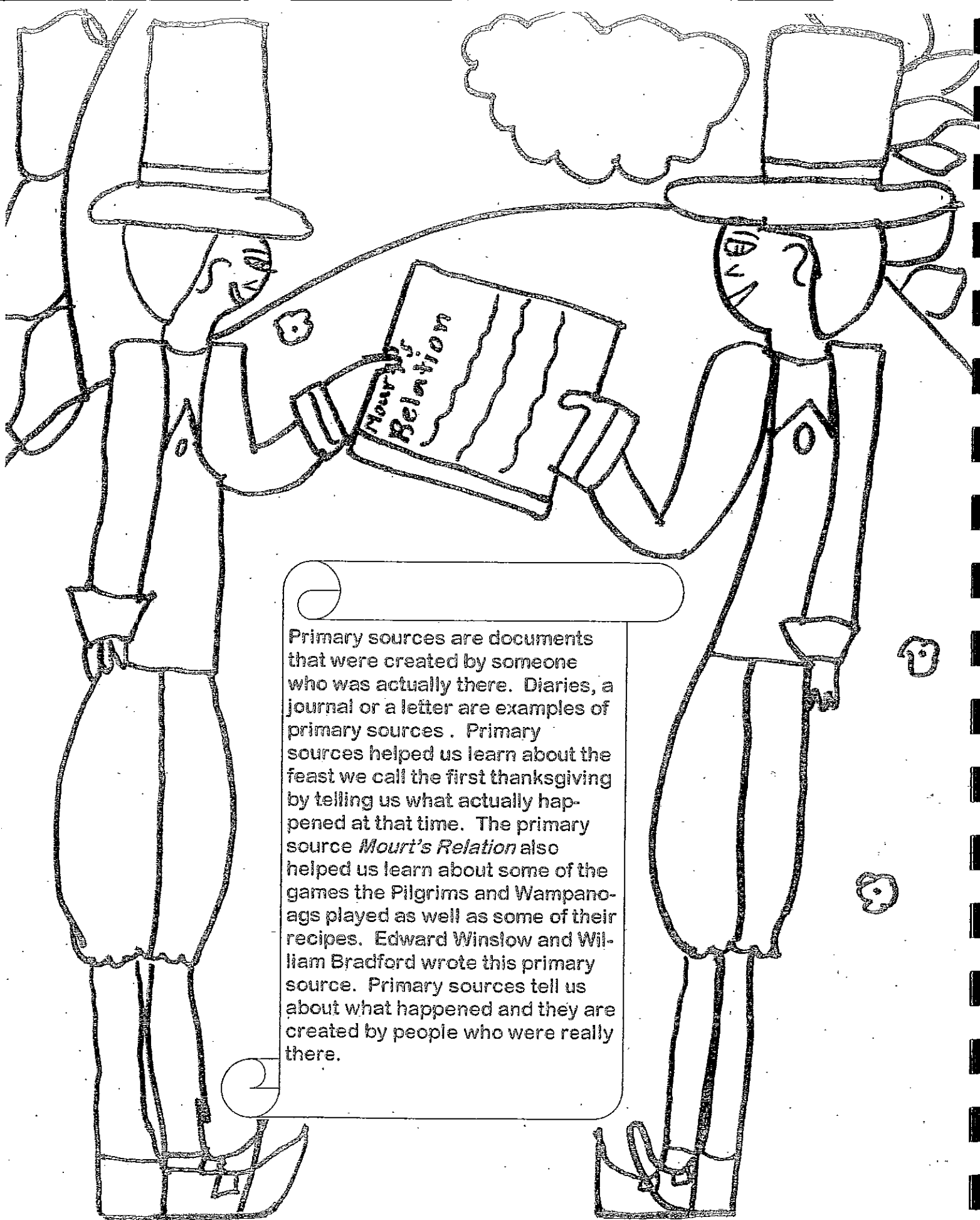


Do you know what most people believe about Thanksgiving?

Most people believe that Thanksgiving is a celebration in November that has been celebrated every year since the Pilgrims landed. They believe that the Pilgrims and the Wampanoags had a wonderful feast. A lot of people believe Thanksgiving is about food and giving thanks. People eat turkey, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes and stuffing. They think that turkey is the main part of the meal. It is also thought that the Pilgrims and Wampanoag celebrated by having a party with their families. This is what most people believe about Thanksgiving.

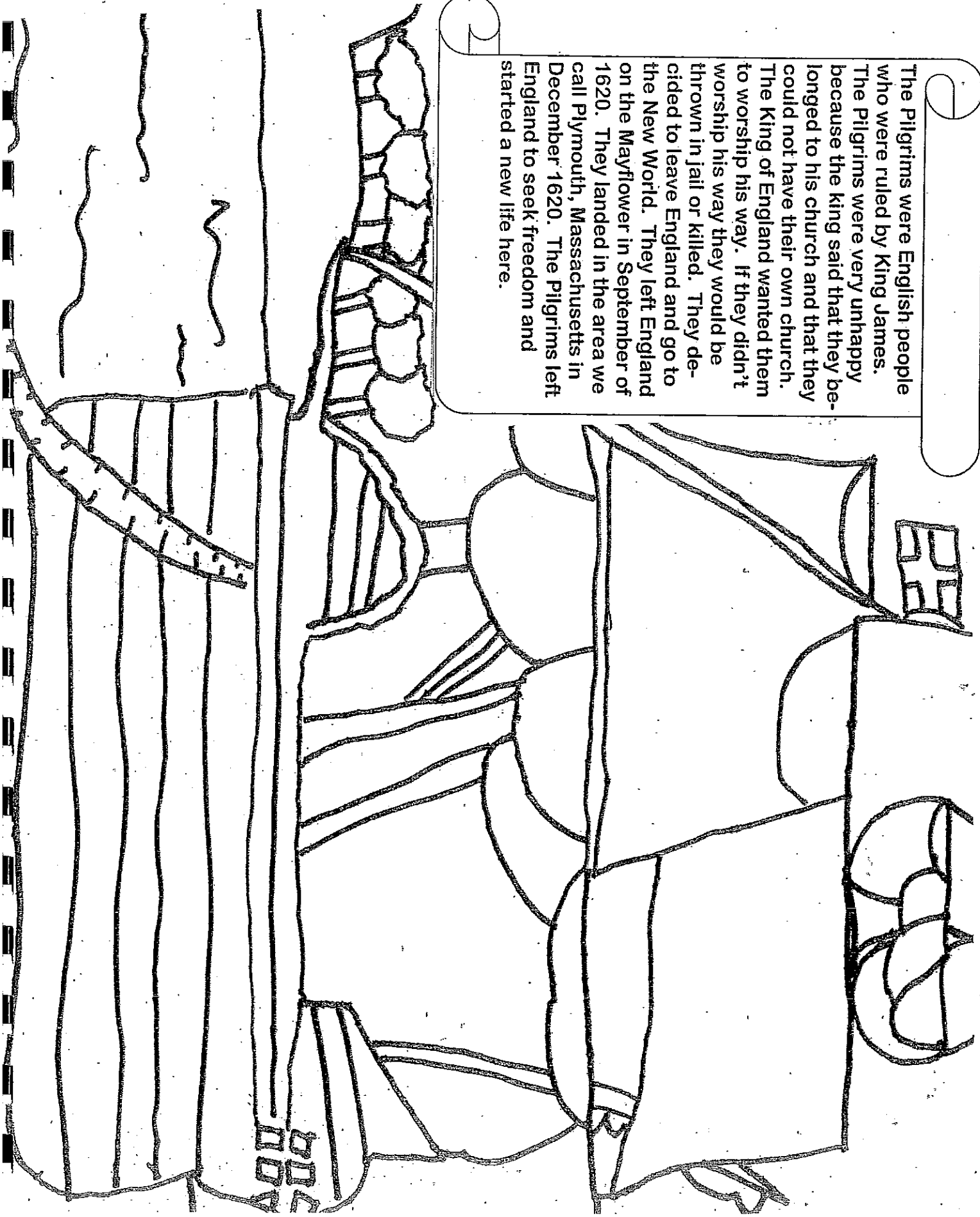
Learning about what really happened in Plymouth in 1621 is a great way to celebrate Thanksgiving.





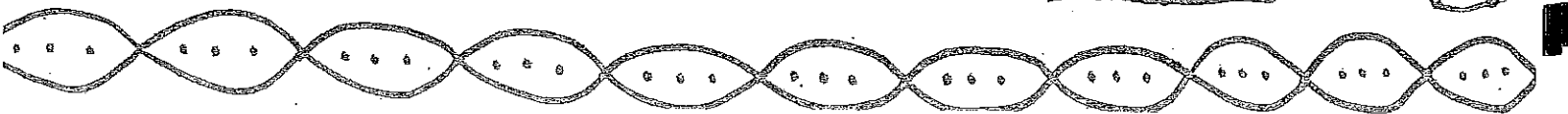
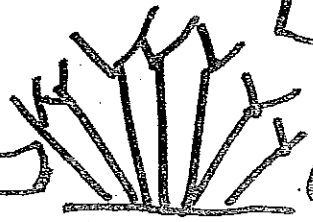
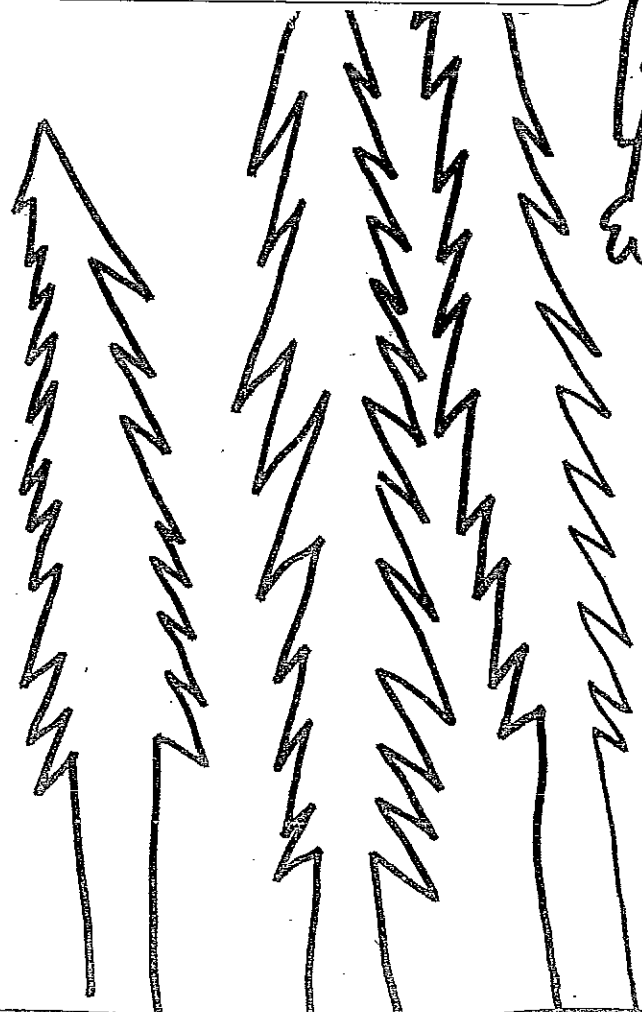
Primary sources are documents that were created by someone who was actually there. Diaries, a journal or a letter are examples of primary sources. Primary sources helped us learn about the feast we call the first thanksgiving by telling us what actually happened at that time. The primary source *Mourt's Relation* also helped us learn about some of the games the Pilgrims and Wampanoags played as well as some of their recipes. Edward Winslow and William Bradford wrote this primary source. Primary sources tell us about what happened and they are created by people who were really there.

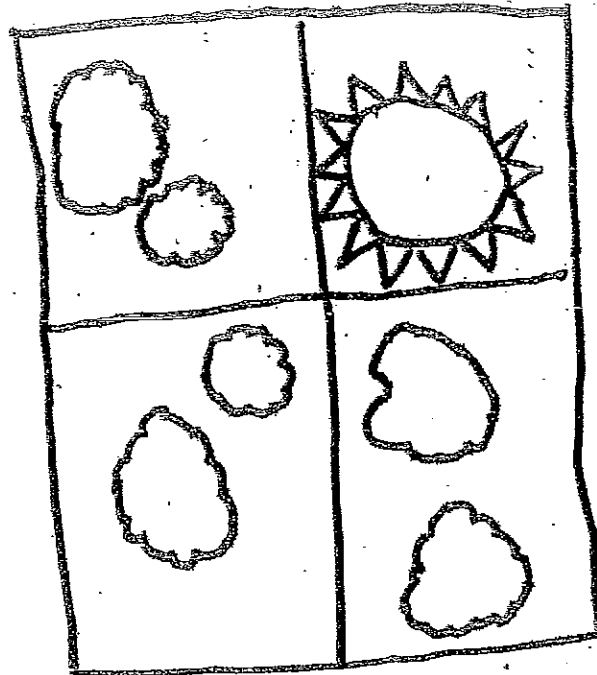
The Pilgrims were English people who were ruled by King James. The Pilgrims were very unhappy because the king said that they belonged to his church and that they could not have their own church. The King of England wanted them to worship his way. If they didn't worship his way they would be thrown in jail or killed. They decided to leave England and go to the New World. They left England on the Mayflower in September of 1620. They landed in the area we call Plymouth, Massachusetts in December 1620. The Pilgrims left England to seek freedom and started a new life here.



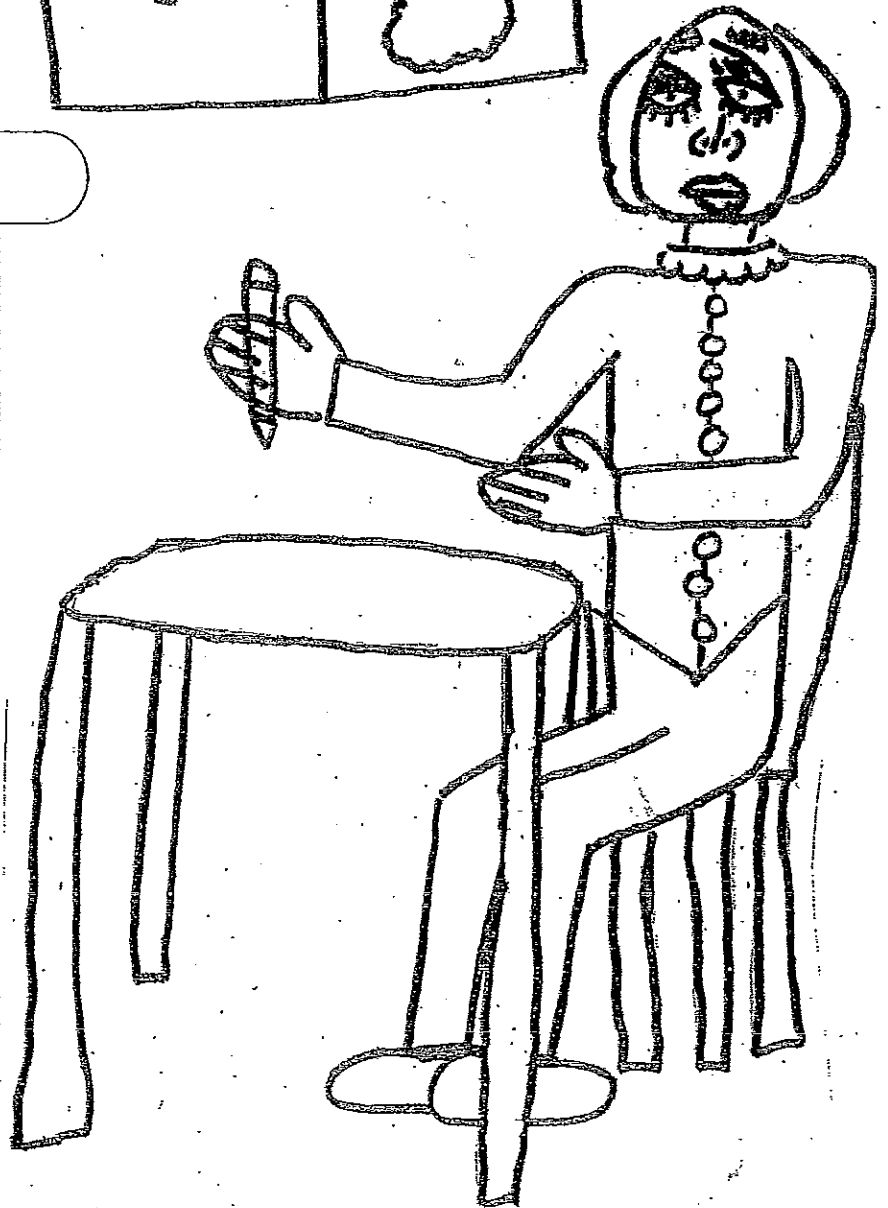


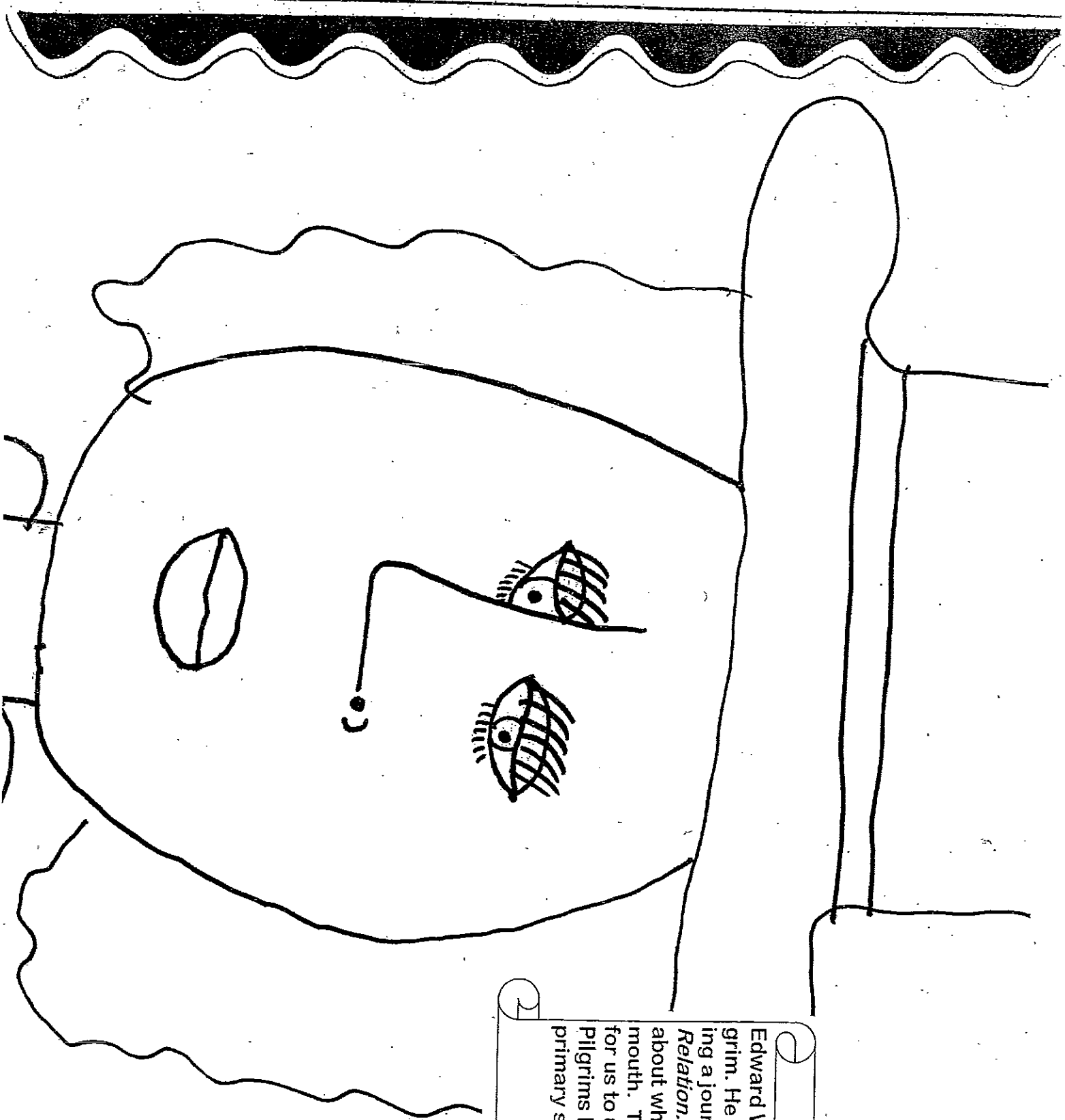
Do you want to know what it was like when the Pilgrims arrived at Plymouth? Let me tell you. The Pilgrims lived on the Mayflower most of the first winter. During the winter of 1620 many of the Pilgrims got sick and died. Many of them had scurvy because they had no fresh fruits or vegetables to eat. They also died from pneumonia. The cold weather and wind made them more sick. Half of the community died. Out of 100 Pilgrims, only about 50 remained in Plymouth at the end of the winter.





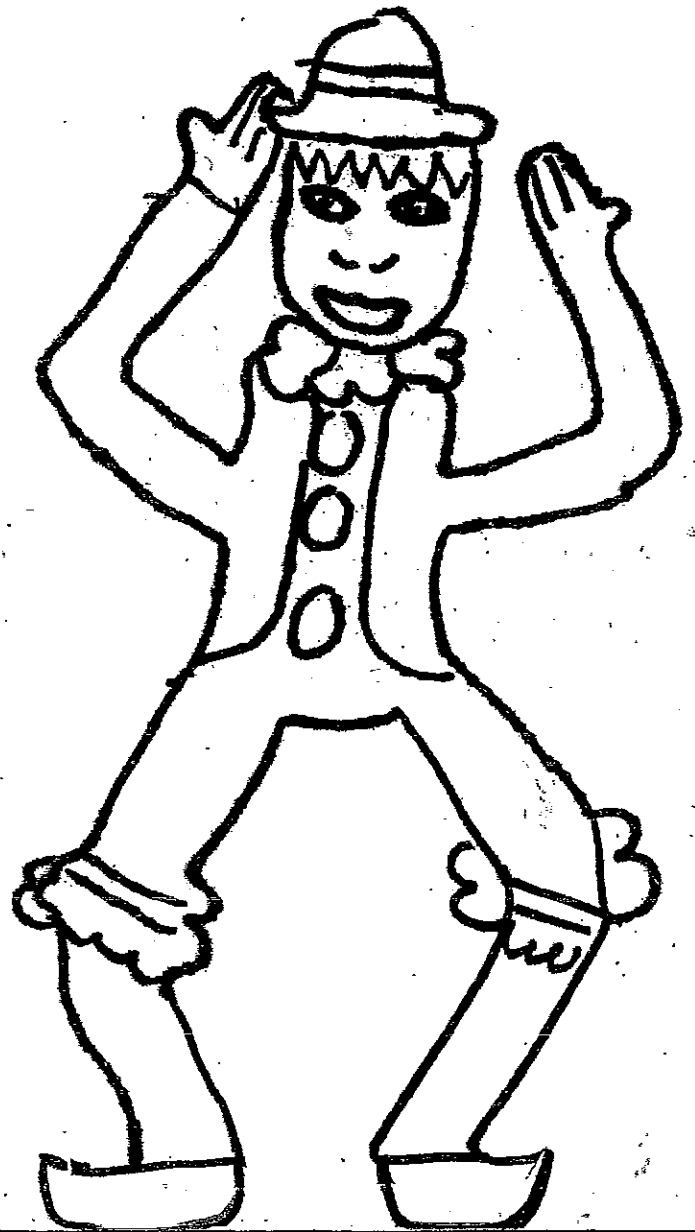
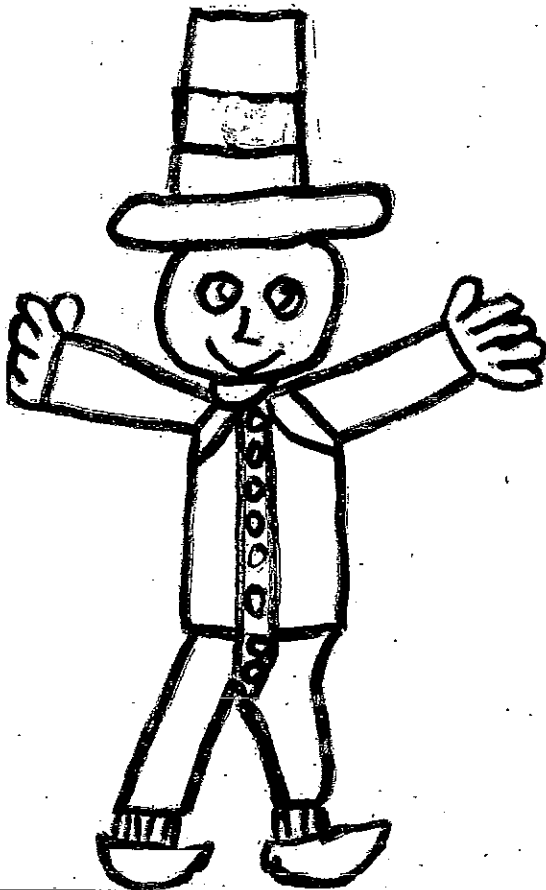
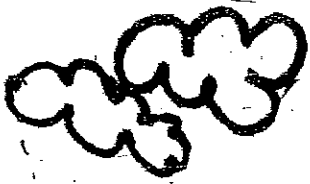
William Bradford was a Pilgrim who sailed to Plymouth on the Mayflower in 1620. He was born in 1590 in England. He was married and had three children. He did not like the King's church so he and the other Pilgrims left England for the new world. William Bradford helped plan the trip. He kept notes in journals and wrote about the trip across the ocean. He also wrote about the first winter the Pilgrims spent in their new home. He wrote about this in *Mourt's Relation* with Edward Winslow. He was the leader of the Pilgrims and later became the governor in Plymouth. He died in America in 1657. He was an important person in Plymouth.





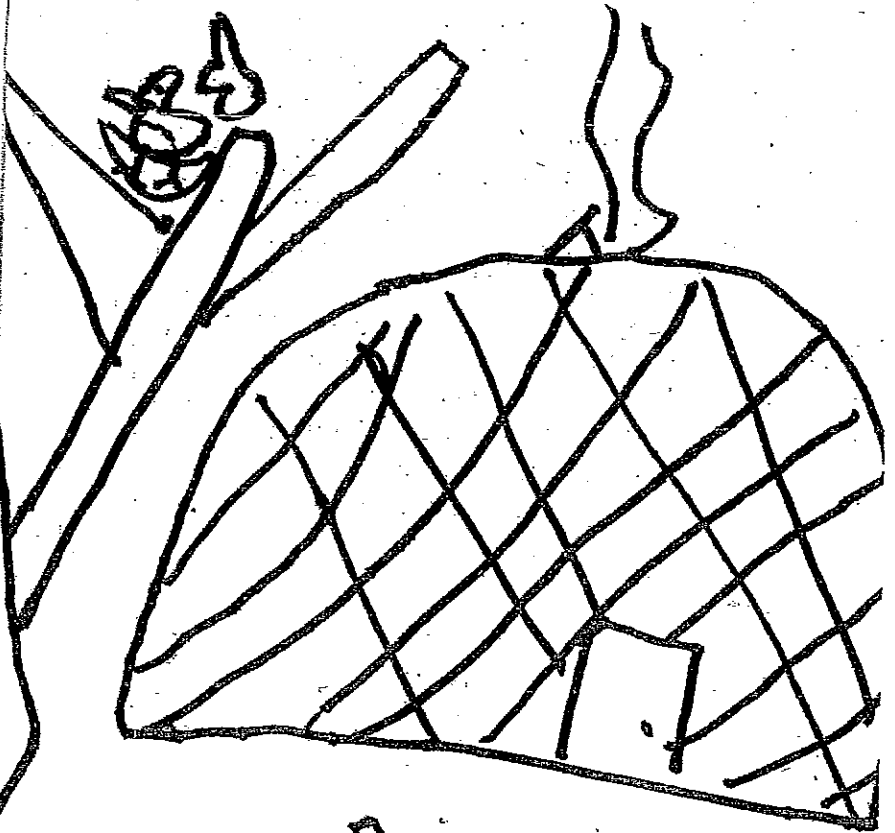
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Edward Winslow was a Pilgrim. He was famous for writing a journal called *Mourt's Relation*. His entries were about what he did in Plymouth. This is very helpful for us to use to learn about Pilgrims because it is a primary source.

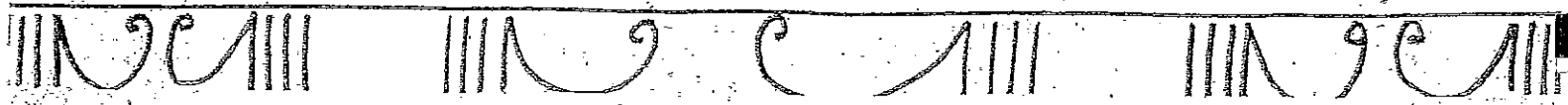
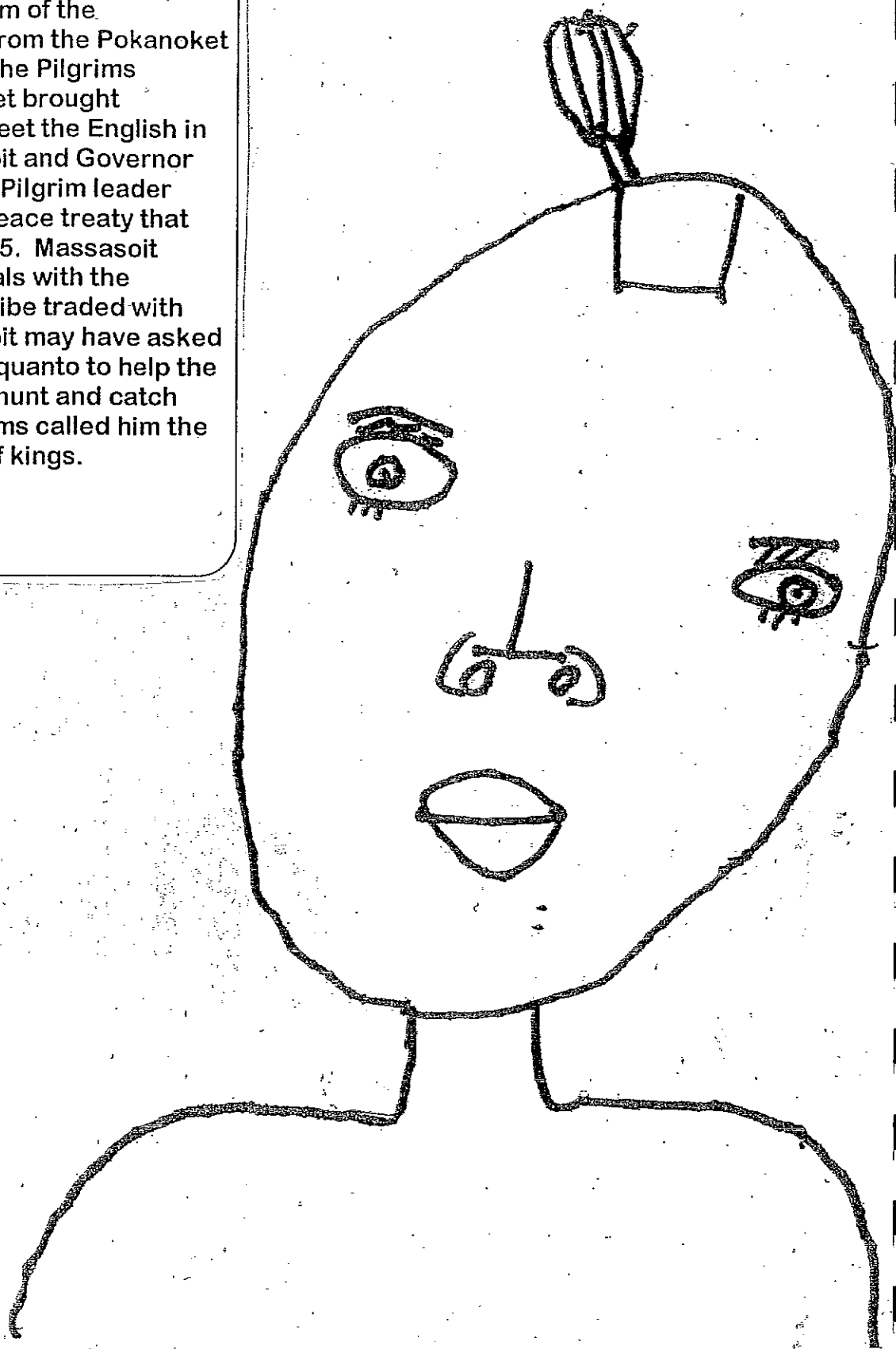


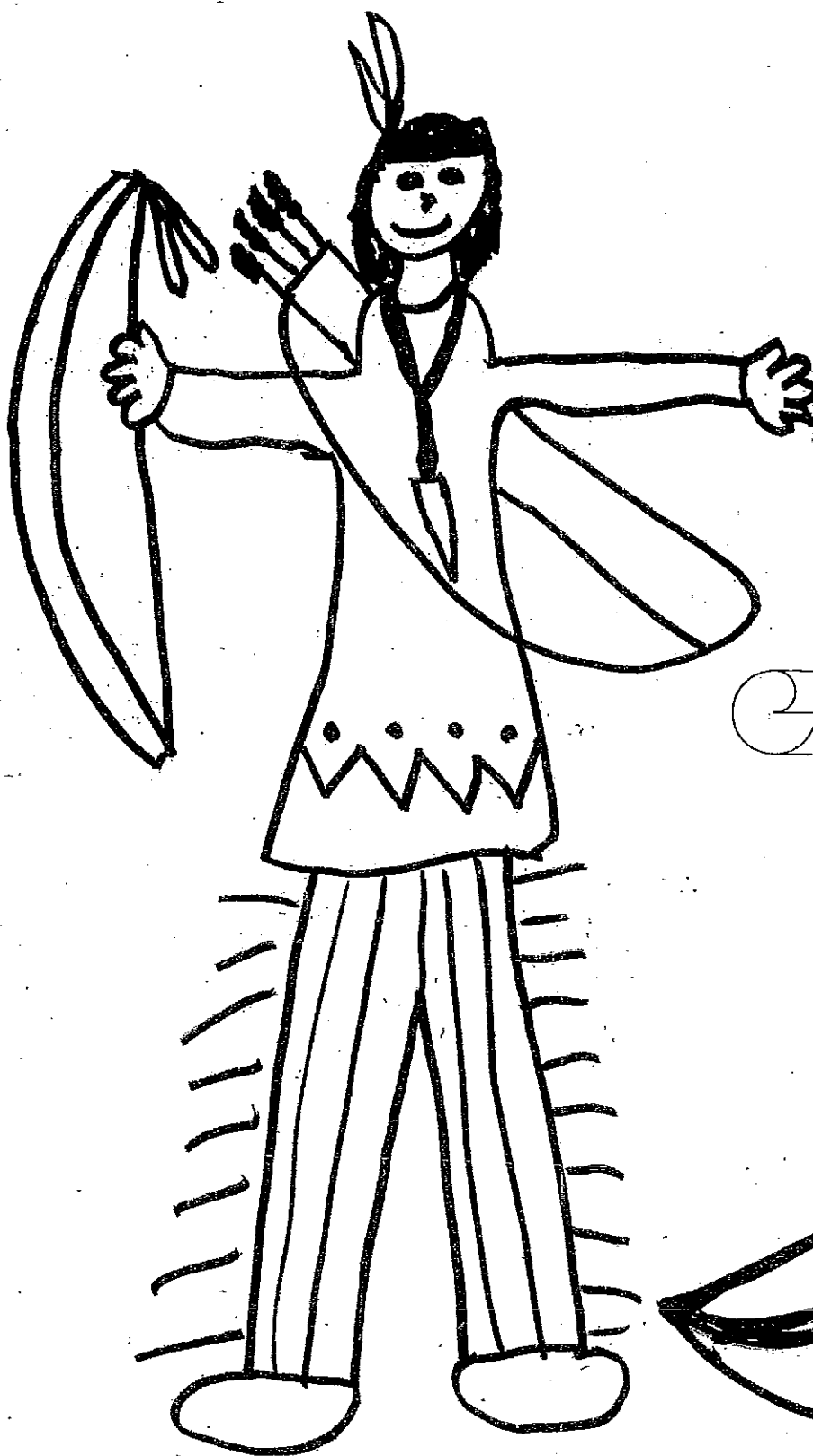


The Wampanoags are Native Americans who were living in the area we now call Plymouth. They were the Native American group that met with the Pilgrims. There were about 24,000 Wampanoags living in Southeastern Massachusetts. They were living in the Massachusetts and Rhode Island area for about 12,000 years. They were both hunters and farmers. They got all they needed from nature. The Wampanoags showed the Pilgrims the best places to fish and how to plant crops. Today there are still Wampanoags living in Massachusetts. They are known as the "People of the Dawn".



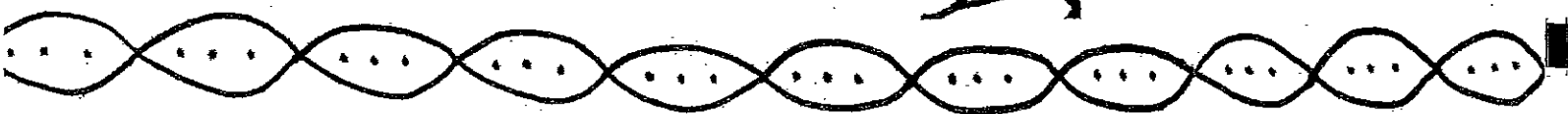
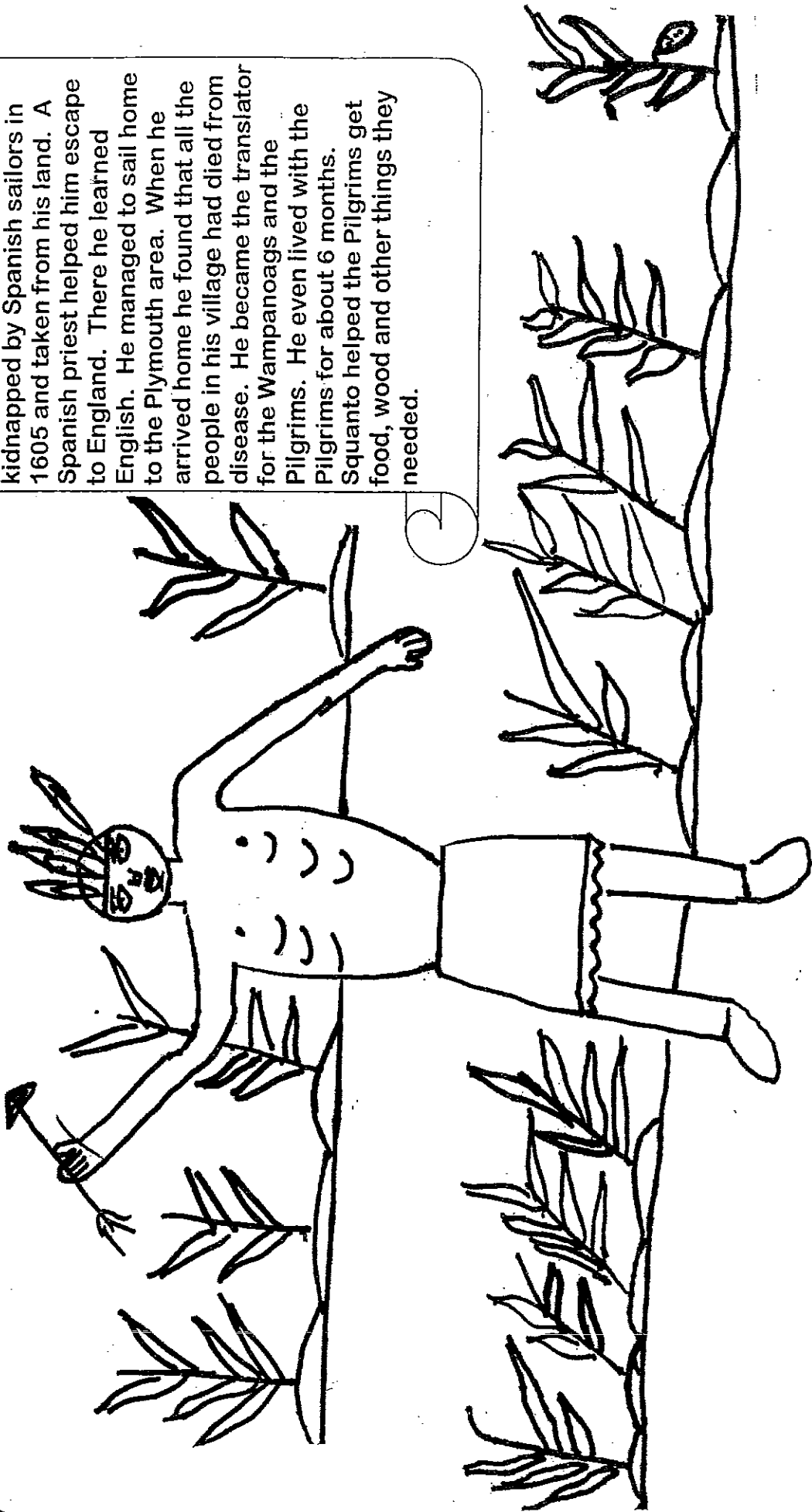
Massasoit was one of the chiefs or sachems from of the Wampanoags from the Pokanoket village. When the Pilgrims arrived Samoset brought Massasoit to meet the English in 1621. Massasoit and Governor John Carver, a Pilgrim leader worked out a peace treaty that lasted until 1675. Massasoit made many deals with the Pilgrims. His tribe traded with them. Massasoit may have asked Samoset and Squanto to help the Pilgrims plant, hunt and catch fish. The Pilgrims called him the greatest king of kings.

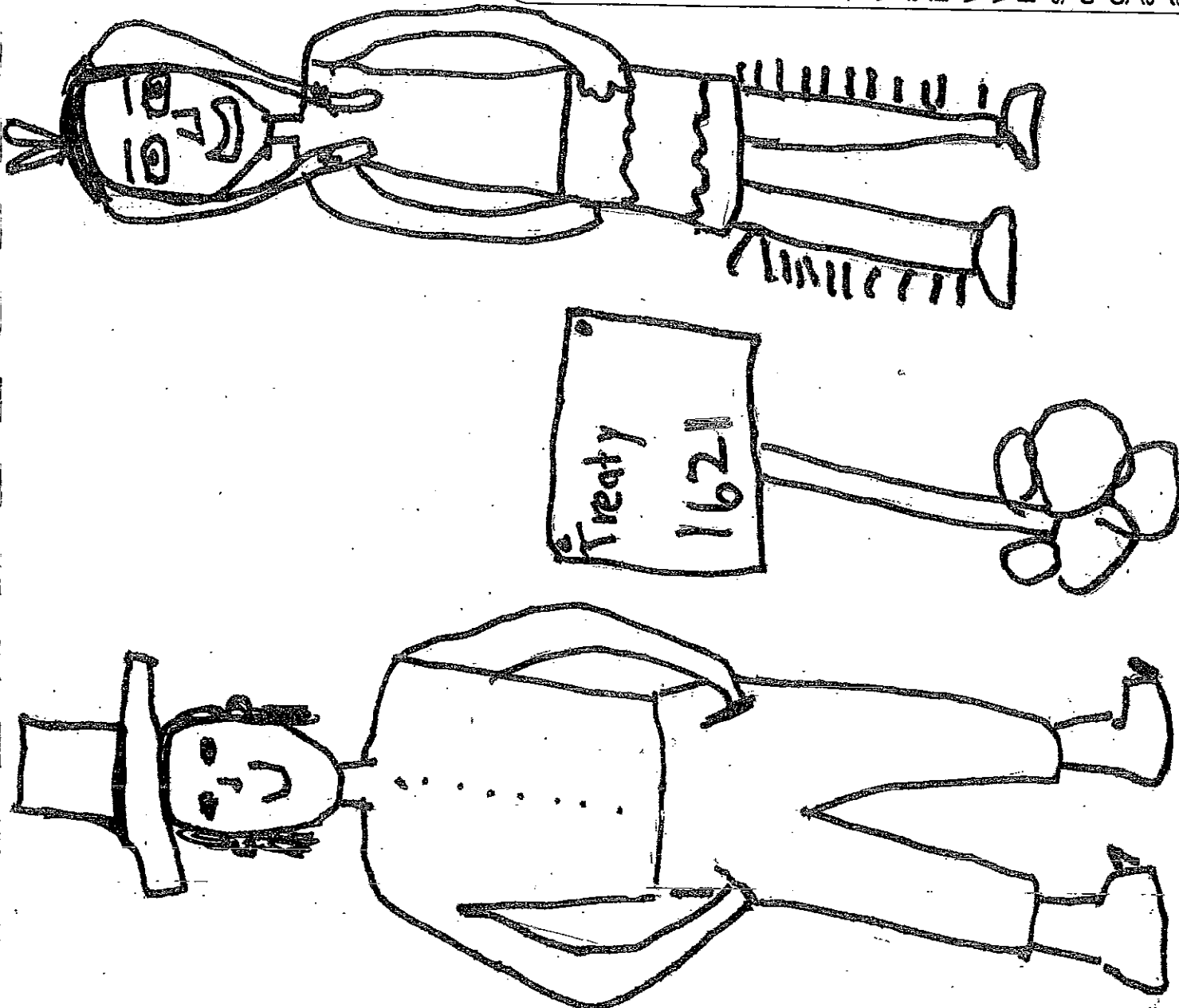




Samoset was the first Native American who went into the Pilgrim village . In *Mourt's Relation* they wrote that they met Samoset on March 16, 1620 and that he spoke English. Not a lot is known about Samoset's family or people from his tribe. It is believed that he came from Maine. Samoset spoke a little bit of English. Samoset worked along with Squanto to help the Pilgrims and Wampanoags communicate. Samoset was the Native American who introduced the Pilgrims to Massasoit.

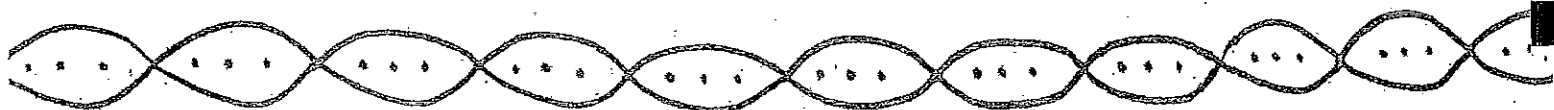
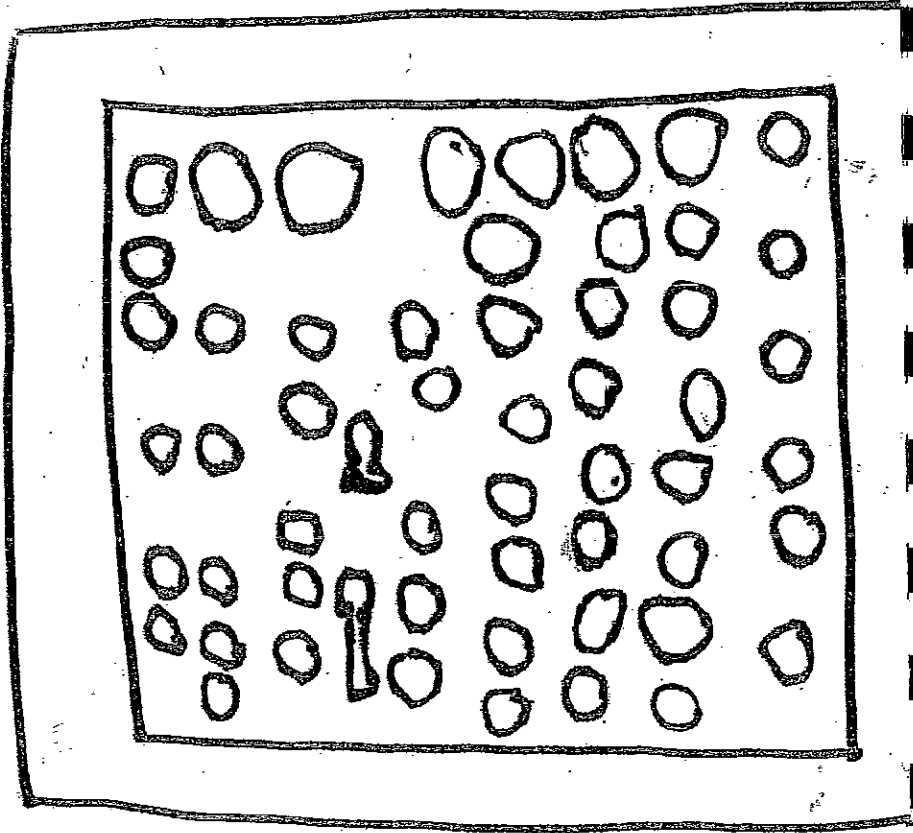
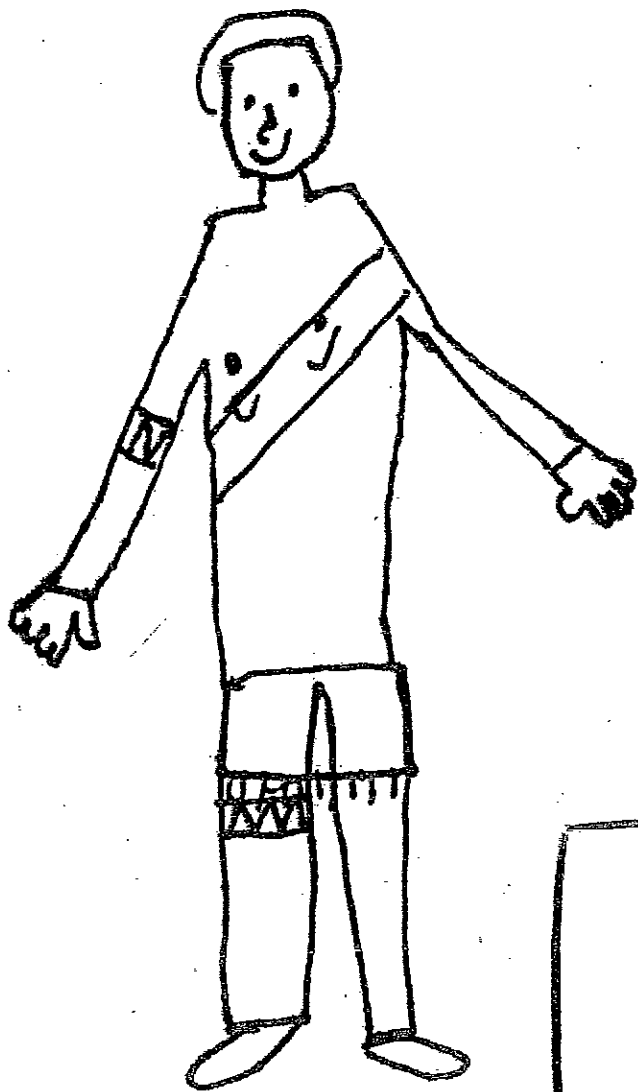
Squanto was a Pawtuxet Wamapanoag who helped the Pilgrims. Squanto's real name was Tisquantum. He was kidnapped by Spanish sailors in 1605 and taken from his land. A Spanish priest helped him escape to England. There he learned English. He managed to sail home to the Plymouth area. When he arrived home he found that all the people in his village had died from disease. He became the translator for the Wampanoags and the Pilgrims. He even lived with the Pilgrims for about 6 months. Squanto helped the Pilgrims get food, wood and other things they needed.



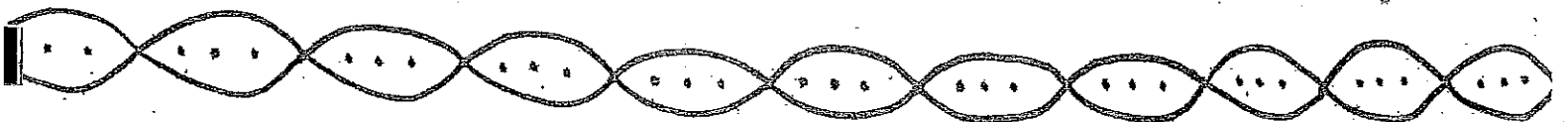
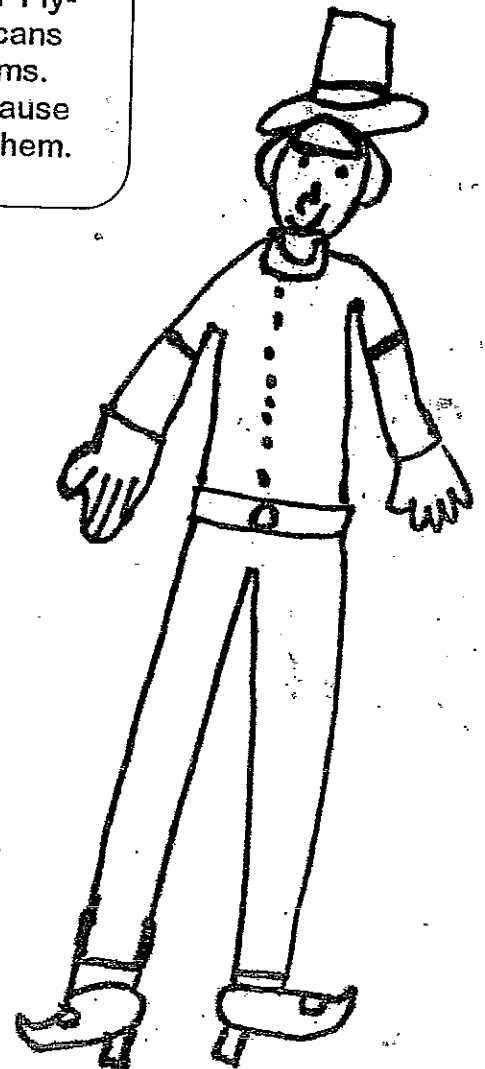
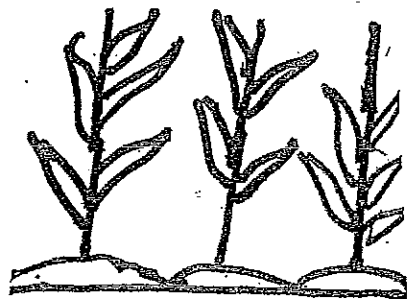
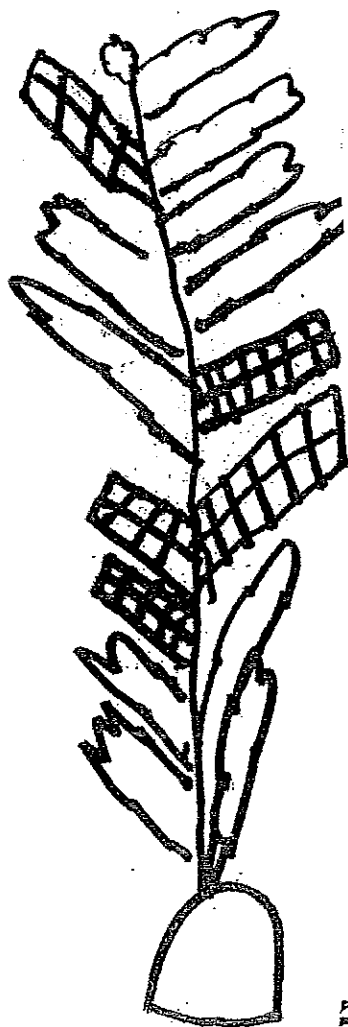


The Pilgrims and the Wampanoag didn't always get along. On March 22, 1621 Massasoit and the governor of Plymouth agreed on a peace treaty. A treaty is a promise. The Pilgrims and Massasoit's Wampanoags promised that they would not hurt each other and they would leave their weapons behind when they went to each other's village. They also agreed to protect each other if they were in danger. Anyone who harmed the other group would be punished. Although the Pilgrims and Wampanoags didn't sign the treaty, it was written down in *Mourt's Relation*. The two groups got along better after they agreed to this treaty. This agreement lasted for fifty years. They had peace for a long time!

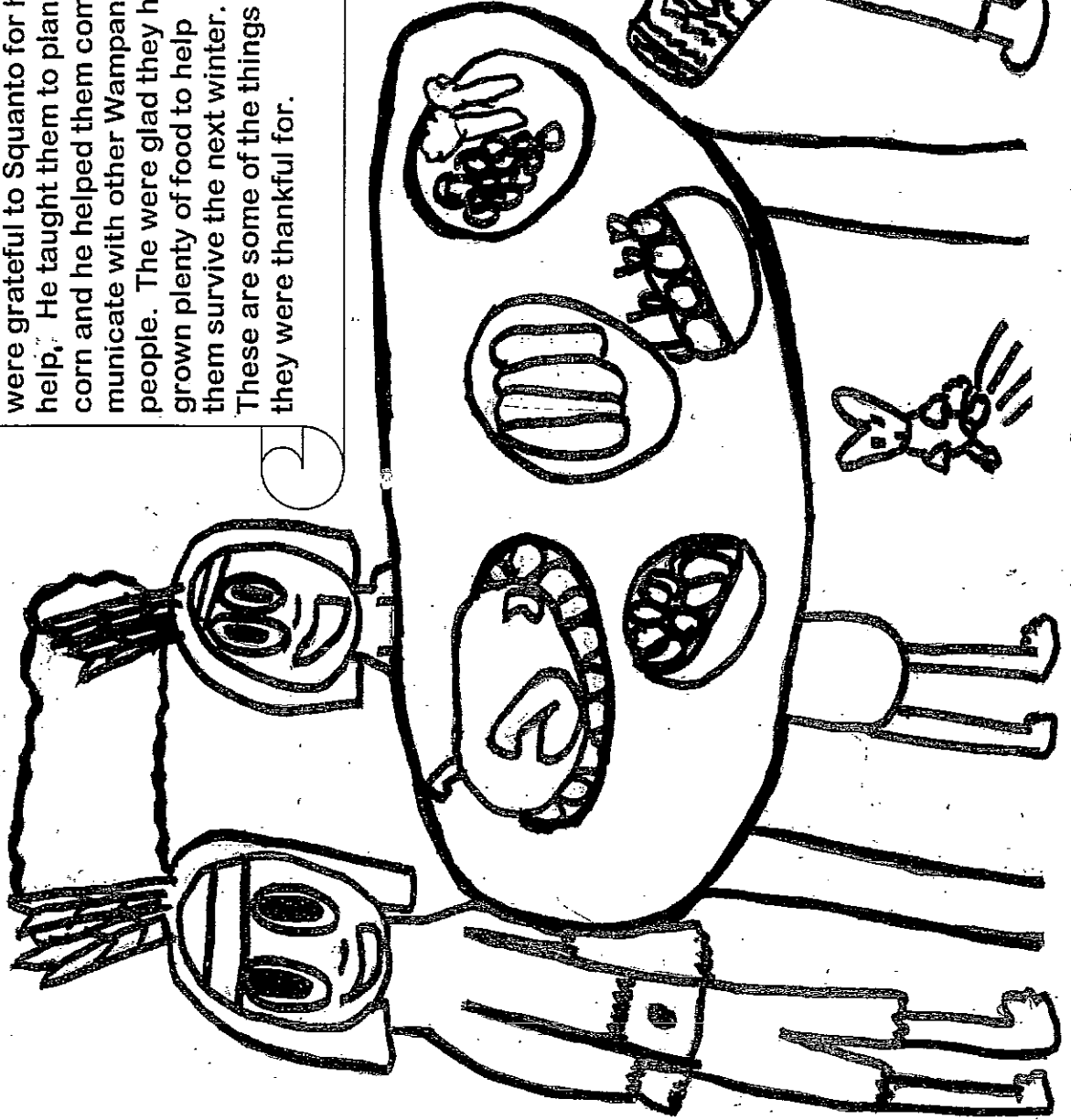
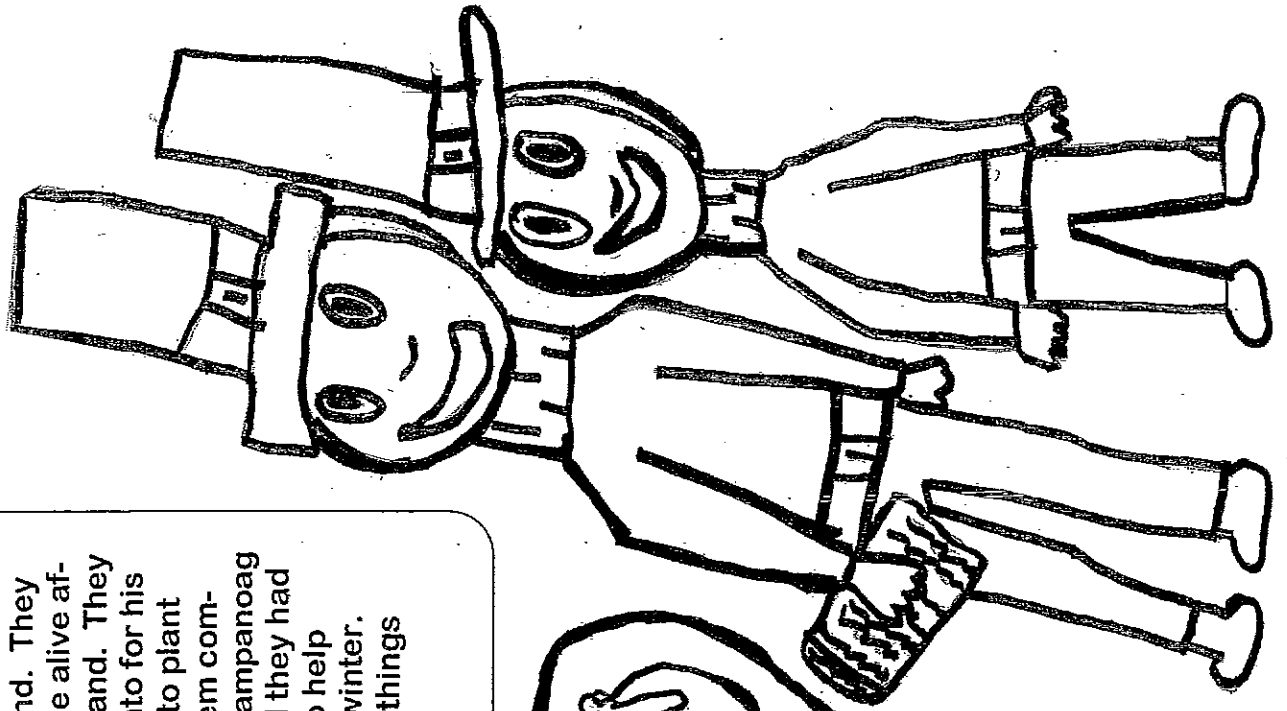
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The Wampanoags helped the Pilgrims. They taught them about the land. They showed the Pilgrims how to plant crops. First the Wampanoags taught the Pilgrims how fish can be fertilizer for plants. Next the Native American told the Pilgrims about the three sister plants and they were corn, bean and squash plants. They taught them how to gather food growing in the wilderness. They also showed them which plants could be used as medicine. The Wampanoags showed them how to fish and hunt the animals found in Plymouth. The Native Americans also traded with the Pilgrims. The Pilgrims survived because the Wampanoags helped them.




In 1621 the Pilgrims were thankful for many things. They were happy they had their freedom from the King of England. They were also thankful to be alive after sailing to New England. They were grateful to Squanto for his help. He taught them to plant corn and he helped them communicate with other Wampanoag people. They were glad they had grown plenty of food to help them survive the next winter. These are some of the things they were thankful for.




We know today that there was a special feast held by the Pilgrims. We also know that the Wampanoags were there. Massasoit brought about 90 men to the Pilgrim village and joined the feast. Edward Winslow and William Bradford wrote about the feast we now call the first Thanksgiving. They wrote "... rejoice together after we gathered the fruits of our labors." They told us they were entertaining and feasting with the Wampanoags for three days. This is where the idea for a Thanksgiving holiday came from.

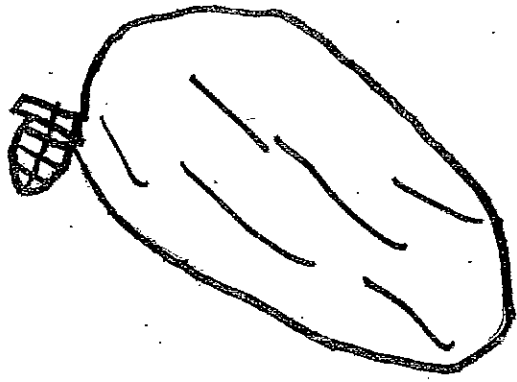




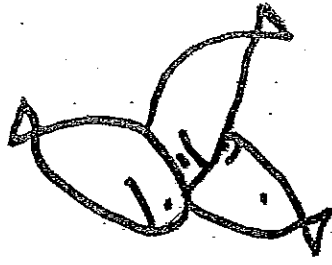
The Pilgrims and the Wampanoags had a harvest feast . Not a lot is known about the foods they ate on that day. They probably ate the same foods they ate everyday. They didn't eat the foods we eat on Thanksgiving today. They didn't eat mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce or much turkey. They did eat custardy pumpkin pie made of pure pumpkin, zucchini, squash, beans and corn. That's not all they ate, those are just the things that they grew! They also caught and hunted food to eat. They ate birds like duck and geese and some turkey. They ate deer, rabbit, raccoon and beaver. They also ate seafood like clams, oysters, eels and scallops. These are the food the Pilgrims and Wampanoags ate.



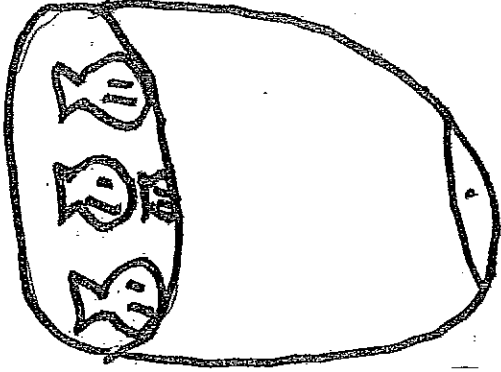
The Pilgrims and the Wampanoags had different recipes than we do today. Both the Pilgrims and Wampanoags had meals that were like stew. The Wampanoags cooked sobaheg and the Pilgrims ate stewed pompion or pumpkin. The stewed pumpkin was a standard dish for pilgrims. They ate it quite often. The Wampanoag ate noohkik (no cake) when they were on a long journey. To make noohkik you get a frying pan and cook corn kernels. After the kernels are cooked you smash them between two rocks. This makes the powder that you can carry in a pouch. It is light and you can carry it anywhere because it doesn't weigh you down. Noohkik is dry and it sticks to your throat. You drink water right after you eat it and it helps you feel full. You can learn about other recipes at <http://plimoth.org/learn>.



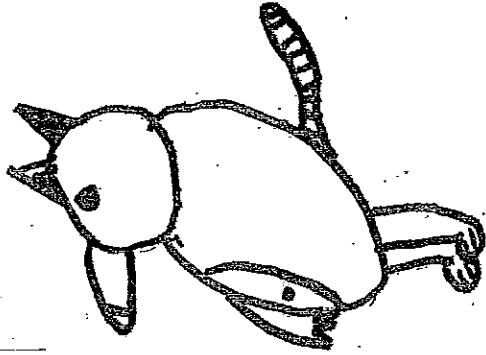
Pumpkin



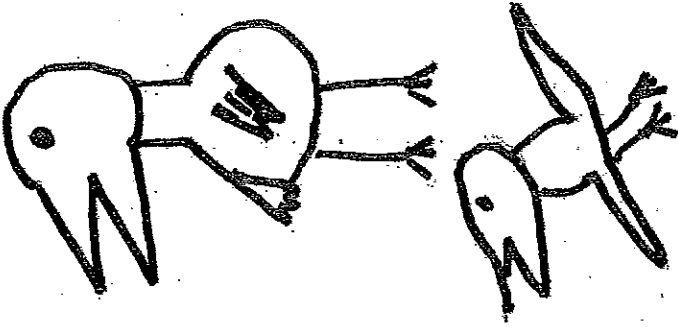
fish



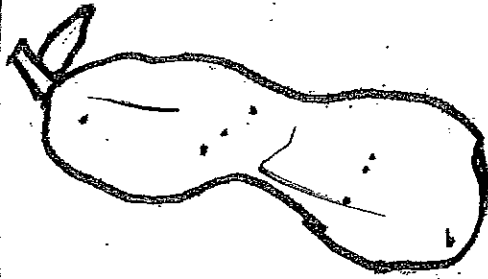
Clams



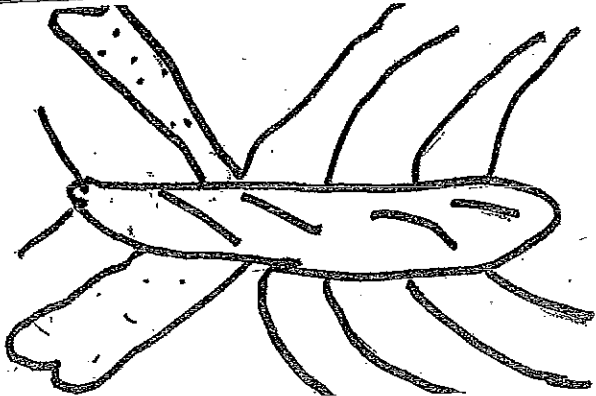
Raccoon



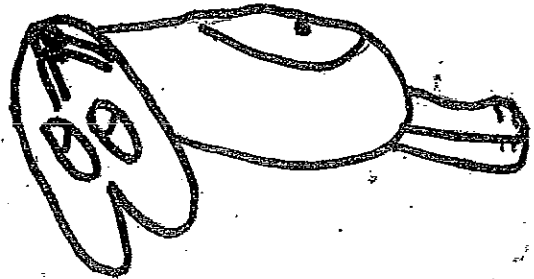
Geese



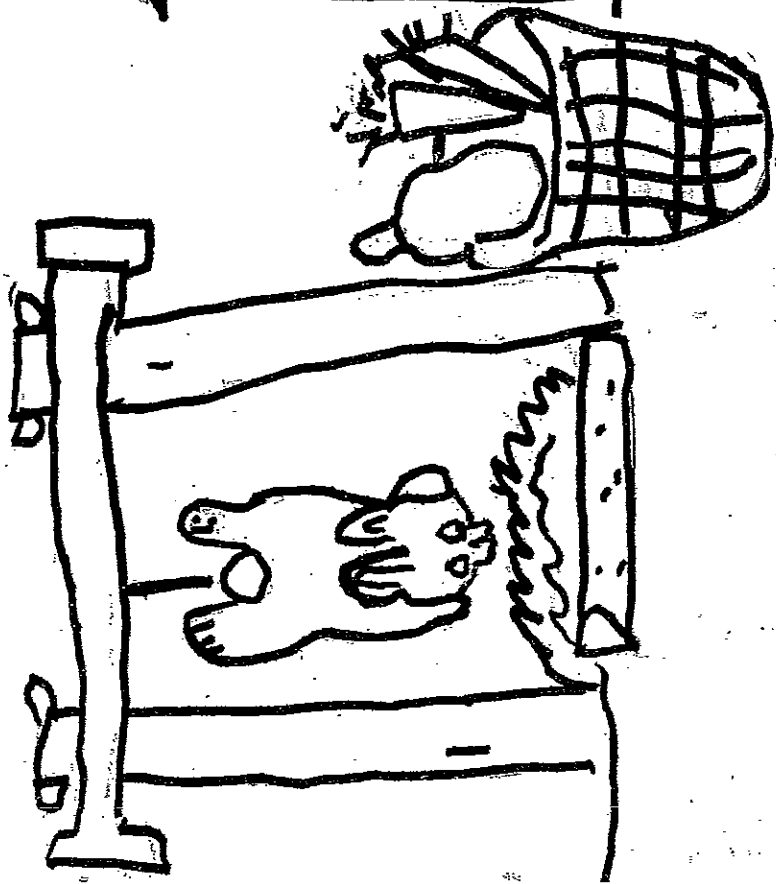
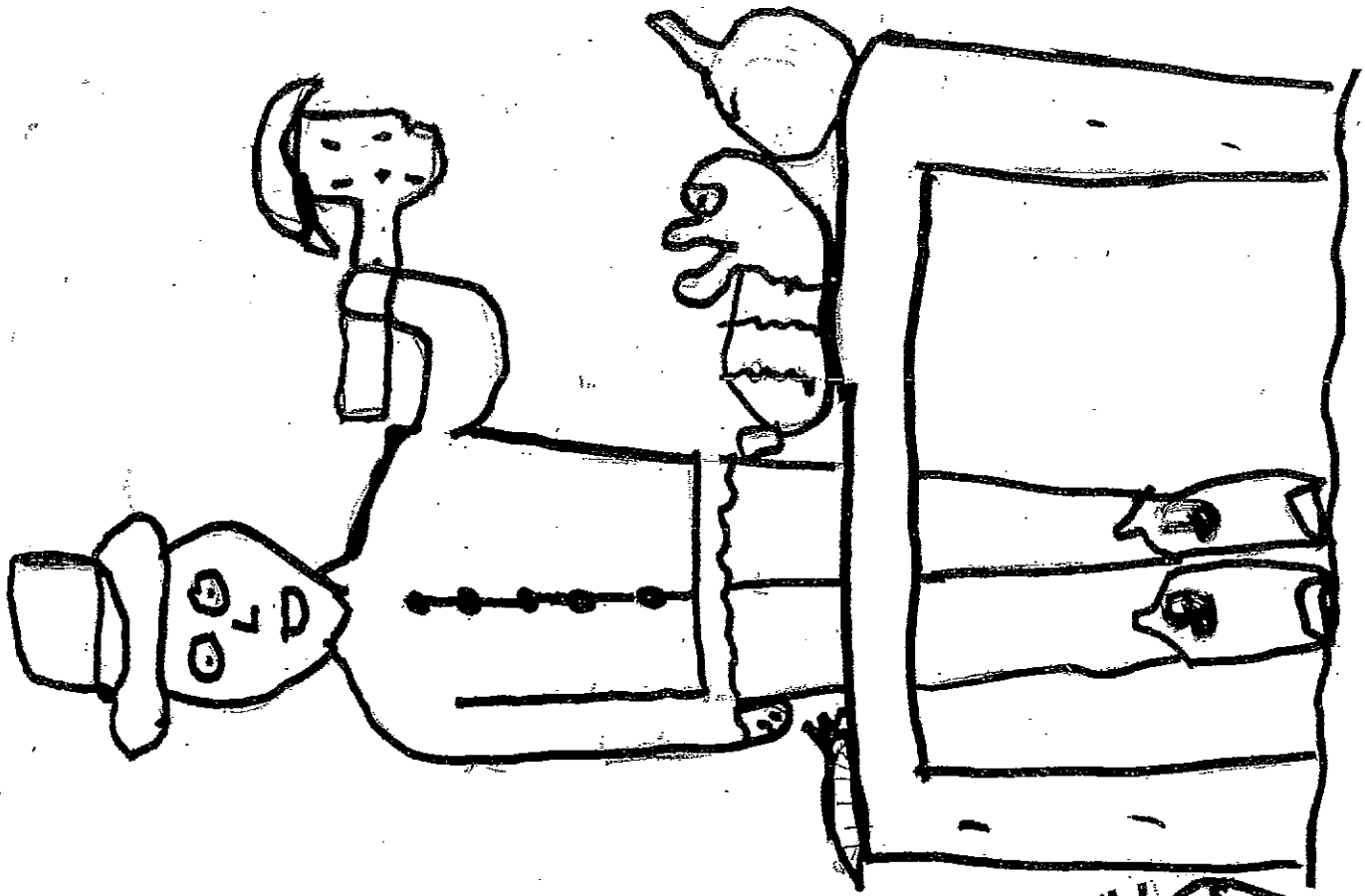
Squash

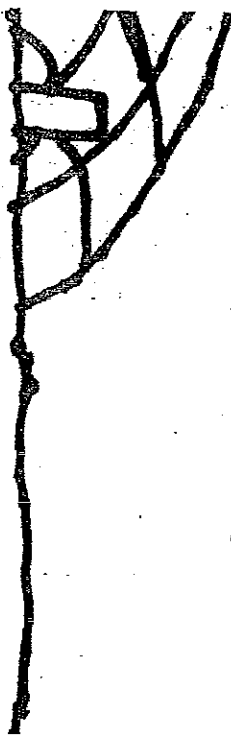


Lobster

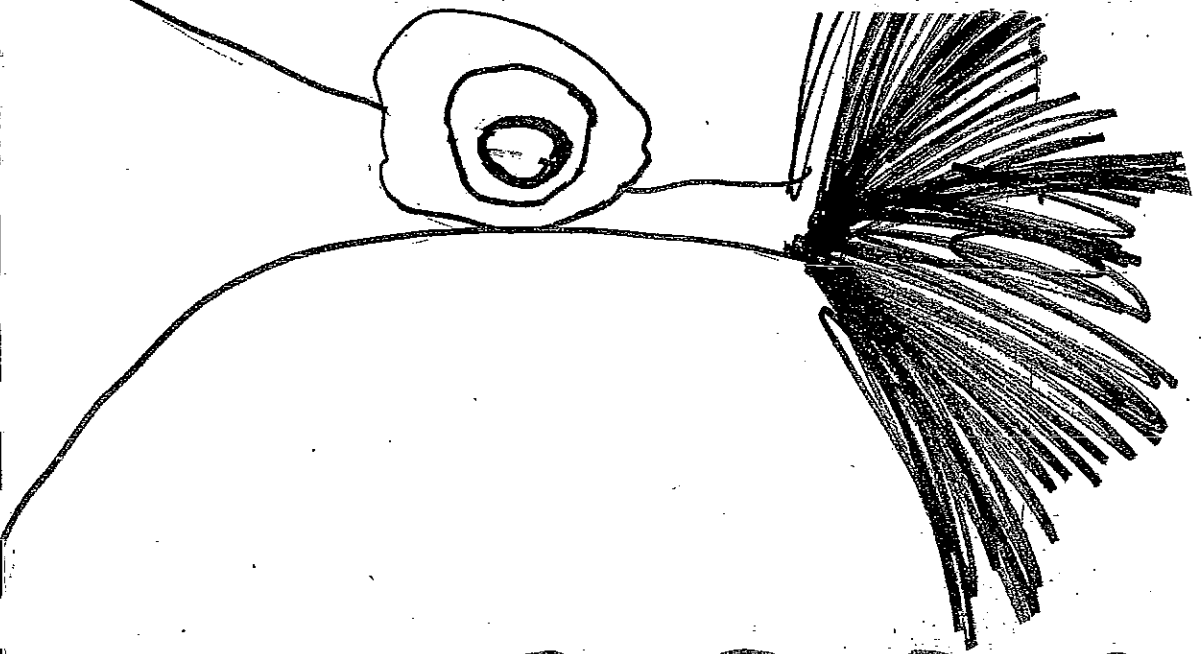
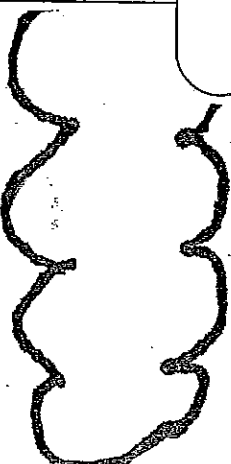
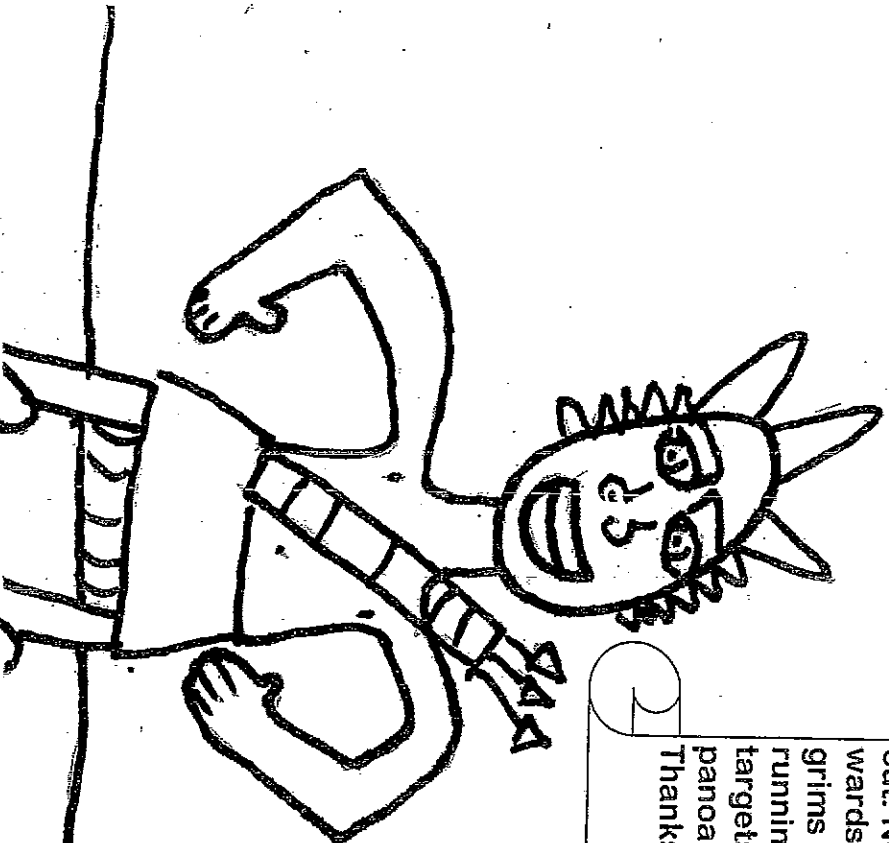


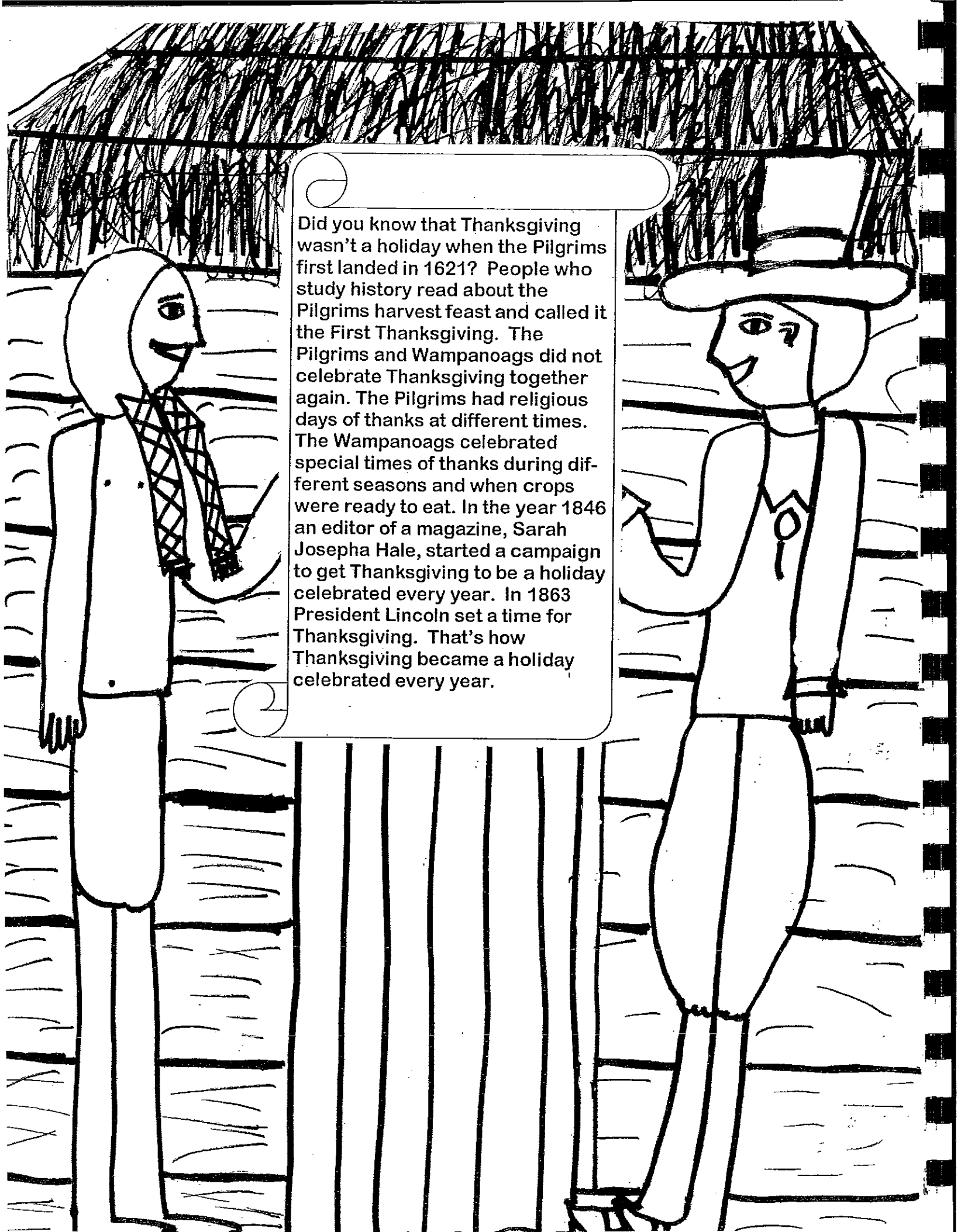
Rabbit



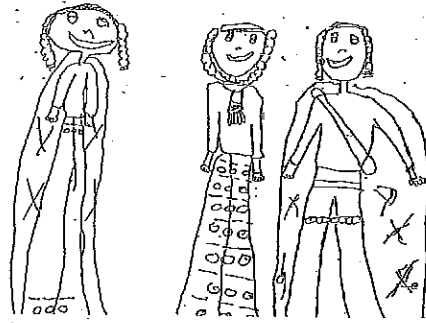
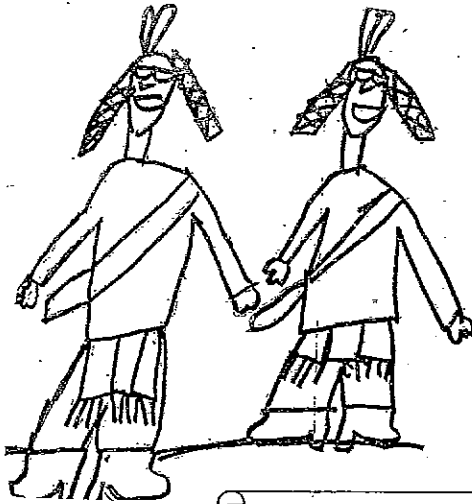
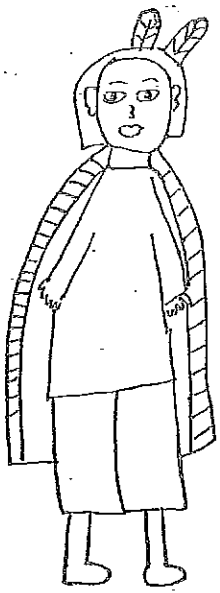


The Pilgrims and the Wampanoags played games while they enjoyed the harvest feast. We are not sure how to play all of the games they played but we know a little bit about them. They had contest shooting bows and arrows. They also played a game called pitching the bar. Pitching the bar is a game where each person wants to be the strongest and throw the log the farthest. Pilgrims and Wampanoags played marbles in the dirt. First they made a circle in the dirt so the marble would not go out. Next they shot he marbles towards the other marbles. The Pilgrims also had many contests like running, jumping and shooting at targets. The Pilgrims and Wampanoag men played during the first Thanksgiving.



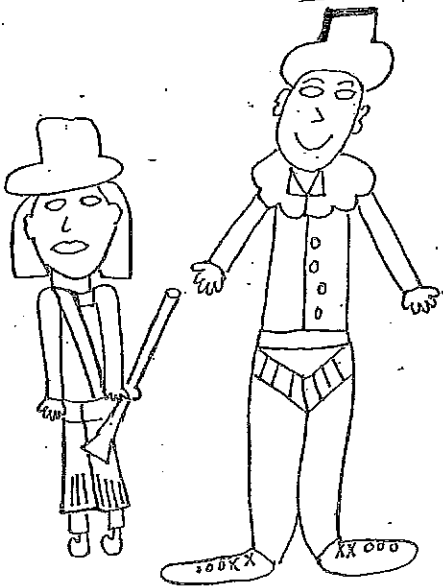


Did you know that Thanksgiving wasn't a holiday when the Pilgrims first landed in 1621? People who study history read about the Pilgrims harvest feast and called it the First Thanksgiving. The Pilgrims and Wampanoags did not celebrate Thanksgiving together again. The Pilgrims had religious days of thanks at different times. The Wampanoags celebrated special times of thanks during different seasons and when crops were ready to eat. In the year 1846 an editor of a magazine, Sarah Josepha Hale, started a campaign to get Thanksgiving to be a holiday celebrated every year. In 1863 President Lincoln set a time for Thanksgiving. That's how Thanksgiving became a holiday celebrated every year.

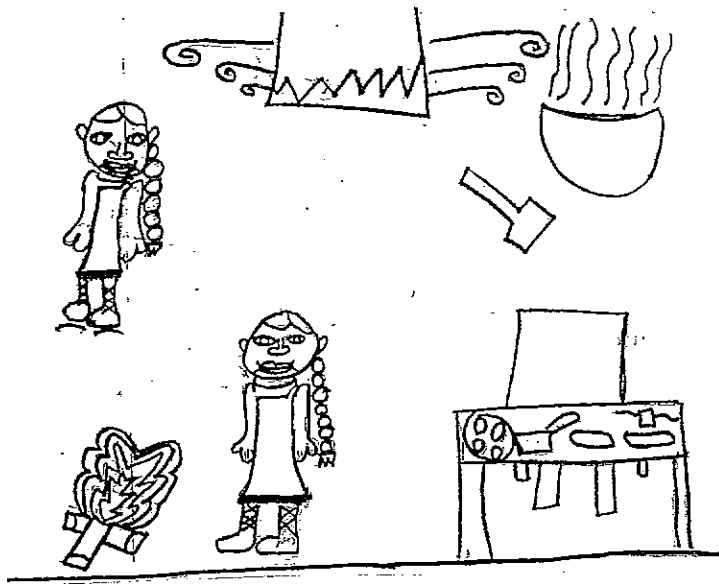


The Wampanoags lived in wetu during the warmer months and in long houses in the winter.

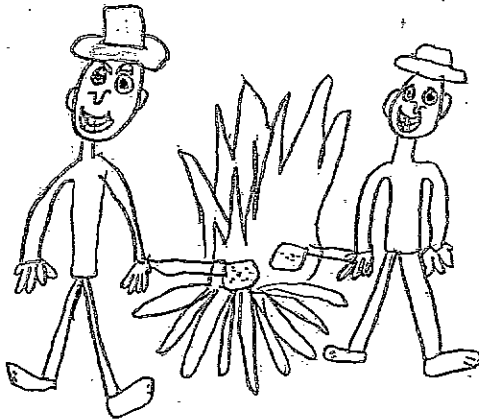
Did you know?



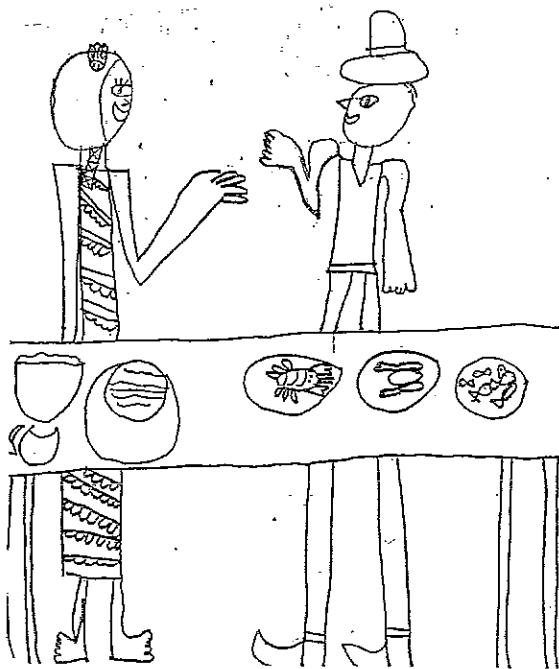
The Pilgrims built their homes during the first winter in Plymouth. They made wood houses with thatched roofs like the houses they had at home.



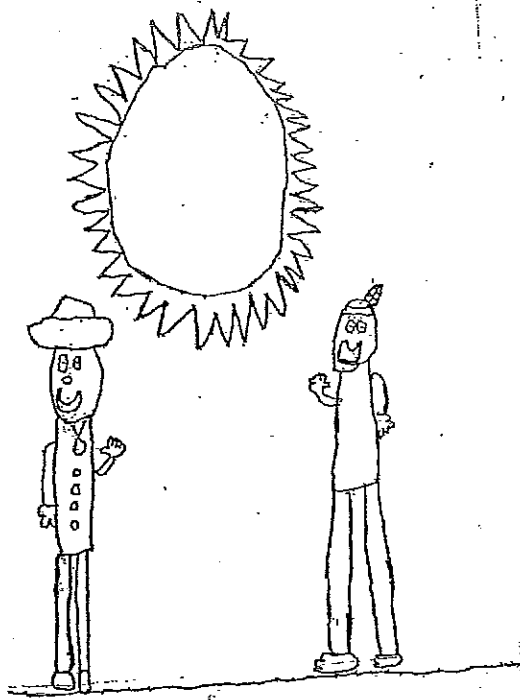
From what we know, there were no Wampanoag women at the feast we call the first Thanksgiving.



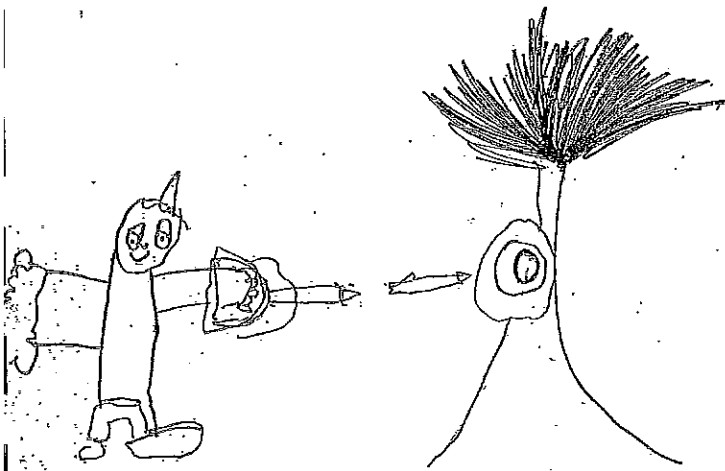
The Pilgrims and the Wampanoag both cooked their food over fire.



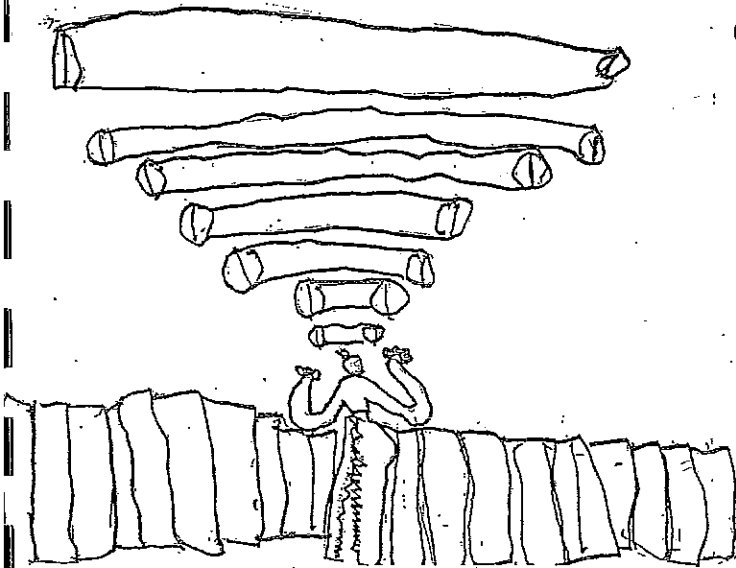
Plymouth used to be spelled Plimoth. The Pilgrims sailed to this area from a place called Plimoth, England and named the place they settled New Plimoth.

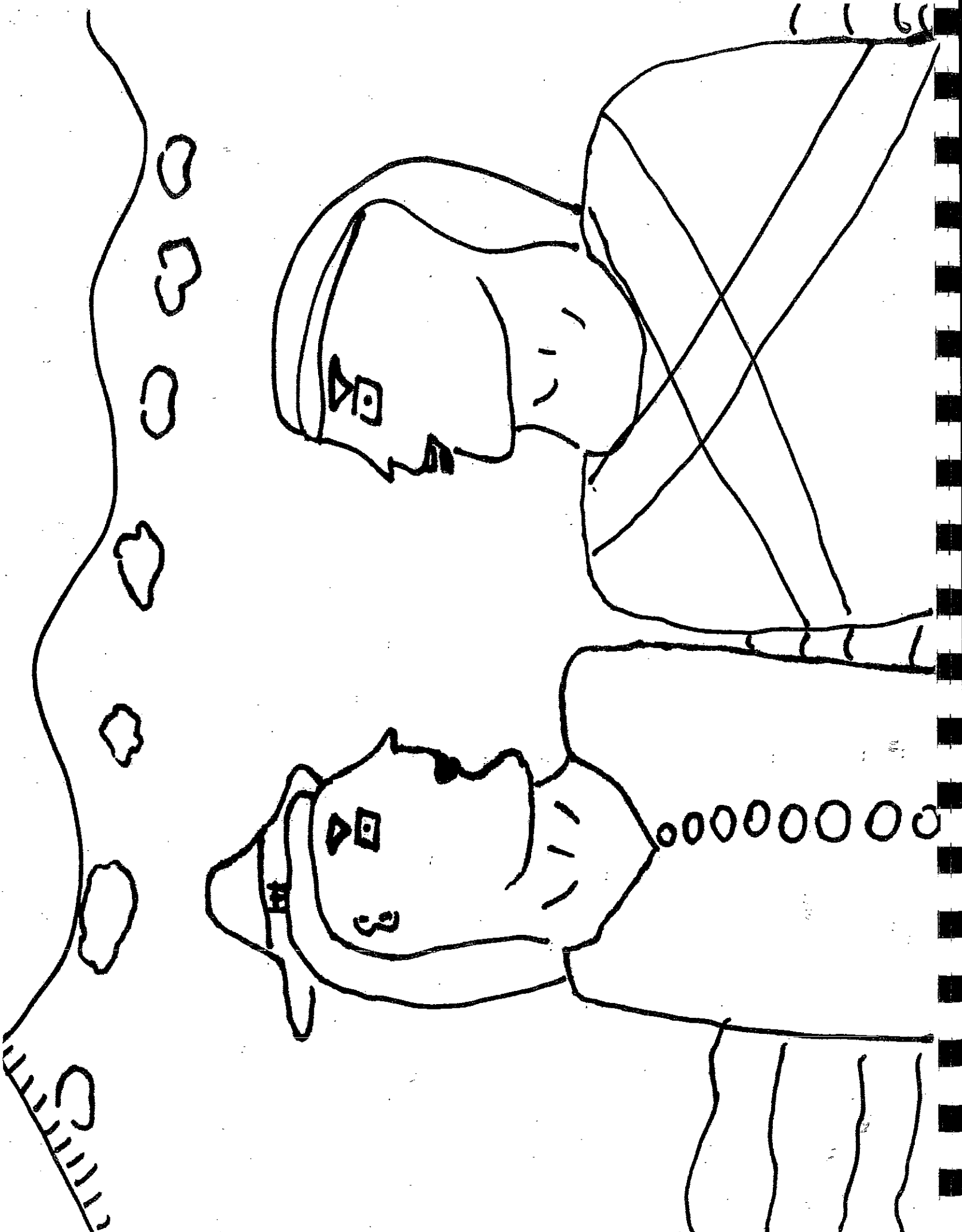


The Pilgrims and the Wampanoags were not friends. They did try to get along.



Besides playing pitch the bar and shooting arrows, the Wampanoags had a game that is a bit like rugby or football. The Wampanoags had to make their own balls for this game. Wampanoags still play this game today at their strawberry festival.





STREET

This book was created by doing research using primary sources and books about the first Thanksgiving. The third graders also took a trip to Plimoth Plantation and used the Plimoth Plantation website. The Boston Children's Museum website was also used.

These students contributed informational paragraphs and illustrations for this coloring book: Juliet, Giovanni, Patrick, Keesha, Ny'asia, Kira, Kayla, Sophia, Sham, Michael, Kathy, D'Andre, Veronica, Genesis, Qiyam, Donovan, David, Stephanie, Gabriella, Raymond, Natalie, Matthew, Simone, Lucy, Garhett, Nathaniel, Abigail, Tajour, I'mani, David, Dayquan, Olivia, Angelia, Jahara, Siannah, Anna, Ashley, Andrew, Clarissa, Tyler, James, Jose, Jasmine, Ryan, Ethan, Johnathan

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The decorative borders on the edges of the pages are symbolic designs used by the Wampanoag people.