



## Lesson Plan Summary

### Magic Tree House #27: Thanksgiving on Thursday

#### Planting Time in Plymouth Rock

#### DURING THIS BOOK STUDY, EACH STUDENT WILL:

- Learn facts about Pilgrim life in Plymouth Rock.
- Discover how the Indian Squanto taught the Pilgrims skills that they needed to survive in the new land.
- Plant seeds according to the advice Squanto gave the Pilgrims.
- Plant a control group of seeds in order to make comparisons.
- Record daily changes in two groups of seeds.
- Use the Scientific Method to draw conclusions about an experiment

#### COMMON CORE STANDARDS ADDRESSED:

##### Reading:

- Read and comprehend historical text
- Refer to details and examples in text when drawing inferences.
- Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.

##### Writing:

- Conduct short research projects that build knowledge about a topic.
- Take brief notes on sources and sort evidence into provided categories.
- Provide a concluding statement or section.

##### Social Studies:

- Explain events, procedures, ideas, or concepts in a historical text.

##### Science:

- Ask questions and draw conclusions by making observations.
- Make inferences based on evidence.
- Use the Scientific Method to draw conclusions.

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Created by: Paula Henson, 2007 Magic Tree House Teacher of the Year Knoxville, Tennessee



## Lesson Plan

### Magic Tree House #27: Thanksgiving on Thursday Planting Time in Plymouth Rock

After reading Thanksgiving on Thursday, students will discover that Jack and Annie did not know how to do things the Pilgrim way when they arrived in Plymouth Rock via the Magic tree House. Thanks to a good friend, they learned quickly some essential skills that taught the Pilgrims how to survive in the new land. Squanto was the Indian friend who taught the Pilgrims how to catch eels and dig for clams. The most important skill Squanto taught them was how to grow corn. They would not have survived without this knowledge. Squanto also gave Jack and Annie a lesson in planting corn seeds. His advice was to put two rotting fish as fertilizer in the ground with four seeds.

Allow your students an opportunity to put this advice to the test. This is a great Thanksgiving activity.

- First, read Thanksgiving on Thursday with your class and discuss Squanto's importance in the Pilgrim's survival.
- Next, provide two containers filled with potting soil. Wallpaper trays work well.
- Buy corn seeds (or pumpkin seeds) so that each child has at least eight to plant – four in each tray.
- You will need some fresh fish cut into small pieces on paper plates and plastic spoons.
- Label one tray of soil with a drawing of a fish with the word "FISH" written underneath.



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- Allow children to plant four seeds in the soil of this container along WITH two pieces of fish alongside the seeds.
- Next, label the other tray of potting soil with a drawing of a fish and the words “NO FISH” written underneath. This is the control group.



- Allow each student to plant four seeds WITHOUT fish in this container.
- Water both trays of seeds and put in a sunny spot in the classroom.
- Explain to students that their job is to monitor the two groups to determine if in fact the group of seeds planted with fish grows differently from the control group. All other conditions will remain the same (water, sunlight, temperature). They will be making daily observations and illustrations for two weeks after planting the seeds using the following form. You will need to make several copies for each student.



## Planting Time in Plymouth Rock

### Observation Sheet

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Day** \_\_\_\_\_ of observation

**Problem** – What do you want to find out?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Hypothesis** – What do you think will happen?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What changes did you observe in the seeds/plants today?

\_\_\_\_\_

Draw a picture of the changes in both groups of seeds/plants

Seeds with Fish

Seeds with No Fish

What do you predict will happen tomorrow?

\_\_\_\_\_

What can you conclude after today's observation?

\_\_\_\_\_