



Squanto Helped the Pilgrims

By the time the weary Pilgrims ended their 66-day *Mayflower* voyage on November 11, 1620, it was too cold to plant crops. They had been living in Leiden, so these city dwellers did not know much about growing their own food in this new country, America.

By spring, the Pilgrims had built a common house for supplies and simple homes in Plymouth Colony, when Native Americans began making contact with them. On March 16, 1620, a kind English-speaking Patuxet named Tisquantum, also known as Squanto, was introduced to the Pilgrims by Samoset. He learned English while in captivity in Spain and England, after being kidnapped by a sly English sea captain named Thomas Hunt.

Squanto taught the Pilgrims how to plant crops using the ancient Three Sisters method of growing crops. He showed them how to fertilize the soil with fish caught in the nearby stream. He also served as an interpreter between the Pilgrims and other tribes then moved to be near the Pilgrims in their colony.



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