

Spring and Summer by the Sea

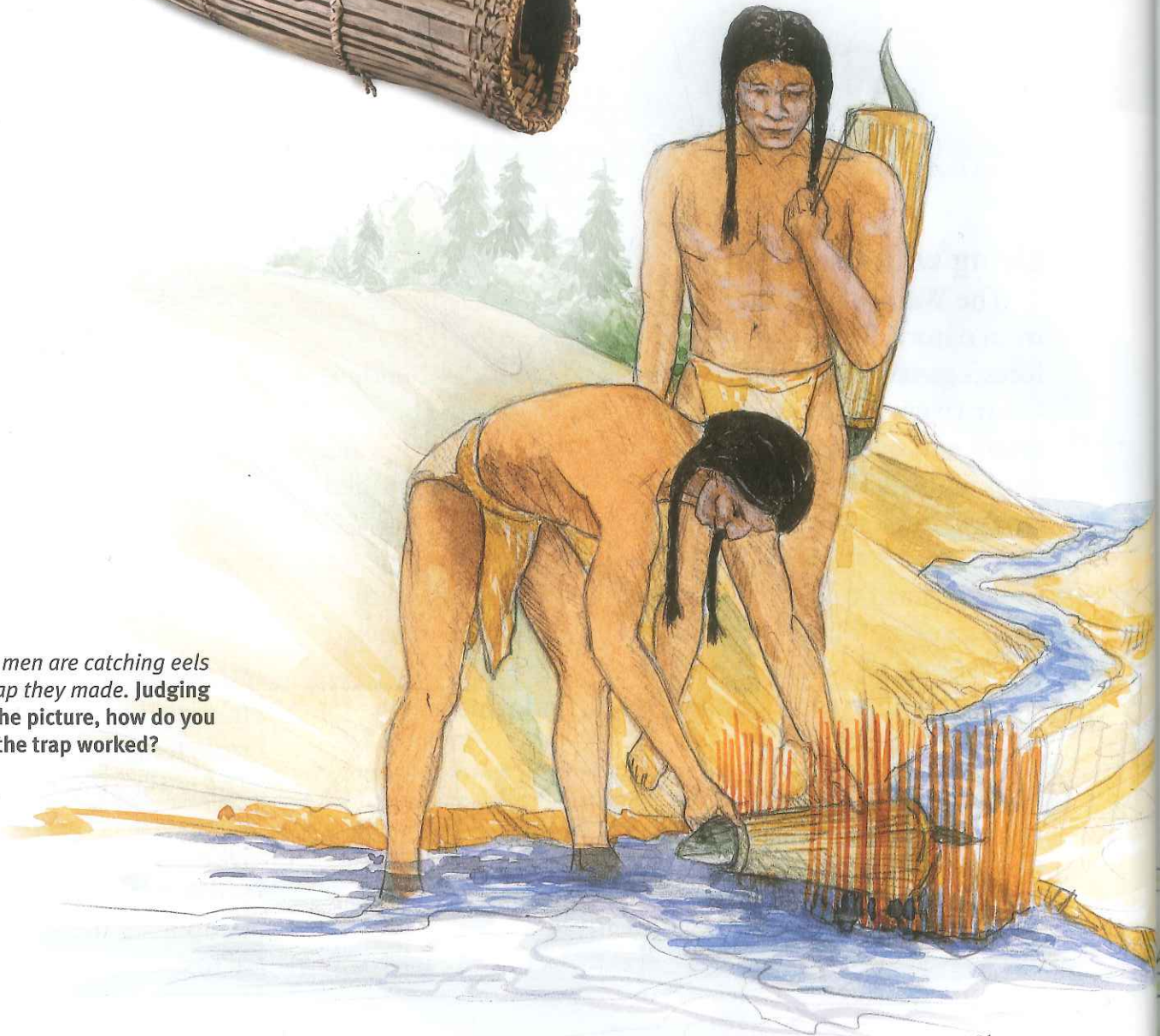
In the spring and summer, you live near the seashore. Your family has a planting ground there. It is important to live near water and good farmland.

Part of learning is watching. You watch your father and uncles make eel traps like this one. You see how they trim the sticks to make them all the same size. Then they tie them together with reeds or other plants. Someday you will have to make your own eel trap.

The year begins when the herring move up the river to lay their eggs. A herring is a small fish. Your family catches so many herring—how will you eat them all? You smoke the extra fish so they will last a long time without spoiling. Your father catches fish and eels from the ocean and rivers. Your mother digs for clams and finds lobsters in the surf.



These men are catching eels in a trap they made. Judging from the picture, how do you think the trap worked?



Telling History through Stories

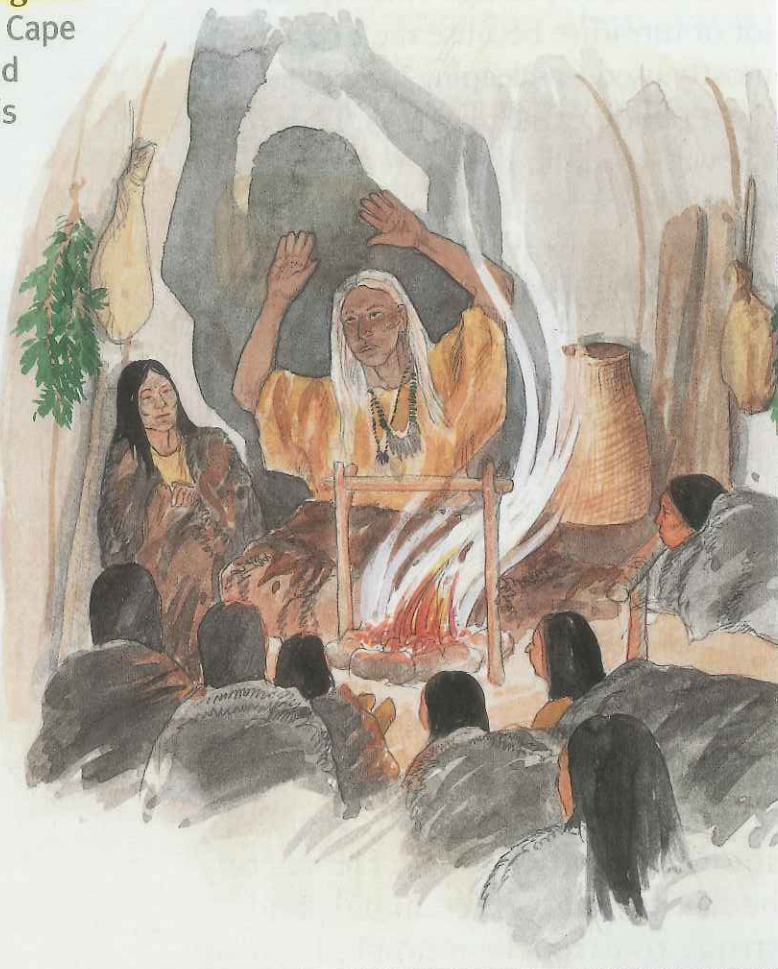
It is winter, and you are tired of being inside. Your grandmother puts a few more logs on the fire. She tells you and your brothers and sisters to come and sit around the fire. She begins to tell you a story about how Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket came to be. A giant named Moshop had something to do with it. A story that explains how something came to be is called a **legend**.

Moshop was so big that he used Cape Cod as his bed. One night he had bad dreams. As he tossed and turned, his moccasins filled with sand. He emptied his moccasins, one at a time, a short way out to sea. One pile of sand became the island of *Noepe*, or Martha's Vineyard. The other made the island of *Natockete*, or Nantucket.

You listen closely. Someday you will tell this legend to your own children.

"These are more than stories, you know. They are the heart of our culture."

—MANITONQUAT, A MODERN WAMPANOAG STORYTELLER AND KEEPER OF TRADITIONS



LESSON 1 What Did You Learn?

Find the Facts

1. Who were the Wampanoag?
2. What other tribes lived in Massachusetts in the early 1600s?
3. List three main ways the Wampanoag got food.
4. What were the most important crops they grew?
5. How did the Wampanoag preserve food for the winter?

Tell What It Means

6. Why do you think the Wampanoag had different homes for summer and winter?
7. Why was Wampanoag life tied so closely to the seasons?

Make Connections

8. What family stories have your parents and grandparents passed down to you?

LESSON 2 Everyday Life

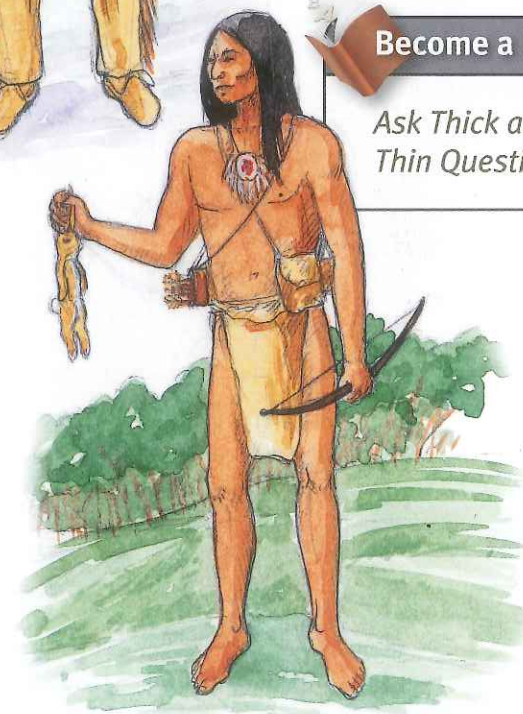
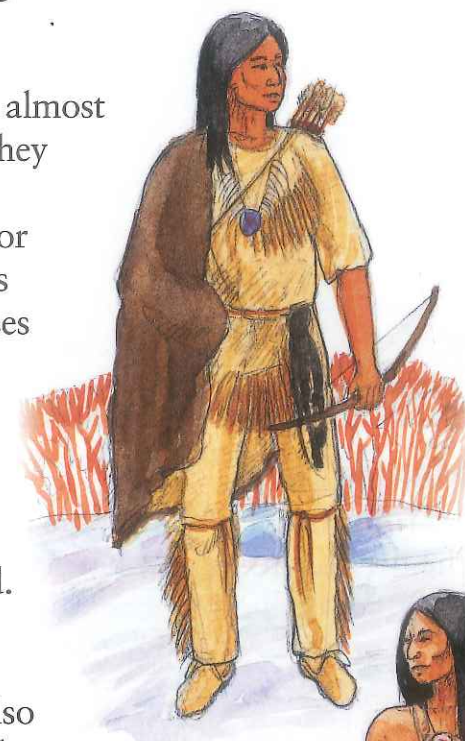
Today, most people buy clothes, tools, and toys at a store. If you were a Wampanoag child in the 1600s, your family made these things. You may have traded with other tribes to get things you did not have. As the seasons turned, you learned how to use what nature gave you. You learned to give thanks for all it provided.

Making Things from Nature

Native Americans used almost every part of the animals they hunted. Imagine that your father brings home a deer or moose. Your mother cooks the meat for dinner. She uses the hide, or skin, to make clothing, moccasins, and blankets. The smallest bones will become sewing needles. The **sinews**, or tendons, will be her thread. She decorates the clothes with patterns made from porcupine quills. Sinews also make good strings for the bows the men use. An animal bladder makes a great bag for carrying things.

In the winter, you wear warm leggings with fur inside. You wrap a warm blanket or robe around your shoulders. Your mother makes them from the skins of seals, black bears, raccoons, otters, foxes, beavers, muskrats, or wolves. Moccasins keep your feet warm.

In the summer, you wear an apron, or breechcloth, and a belt if you are a boy. If you are a girl, you wear a skirt made of animal skin. Your mother tans the skin, or stretches it to make it lighter. You go barefoot. You wear a deerskin pouch so you can carry things with you. Sometimes you wear jewelry made of bones, shells, stones, claws, or antlers.



Key Ideas

- The Wampanoag used what they found in nature to survive.
- Native Americans had great respect for the earth.
- A leader and a council governed each tribe.
- The Wampanoag traded with people from other tribes.

Key Terms

barter
council
respect
sinew
survive
wampum

Become a Better Reader

Ask Thick and Thin Questions



Men made their own boats, or mishoons. They burned the center of a tree trunk and scraped out the dead wood. They used the boats to travel on the rivers and in the ocean. Why do you think the men burned the wood instead of carving it?

Making Tools

Your mother makes pots out of clay. Then she uses the fire to make them hard and strong. The pots work well for storing and cooking food. She makes a stew or “pottage” with roast corn and deer meat. She puts the pot over the fire in the morning and cooks the stew all day long. As people eat it, she adds more meat and vegetables to it.

The women also makes baskets out of grasses or bark. They use the baskets to carry squash and beans from the garden.

The men carve stone and wood into tools. They make bows, arrows, animal traps, hooks, spears, canoes, and bowls. They make axes by burning a hole in a piece of wood and setting a stone in the hole. They tie the stone in place.

Your family makes rattles and drums so you can make music. You put seeds inside a dried gourd and plug the end with a corncob. When you shake the gourd, you can hear the seeds rattle.

The Children Learn

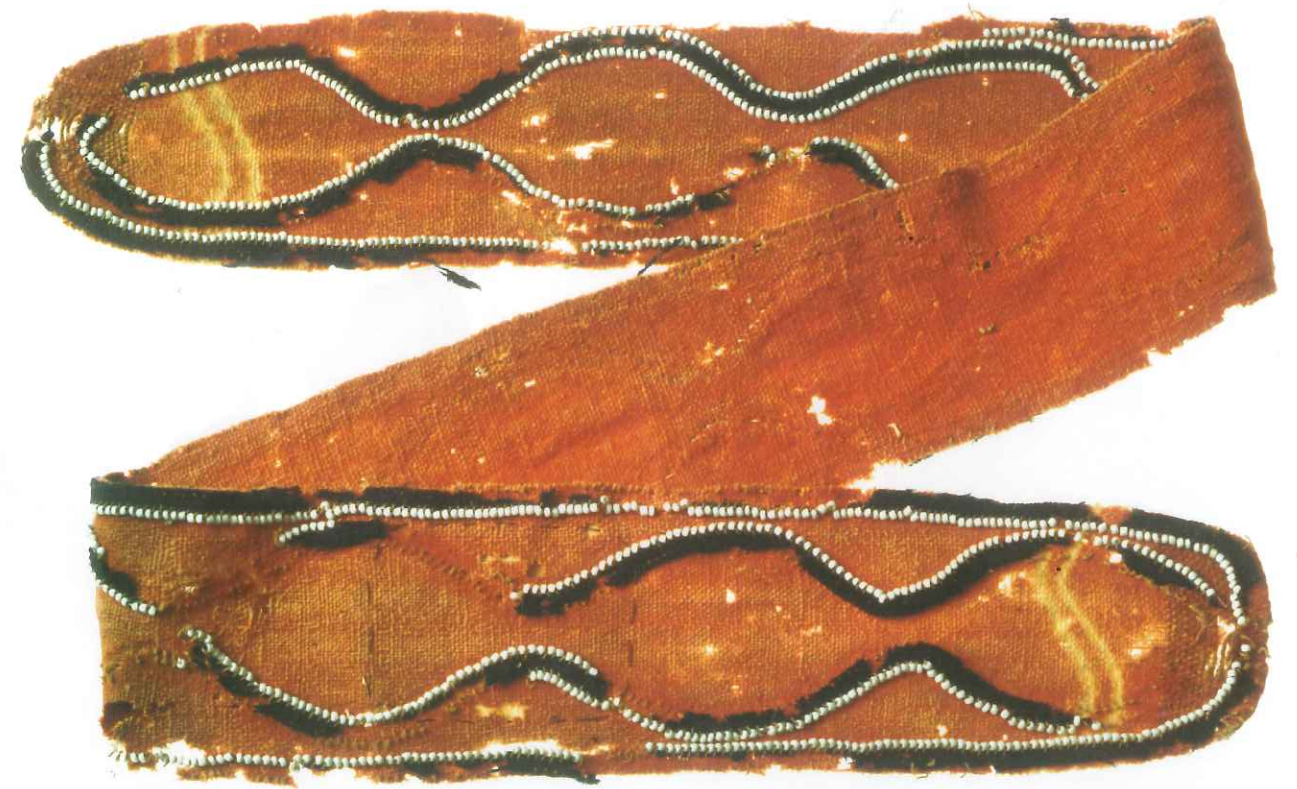
You and all the children learn skills that will help you **survive** (to continue to live, even when times are hard). Everyone works to help the family.

If you are a boy, you learn all about the woods, rivers, and ocean. You learn how to look for animal tracks. How will you tell rabbit tracks from turkey tracks? You try to be very quiet in the forest, listening and watching. Sometimes you and the men have to travel to find animals for your family to eat. You might be away for several days at a time.

At home, you sharpen arrows and practice your aim. You run so you can get faster and faster. You watch the men make tools so you can make your own someday. You find wood for the fire. Maybe you dream about becoming a leader or warrior when you grow up.

If you are a girl, you stay closer to home, and your jobs are as important as those of the men and boys. You learn all about working in the fields and garden. You learn which wild plants you can eat. You learn to cook over the fire. Taking care of children is another chore. You help your mother dig for clams and clay. When you are old enough, you will learn how to sew clothes. It is hard work turning animal hides into leather.

This Wampanoag sash from the 1600s was made from sheep wool and plant fibers. It was dyed red and decorated with glass beads. A sash is like a belt, but it can be worn over one shoulder or around a person's waist. Who do you think might have worn the sash? What special meaning do you think it may have had?

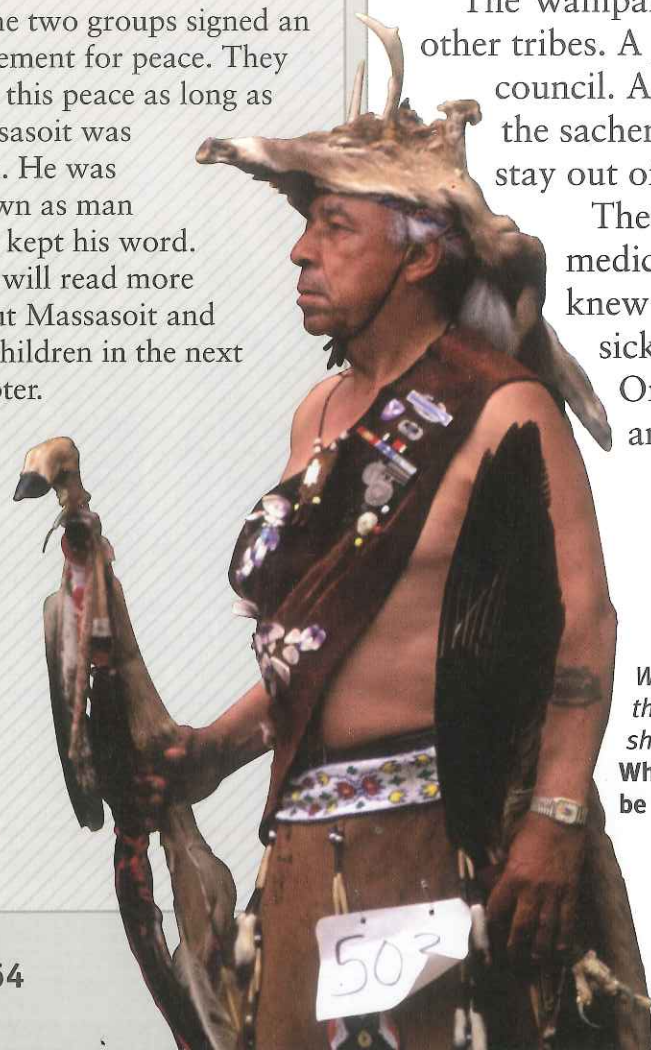


**Ousamequin,
or Massasoit**
(c. 1581–1661)

Massasoit was the leader of the Wampanoag people when the first English settlers came to Massachusetts. His real name was *Ousamequin*, or “Yellow Feather,” but he is mostly known as Massasoit. *Massasoit* is a title that means “great sachem.”

We do not know much about Massasoit’s life before the English arrived. When they did, he and his people helped the English survive. When Massasoit got sick, the English helped nurse him back to health.

The two groups signed an agreement for peace. They kept this peace as long as Massasoit was alive. He was known as man who kept his word. You will read more about Massasoit and his children in the next chapter.



Leading the Tribe

Every tribe had a leader, or *sachem* [SAY chum]. The sachem could be a man or a woman. It was the sachem’s job to keep the community happy. The sachem was also in charge of the resources on the tribe’s land.

Only a sachem was allowed to wear a black wolf skin. Many people gave him gifts of small beads made from clamshells. These beads are called *wampum*. People gave wampum when they thought the sachem was being a good leader.

Wampum was also woven into belts. The pictures on the belts often showed stories from the tribe’s history. Often, sachems gathered all the people in the village to hear the stories. They did not want the stories to be forgotten.

The Council

The sachem had helpers, called the *council*. The people on the council were elders, or older members of the community. They were wise from the many years they had walked the earth.

The Wampanoag sometimes fought wars against other tribes. A *pniese* [p’neece] was often part of the council. A *pniese* was a great warrior. He helped the sachem decide how to go to battle or how to stay out of a battle.

The sachem also had help from the medicine man or woman. The medicine man knew what plants could be used to heal the sick. He knew songs or dances for healing.

Only a medicine man was allowed to wear antlers on top of his head.

Wampanoag leaders decorated themselves with bones, beads, shells, feathers, and antlers. What clues tell you this might be a medicine man?

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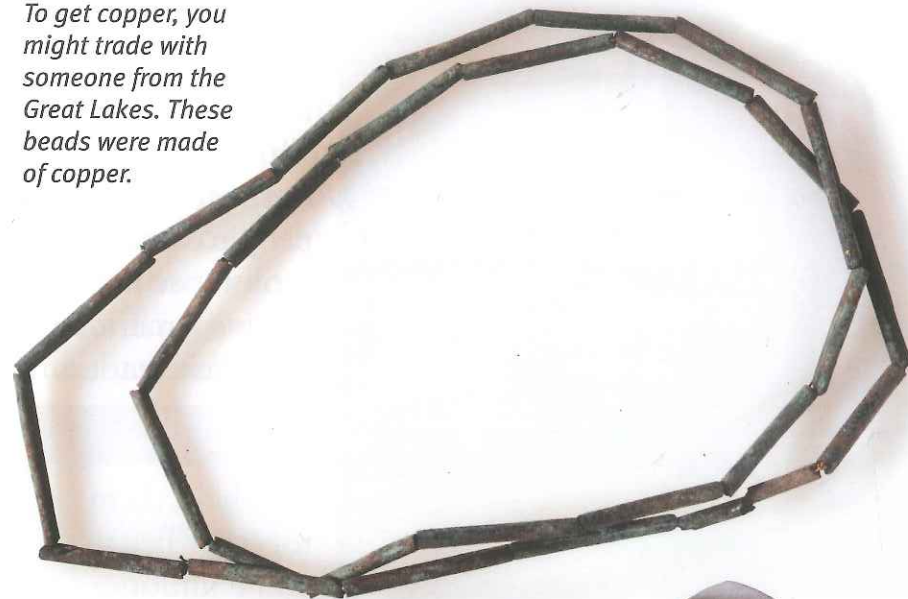
Trade

The Wampanoag bartered with people from other tribes. To *barter* means to trade, or to exchange goods or services without using money. For barter to work, each side needs to have something the other side wants. Let’s say your tribe has a lot of wooden bowls and corn seed. You do not have stone that is good for making pipes. You do not have copper pots. Tribes from other places have these things. How can you get them? You could give them your bowls. In return, they would give you their copper.

To get to other places, you follow trails through the woods. Then you paddle canoes along the rivers or down the coast. It is often a long journey.

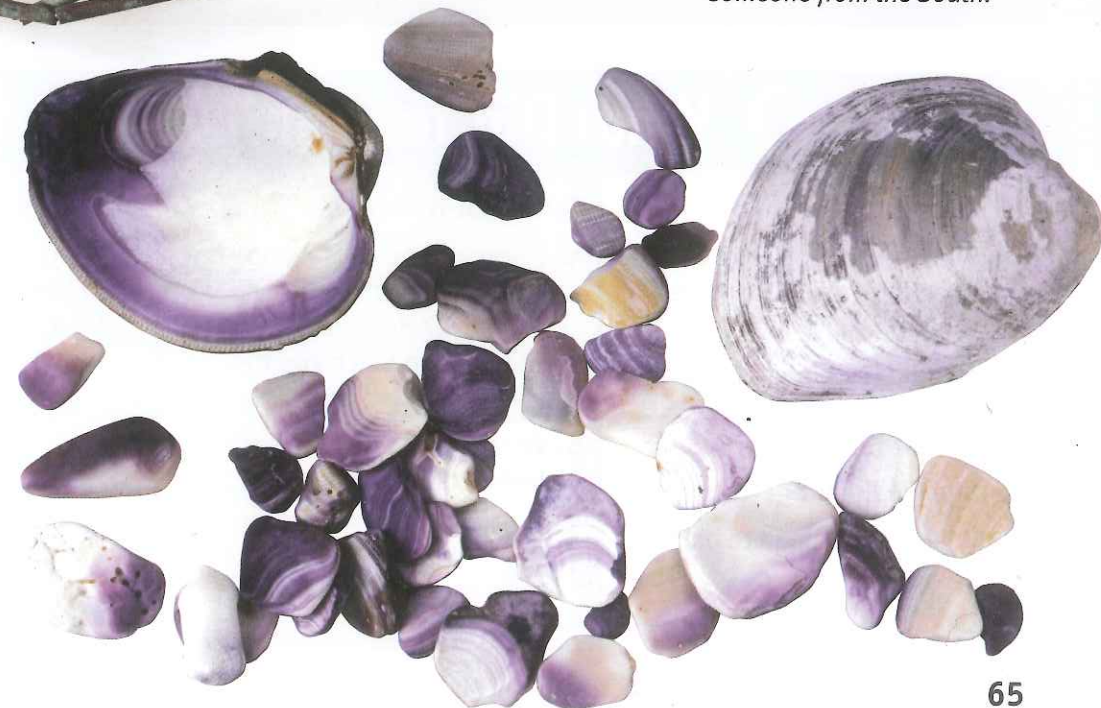
When visitors came to a village, the people offered them food. It was a way of saying, “Let’s be friends.”

To get copper, you might trade with someone from the Great Lakes. These beads were made of copper.



To get flint or soapstone for pipes, you might trade with someone from the South.

The people made wampum out of quahog shells. They used tools to shape the beads and drill tiny holes in them. Then they strung them together to make belts or necklaces. From what natural resource did wampum come?



The Wampanoag Today

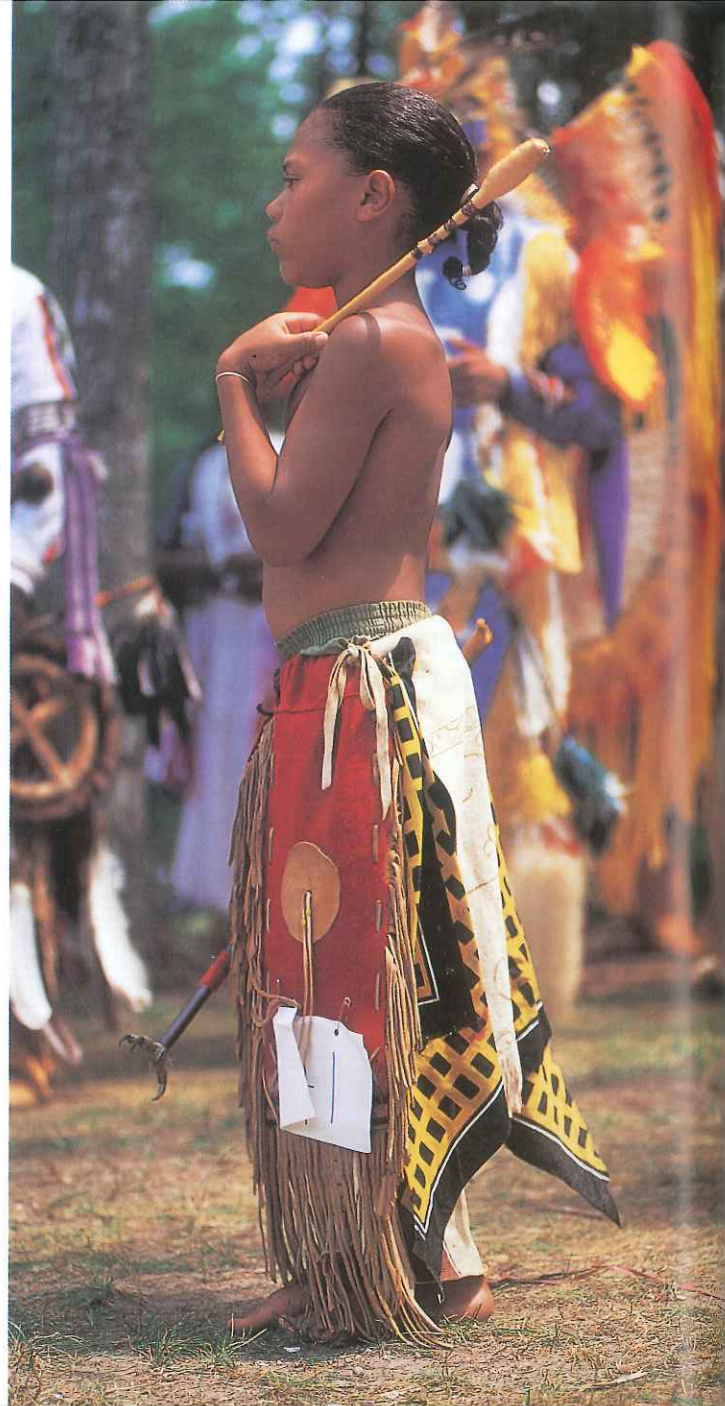
In the next chapter, you will read about the Pilgrims who came to Massachusetts. They met the Wampanoag and had much help from them. But as more settlers came, the Wampanoag faced more changes. After hard times and even a war, some groups of Wampanoag people survived. They continued to live in Massachusetts.

The Wampanoag are not just people of the past. Some tribes still live in Massachusetts. The Mashpee Wampanoag live on Cape Cod. The Aquinnah Wampanoag live on Martha's Vineyard. Smaller communities of Wampanoag people live in other towns. Their **ancestors** (the family members who came before them) are the people you have read about in this chapter.

The men, women, and children are proud of their history on this land. They are proud of their **heritage** (all the things that have been passed down to them). They learn the stories of those who came before them. They try to keep their way of life.

Each year on the Fourth of July weekend, the Mashpee Wampanoag have a powwow. For three days, they share their food, crafts, songs, and dances.

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Go to the Source



A Native American Anchor

Native Americans from Massachusetts made this anchor long ago. Study the artifact and answer the questions.



LESSON 3 What Did You Learn?

Find the Facts

1. What is an explorer?
2. Which explorer named Cape Cod?
3. Who was the first European to come ashore in what is now New England?
4. What kinds of things did the explorers trade with Native Americans? What did they want in return?

Tell What It Means

5. What were the explorers searching for? Did they find it? Why or why not?
6. What kinds of information did the explorers get from visiting the area? How did it help people in Europe?
7. What caused many Indians to die after the explorers came? Why?

Make Connections

8. How do we make maps today?
9. What areas on Earth are left to explore?

LOOK

1. What do you think the anchor was made of?

THINK

2. How do you think the people made it?
3. Why do you think they put a slab of stone through the bottom of the anchor?

DECIDE

4. An anchor is used to hold a boat in place in the water. Why do you think the people might have needed to hold their boats in one place for a while?