Thanksgiving Fact Sheet



Read these eight facts aloud or use them as a table display.

01	An object owned by a Mayflower passenger did not necessarily travel aboard the ship. The distinction matters when looking for evidence of everyday life around the 1621 harvest.
02	A chair long linked to William Bradford is made from American wood. Examining its materials helped the museum rule out an Atlantic crossing for the chair itself.
03	Bradford’s estate inventory lists two large wooden chairs in the parlor. The entry makes the surviving chair a possible match while leaving its precise identity open.
04	A tankard linked to Peter Browne was built much like a small barrel. Hoops of birch hold upright pieces of oak together to make the drinking vessel.
05	A wooden cup associated with Mary Allerton carries the date 1608 on its base. The carved date is there to read even when its earliest uses remain unknown.
06	The museum identifies walnut as the wood in the Allerton cup. Carved animals and flowers show the attention given to a hand-held object kept in a family.
07	Browne’s inventory mentions pewter while overlooking ordinary wooden tableware. The museum explains why silence in a written inventory cannot settle every question about what someone owned.
08	Manoomin is the Ojibwe name used in this guide for wild rice. Beyond its place at meals, the grain has importance in Ojibwe ceremonies and feasts.

Question Sheet



Try these eight numbered questions before opening the key.

01 Which material clue ruled out a Mayflower voyage for the chair associated with William Bradford?

02 What material forms the hoops around Peter Browne's wooden stave tankard?

03 Which year is carved on the bottom of the cup linked to Mary Allerton?

04 What kind of metal tableware did Browne's estate inventory specifically record?

05 What is the name for the light ricing sticks used in canoe harvesting?

06 What kind of pole helps move the canoe through rice beds while protecting plant roots?

07 What heat treatment of manoomin helps loosen the hull after drying?

08 What natural force carries off the lighter chaff during outdoor winnowing?

Matching Answer Key



Host copy • Check the answer to each printed question.

01 **Its American wood.**
A chair already aboard a ship departing England could not have been made in New England after arrival.

02 **Birch.**
The body uses oak. The change in the type of wood matches a change in the structural job.

03 **1608.**
Its manufacture predates the Plymouth voyage. The order of those dates does not prove where the cup was used at a given meal.

04 **Pewter.**
The contrast with the omitted wooden pieces shows how an inventory's purpose can shape what survives on paper.

05 **Knockers.**
The name describes their role in freeing the grain into the canoe as harvesters work along the rice beds.

06 **A forked pole.**
The harvesting guide distinguishes the pole used within the bed from a paddle used to reach it.

07 **Parching, or roasting.**
It has several effects on the grain, including preparation for longer storage.

08 **The wind.**
The heavier kernels can fall back into the tray while the chaff moves away.

Cut-Out Fact Cards



Cut on the dashed borders. Pick a card and share its fact with the table.

FACT 09

Harvesters can work in pairs from a canoe in natural stands of wild rice. Rice knocked from the stalks lands in the bottom of the boat.

FACT 10

The wooden ricing sticks are also called knockers. They are light enough for repeated use and allow a harvester to work with the plants gently.

FACT 11

A forked pole helps propel a canoe through a rice bed while protecting the roots. A paddle may be used on the way to the bed itself.

FACT 12

After drying, parching helps prepare the kernels for storage. Heating the grain also loosens the hull and prevents the kernel from sprouting again.

FACT 13

The guide describes a traditional hulling technique that uses special moccasins. The person treads the rice in a lined pit to loosen the chaff.

FACT 14

Winnowing takes advantage of moving air. Grain tossed from a tray drops back while the lighter chaff blows away, making the weight difference do part of the work.