

Assessing with Primary Sources

Grade Level: Middle School (6-8)
Standard(s) or Objectives: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.6.1 - Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
 CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.6.6 - Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and explain how it is conveyed in the text.

Library of Congress Resources:



Jean Leon Gerome, *The First Thanksgiving 1621, 1932*.

<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2001699850/>

Topic Background:

Throughout history, people have given thanks – sometimes in joyful celebration, often in solemn, even prayerful, ceremony. The United States, over hundreds of years, has come to observe a national holiday for giving thanks.

Excerpted from:

http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/primarysourcesets/thanksgiving/pdf/teacher_guide.pdf

Source Used:

The source used for this assessment is 1932 painting of 1621 Thanksgiving celebration. The painter depicts Pilgrims and Native American Indians peacefully sharing a meal.

Multiple Choice Answer Key:

Question 1 – A
 Question 2 – B

Thanksgiving The First Thanksgiving 1621 (Painted in 1932 by Jean Leon Gerome)



Question:

1) Draw your attention to the section of the document in the green circle. What is the artist's main purpose for including this section of the painting in such an important place? (CCSS RI.6.6)

- The artist included this section of the painting in a central location because he wanted to emphasize the importance of the European people sharing their food with the Native American people.
- The artist included this section of the painting in a central location because he wanted to emphasize the importance of the Native American people sharing their food with European people.
- The artist included this section of the painting in a central location because he wanted to emphasize the inability of Native American cooperation with European people.
- The artist included this section of the painting in a central location because he wanted to emphasize how "savage" Native American people were.

2) What specific evidence in the painting would you most likely want to cite to support the following claim? (CCSS RI.6.1)

Claim: *This painting depicts relationships between Native American's and European people positively.*

- The purple and red circled areas
- The blue and green circled areas
- Only the green circled area
- Only the red circled area