

Part 2: Wampanoag

400 years ago the *Mayflower* set sail from England to America. In **Part 1** you met the travellers who sailed on that journey and now you will read more about the Native American tribes.

The Wampanoag Nation did not write their stories down like William Bradford and others did. They remember oral histories passed down over generations. These stories record how new English settlers dramatically changed the lives of Native Americans who had lived there for thousands of years. Understanding Native American culture today shows us the past and the present.

The exhibition '*Wampum: Stories from the Shells of Native America*' gives us an insight into the Wampanoag nation and allows us to explore their art and culture. In 2020 the Wampanoag created a new Wampum belt (25cm wide and 130cm long) which is made with 5000 hand crafted beads. It tells their story of creation and respect for the earth.



[Click here](#) to find out more

Making the 2020 Wampum Belt

At bit of background information...

Wampanoag

2020 is a very important anniversary. It is 400 years since the **Mayflower** sailed from England to America. On board the ship were men, women and children who were sailing to a new home across the Atlantic Ocean. As they travelled and settled they met the **Native American tribes** who had been living in North America for thousands of years.

The **Wampanoag** tribe were one of many **indigenous tribes** living along the east coast of America. They are known as the 'People of the First Light' and have lived there for 12,000 years. They helped the settlers to survive but many of them died from the new diseases that the European seafarers and settlers brought with them. Today there are 5,000 people living in two **Wampanoag** tribal reservations, **Mashpee** and **Aquinnah**, along with several small bands. These all make up the Wampanoag Nation.

Wampum Belt

The exhibition '**Wampum** Stories from the Shells of Native America' was created to tell the story of the making of a new Wampum Belt and its meaning. The belt is very very important to the Wampanoag and it connects them with their past and present as well as looking forward to the future. The Wampanoag

would like to find their most famous Wampum belt, **Metacom's** belt, which belonged to their leader and was lost in battle in 1676. They are still searching for this famous belt!

The making of a Wampum belt is a **collaborative** activity.

For 2020, over 100 Wampanoag people from different generations took part in making the new belt.

It is made from white **whelk** shells and purple **quahog** shells gathered from the coast. The belts were important and could be used personally or **politically**. The shells used to make the belt are crafted into beads (8-10mm x 4-6mm) and woven on natural fibres.

[Click here](#) to find out more



What else can you find out?

Research the words in green to find out more about the Wampanoag Nation. What impact did the new arrivals have on their way of life and culture?

Meanings, signs and symbols ...

Wampum belts have important meanings to the Wampanoag. The patterns can link to a village or tribe and were even used as peace treaties to encourage friendship.



2020 Wampum belt

The 2020 Wampum belt has special meanings shown by each picture or shape. Some examples are, the central **White Pine** showing the tree the Wampanoag believe created the people of the earth; a **turtle** to show the foundation of the land; a **bear** to show strength and the **howling wolf** to warn of danger. Belts were left unfinished so that future events could be added on and the story could continue...

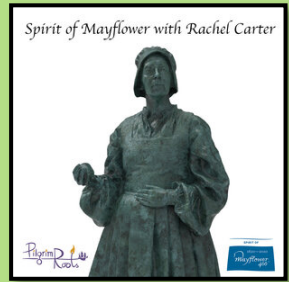
Have a go ...

1. Design a picture for a T shirt of your own family history
2. Tell or record your own oral family history story

Patterns can have hidden meanings. Draw a picture with hidden meanings or symbols about your family history. You might show the things you like best about your family or show an exciting event. Make sure you draw it with symbols and perhaps even logos.

Tell your family story as oral history. You may even want to record your story and include some sound effects!! Ask your family to join in so it is a shared story. Make a blog or vlog.

[Click here](#) to hear Artist Rachel Carter's blog about her journey in the footsteps of the Mayflower pilgrims.



Meanings, signs, symbols and friendship

3. Create your own Friendship Bracelet

Often the colours and shapes in a Friendship bracelet can have hidden meanings and symbols. When you make a bracelet for a family member or friend, choose colours and shapes that have meanings to you and them. Here is a simple design to get you started. Why not have a go...!



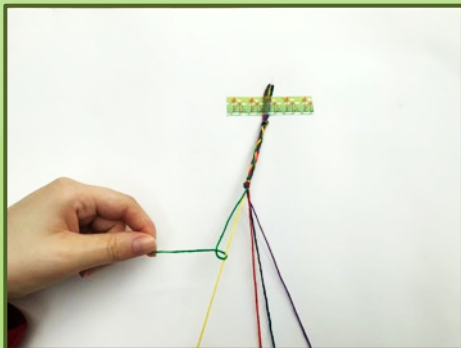
1. Choose your threads. This bracelet will have 5 colours.



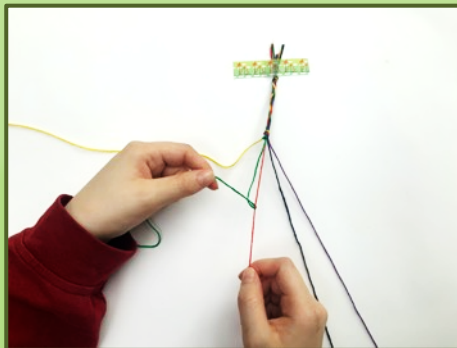
2. Cut the threads to equal lengths. You can always trim it later if too long. These threads are 80cms long.



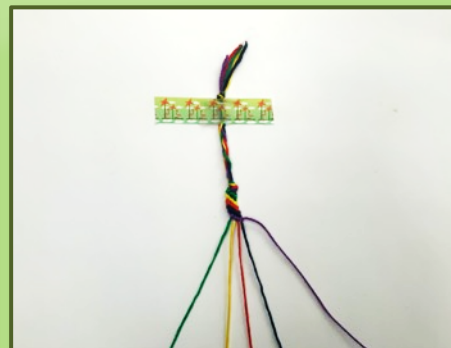
3. Knot the end and plait a length that will be used to tie the bracelet on. When long enough tie another knot. Tape your bracelet down so that it will be easier to make.



4. Lay your 5 threads out. Take the left hand thread (green) and knot it twice around the thread to the right (yellow).



5. Continue to knot the same thread (green) to each of the other threads in the same way from left to right. This thread will then be laid to the right of the others.



6. Take the next thread on the left (yellow) and repeat. Then repeat with each thread in the same way to build up your design.

Continued...

Meanings, signs, symbols and friendship



7. When you have the length you want then plait the threads as you did at the start.

8. Take each plait and use them to tie the Friendship bracelet on the wrist of your friend.

9. Show off your lovely bracelet with it's hidden meanings!

4. Mini Museum or Exhibition

Capture the story of your family by creating your own mini museum or exhibition. Include artefacts that are important to your story and write some interpretation about them. But please do not steal the family jewels!!



5. Lost Treasure Quest Board Game

Metacom's Wampum belt was very important to the Wampanoag Nation and they are still looking for it today.

Choose an item of treasure that is important to you and design an adventure quest board game to look for it.

Research the history of the Wampanoag Nation and this famous Wampum Belt. You will uncover culture and traditions that have lasted thousands of years!

Share Your Creations!

We would love to see your storyboard! Please send us your photos or tag us.

#InvestigateLearning

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