

# The Wampanoags and the First Thanksgiving





## What is winter like in Massachusetts?

This is the land near the Massachusetts ocean coast. In winter, cold winds blow. Snow covers the beaches, fields, and forests. Ponds and river edges freeze into ice.



# 1. Tell about the Massachusetts woods in winter.

*(main idea/supporting details)*

# 2. How is the winter scene like the one you created?

*(comparing and contrasting)*



SET 1

Slide 2



Birch trees lose their leaves in winter.  
The leaves grow back in spring.

Deer stay deep in the forest,  
away from the winds.

Pine trees have needles, which  
stay on the trees all year long.

Raccoons catch small  
fish along the river.

Beavers repair their lodges made  
of sticks, grass, and mud.

sparrow

eastern  
bluebird





## How did families work together?

Many years ago, the Wampanoag Indians were the only people living in the area around Massachusetts. They lived in extended families. Extended families included parents, brothers, sisters, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. Family members learned from each other and worked together.





SET 2

Slide 2

The Wampanoags used nature to tell time. The best time to plant is when the oak leaves are the size of a mouse's ear.

1. What jobs are people doing in this picture?

*(understanding visuals)*

2. How are these families like yours? How are they different?

*(connecting)*

Men made canoes by burning and scraping the insides of logs.

Women made mats from cattail leaves. These mats were used for house walls.

Women planted seeds that grew into vegetables.

Deerskin was made into clothes.

hoe



spade



scraper



ax



cattails







## What was life like in a Wampanoag village?

Families lived together in villages. The leader of the tribe was called the sachem. The sachem settled arguments. He helped people who needed food, clothing, and a place to live.

The Wampanoags traded with other tribes. They often traded animal furs for things they wanted or needed.

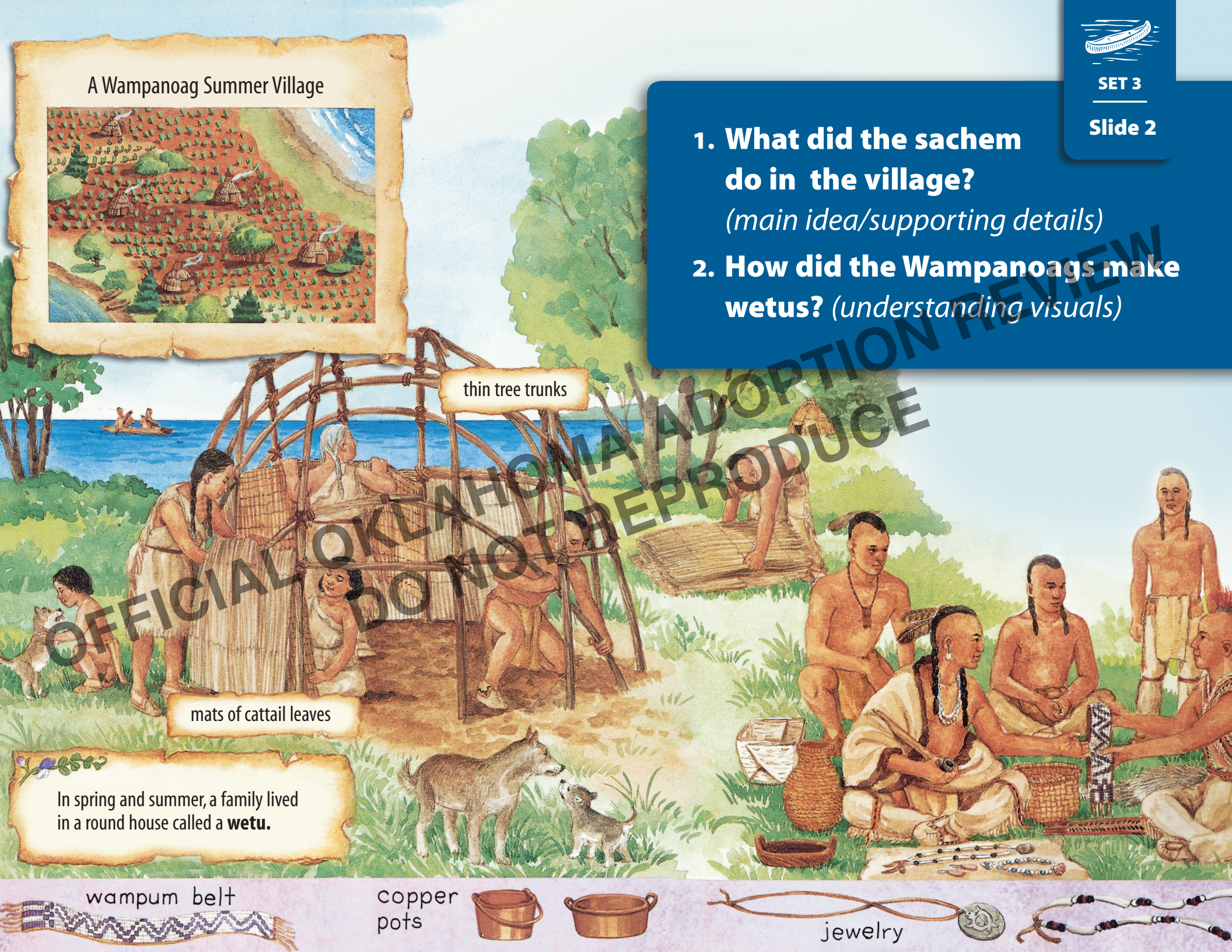




## A Wampanoag Summer Village



1. What did the sachem do in the village?  
(main idea/supporting details)
2. How did the Wampanoags make wetus?  
(understanding visuals)



thin tree trunks

mats of cattail leaves

In spring and summer, a family lived in a round house called a **wetu**.

wampum belt



copper pots



jewelry







## What did the Wampanoags do in summer?

In summer, the people gathered food to eat and to prepare for the long winter months. They cared for the fields so the crops could grow.

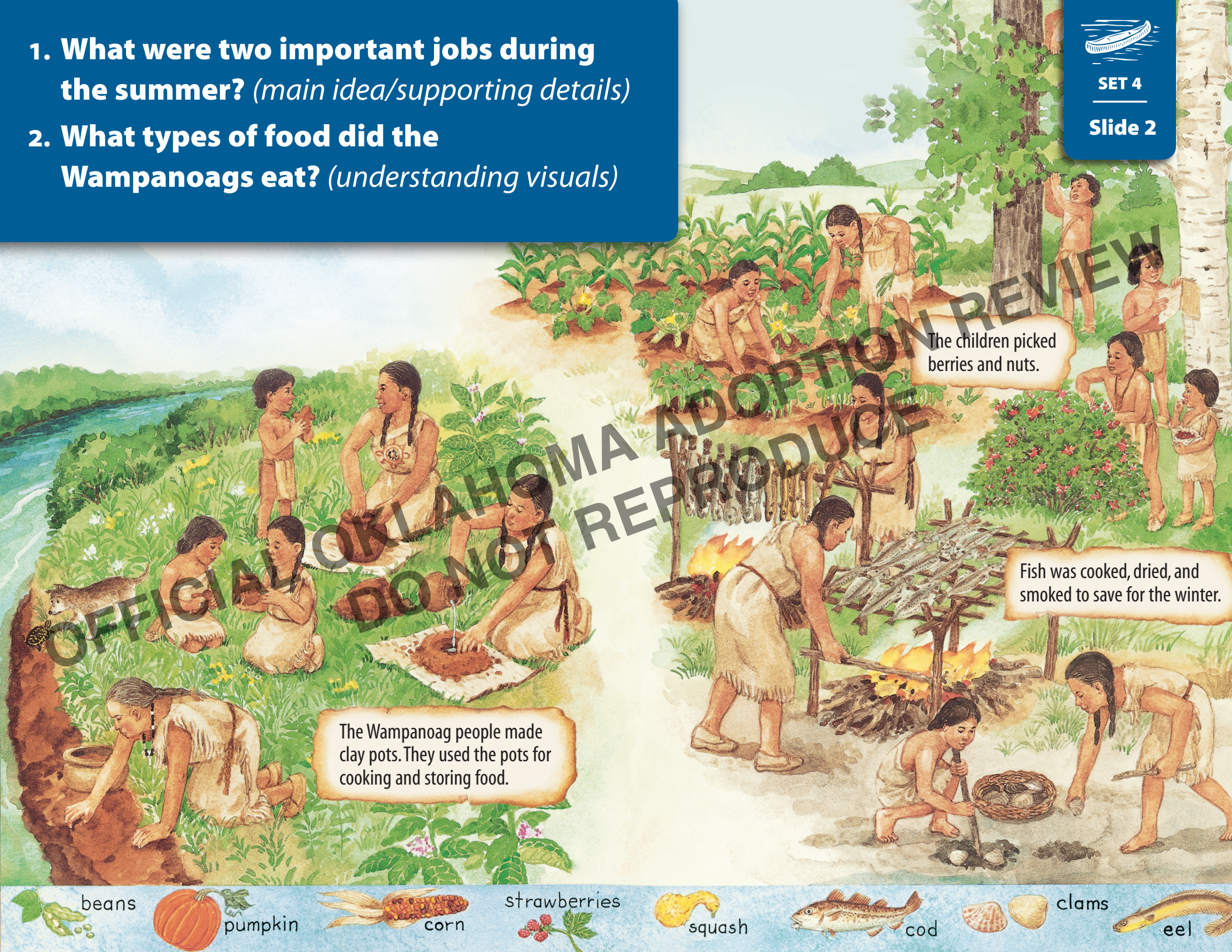


1. What were two important jobs during the summer? (main idea/supporting details)
2. What types of food did the Wampanoags eat? (understanding visuals)



SET 4

Slide 2



The children picked berries and nuts.

Fish was cooked, dried, and smoked to save for the winter.

The Wampanoag people made clay pots. They used the pots for cooking and storing food.

beans



pumpkin



corn

strawberries



squash



cod



clams



eel





## What did the Wampanoags do in the fall?

By late summer and early fall, the crops were ready to pick. Each year at this time, the Wampanoag people gathered to give thanks to Kiehtan, the Great Spirit, for a good harvest. They celebrated with a feast.



**1. Why did the Wampanoags celebrate in the fall? Tell how they celebrated.**

*(main idea/supporting details)*

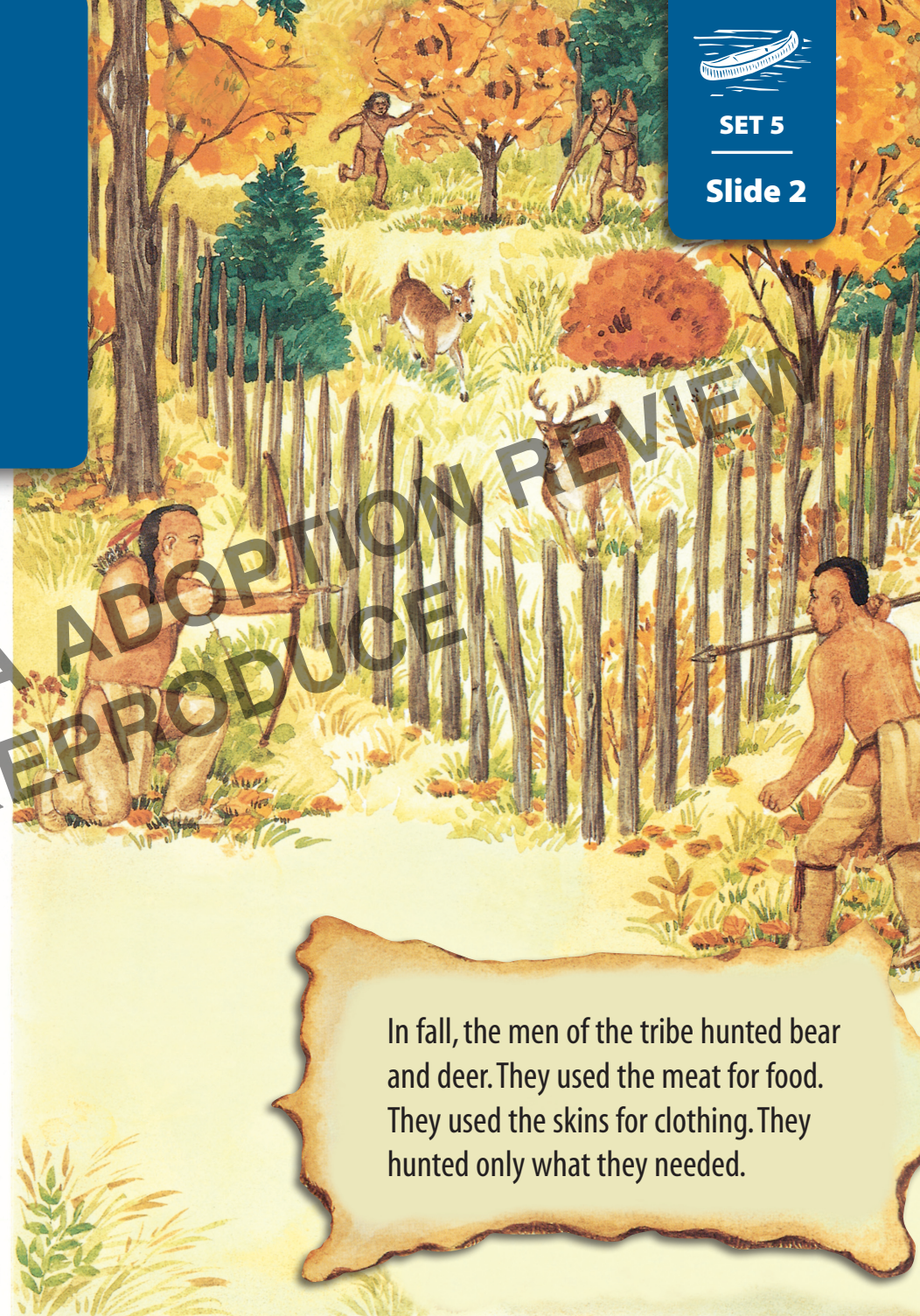
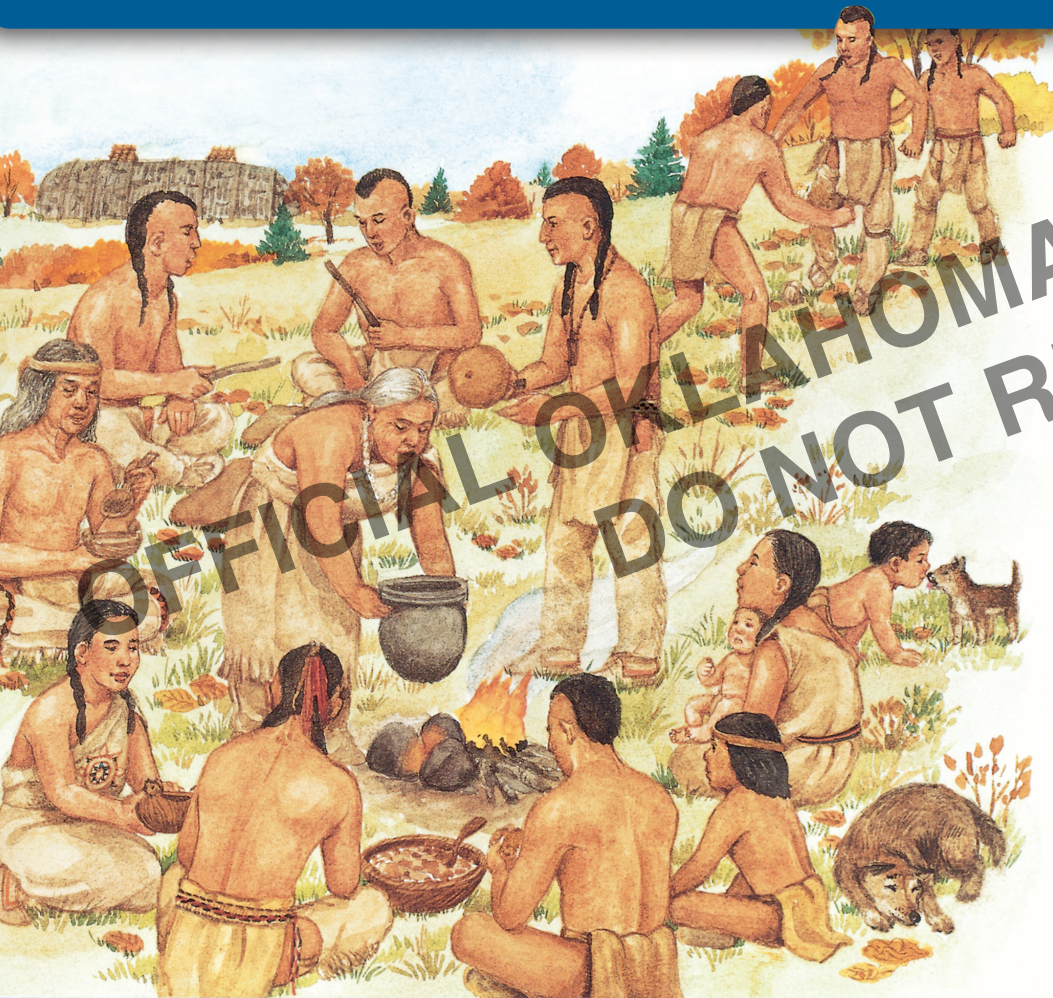
**2. Use the picture to explain how the Wampanoag men hunted.**

*(understanding visuals)*

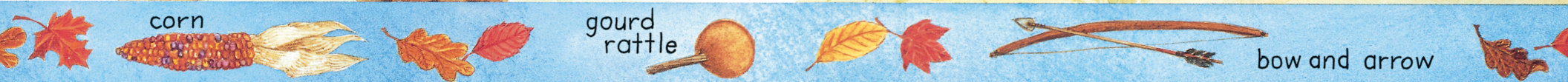


SET 5

Slide 2



In fall, the men of the tribe hunted bear and deer. They used the meat for food. They used the skins for clothing. They hunted only what they needed.







## What did the Wampanoags do in winter?

After the harvest, the Wampanoag people returned to the winter village in the valley. The hills and forests protected the Wampanoag people from the cold winds.

Here, the people lived in longhouses. A few families lived in each longhouse.





SET 6

Slide 2

A Wampanoag Winter Village



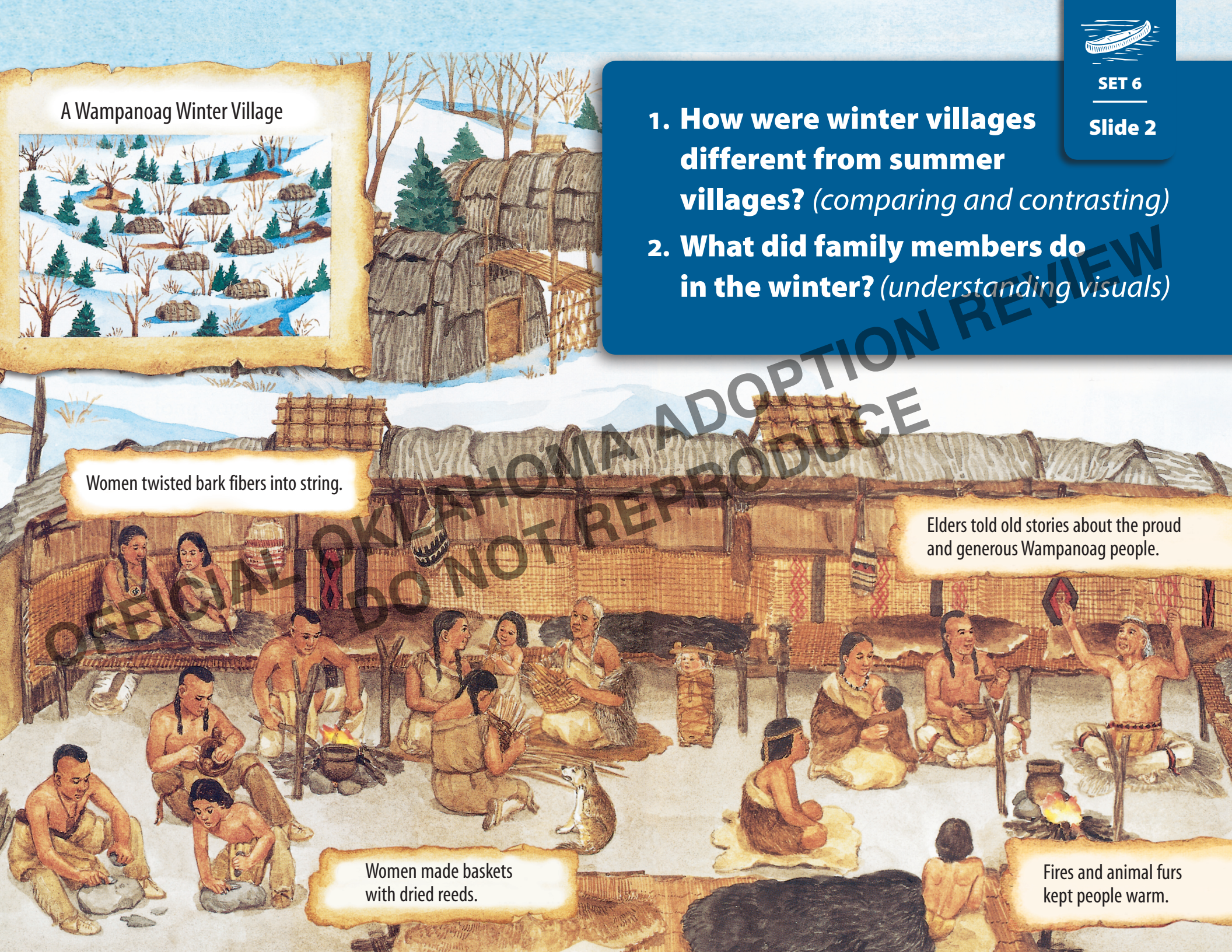
1. How were winter villages different from summer villages? *(comparing and contrasting)*
2. What did family members do in the winter? *(understanding visuals)*

Women twisted bark fibers into string.

Elders told old stories about the proud and generous Wampanoag people.

Women made baskets with dried reeds.

Fires and animal furs kept people warm.







## Who were the Pilgrims?

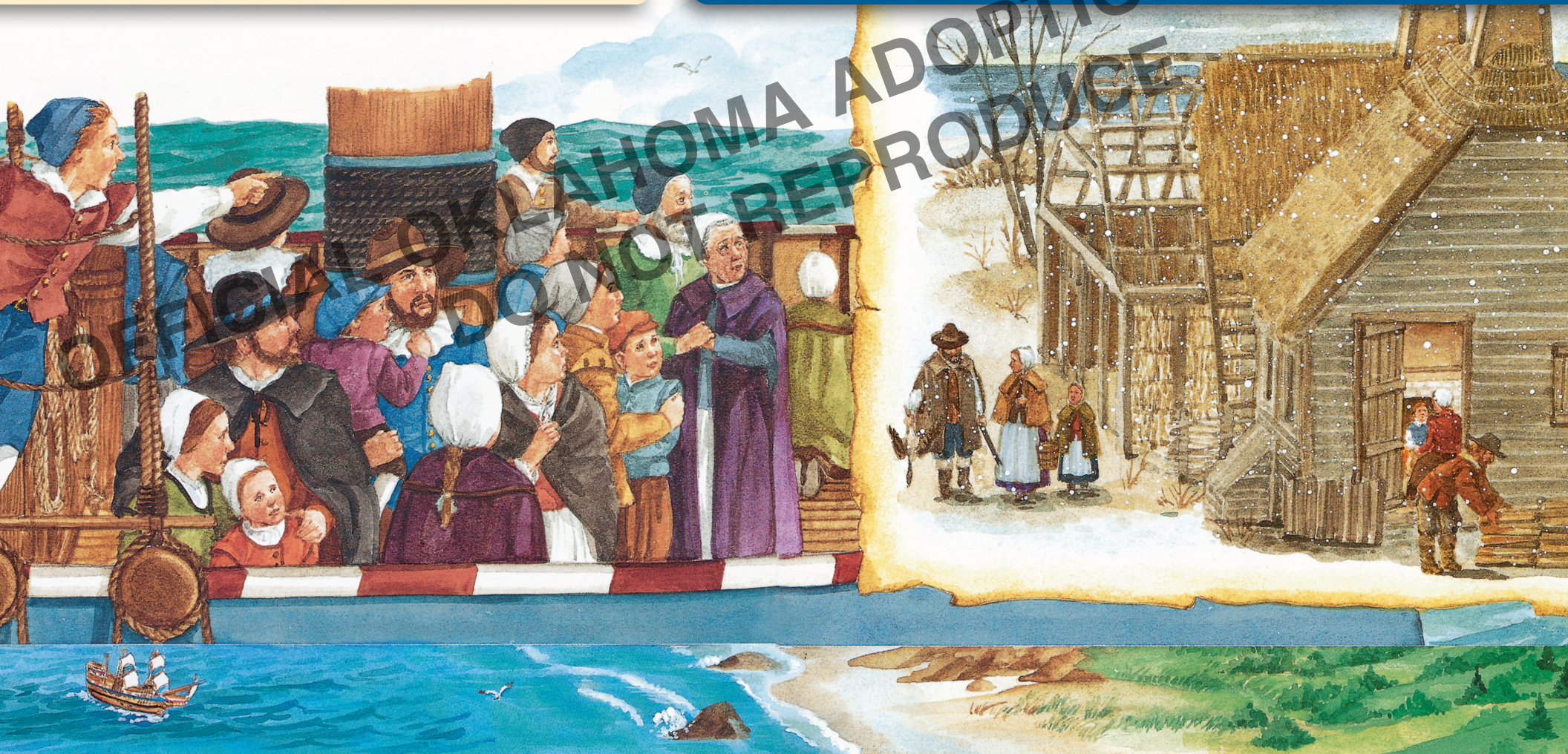
On the other side of the ocean, the King of England ordered all citizens to join the Church of England. But some people wanted to worship in their own way. These people decided to set sail for another place to live. They were called Pilgrims because they were starting a long journey for religious reasons.





It was the beginning of a harsh winter when the Pilgrims started building their houses. Food was running out. The Pilgrims did not know how to survive in this new place. Many got sick and died.

1. **Why did the Pilgrims leave their homes?** *(main idea supporting details)*
2. **What was hard for the Pilgrims when they arrived?** *(main idea/supporting details)*







## How did the Wampanoags help the Pilgrims?

After the harsh winter, the warm spring days brought hope to the Pilgrims. An Indian named Samoset visited them. A few days later, Samoset returned with the Wampanoag sachem, Massasoit, and another man named Squanto.



The Pilgrims traded tools,  
pots, and glass for animal skins  
from the Wampanoag people.  
But the Wampanoags gave much  
more than that.



SET 8

Slide 2

**1. How were the Wampanoags  
helpful to the Pilgrims?**

*(main idea/ supporting details)*

**2. What did the Pilgrims and Wampanoags  
trade? (main idea/supporting details)**

Squanto taught the Pilgrims  
how to fish and hunt.

Squanto taught the Pilgrims how to  
grow corn, beans, and pumpkins.



net

harpoon

fish hook

kettle

plate

glass  
bottle





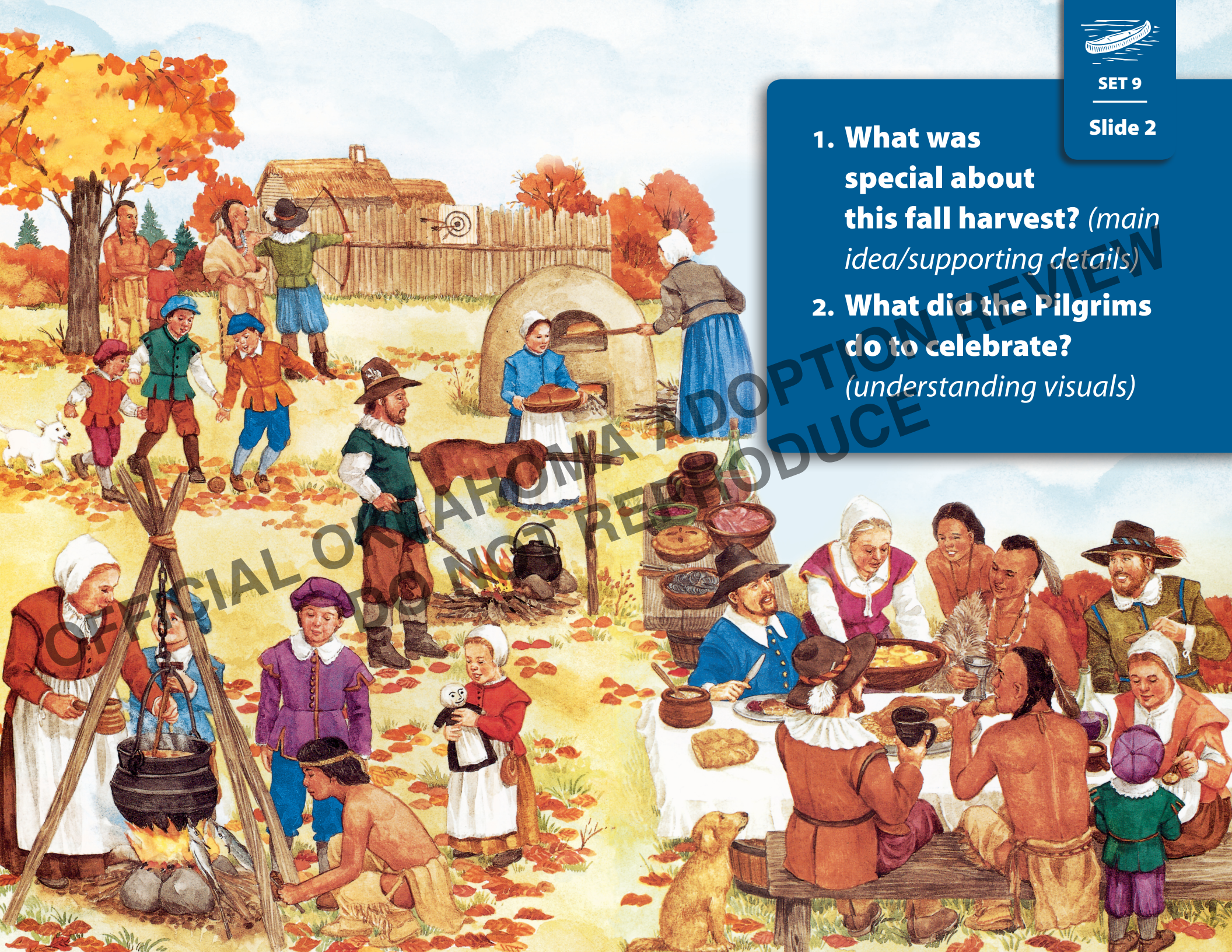
## Why were the Pilgrims thankful?

The Pilgrims' fall harvest was bountiful. It was finally time to celebrate! The Pilgrims invited the Wampanoag people to a harvest festival. Together, the Pilgrims and the Wampanoags gave thanks for the gifts of food and friendship.





1. What was special about this fall harvest? *(main idea/supporting details)*
2. What did the Pilgrims do to celebrate? *(understanding visuals)*







## How do the Wampanoags live today?

Today, most Wampanoag land is taken up by roads and towns. The Wampanoags live and work like people everywhere. But they also keep their traditions alive. They celebrate the way their ancestors did and wear traditional clothes on special occasions.





At powwows and festivals, Wampanoag people often wear traditional clothes.



This Wampanoag woman works for the Tribal Council office.

1. How are Wampanoags the same today as in the past?  
(comparing and contrasting)
2. How are they like you?  
(connecting)



At this festival, Wampanoags show people how to do a traditional hunting dance.



Wampanoag artists use shells and beads to make beautiful jewelry.

