Help at Plymouth

Read how an alliance and one man's knowledge helped a settlement survive.

5.C.1.10.B "early alliances with the Wampanoag under the leadership of Ousamequin (Massasoit) and the importance of Tisquantum (Squanto) to Plymouth's survival"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the two promises in the alliance, circle two ways Tisquantum helped, and write 1 beside a sentence that shows why this help mattered to Plymouth's survival.

A Difficult First Year

1. In the winter of 1620 to 1621, English settlers at Plymouth faced hunger, cold, and sickness. Many died before spring. Plymouth stood near the former Patuxet village, where disease had killed many people before the settlers arrived. The settlers knew little about the land around them. They needed food and peaceful relations with their Wampanoag neighbors to have a better chance of surviving.

2. In spring 1621, Ousamequin, also called Massasoit, was a Wampanoag leader. He and Plymouth's leaders made an agreement to live in peace. Each side promised not to harm the other and to help if the other was attacked. This early alliance could protect both groups. For the settlers, it also made it easier to seek food and build a home without fighting their neighbors.

3. Tisquantum, also called Squanto, was a Patuxet man who spoke English. Years earlier, he had been taken across the ocean against his will. After returning home, he helped the Plymouth settlers talk with Wampanoag people. He also showed the settlers ways to plant corn and find food nearby. His knowledge helped them grow food, while his language skills helped them work with their neighbors.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How could the agreement between Ousamequin and Plymouth's leaders make both groups safer?

2. Besides protection from attacks, how could peace with Wampanoag neighbors help the Plymouth settlers survive?

3. How did Tisquantum's knowledge of the land help the settlers meet a basic need?

4. Why were Tisquantum's English skills important to the settlers' relations with Wampanoag people?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write four sentences from the view of a Plymouth settler in spring 1621. Explain how the alliance and Tisquantum each helped, then describe a challenge the settlement might face if one kind of help were missing.

ANSWER KEY

Help at Plymouth

GRADE 5 · 5.C.1.10.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the two promises in the alliance, circle two ways Tisquantum helped, and write 1 beside a sentence that shows why this help mattered to Plymouth's survival. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How could the agreement between Ousamequin and Plymouth's leaders make both groups safer?	**Both groups promised not to harm each other and to help if the other was attacked.**
2	Besides protection from attacks, how could peace with Wampanoag neighbors help the Plymouth settlers survive?	**Peace made it easier for settlers to seek food and build a home without fighting their neighbors.**
3	How did Tisquantum's knowledge of the land help the settlers meet a basic need?	**He showed them ways to plant corn and find food nearby, helping them get food.**
4	Why were Tisquantum's English skills important to the settlers' relations with Wampanoag people?	**His English skills helped the settlers talk and work with their Wampanoag neighbors.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I am a Plymouth settler, and spring has brought hard choices after a deadly winter. Our agreement with Ousamequin and his people promises peace and help if either group is attacked. Tisquantum speaks English and shows us how to plant corn and find food nearby. Without his guidance, we might struggle to grow enough to eat.

For the marking job, accept any two stated ways Tisquantum helped and a sentence connecting peace, food, or cooperation to survival. For the final response, accept a plausible challenge rather than a claim that failure was certain.