

# Squanto

Friend, Helper, Guide and Teacher

In chilly November of 1620, the Pilgrims came to America on the *Mayflower*. They had very little food and they needed to survive. They cut trees and built simple houses in Plymouth the first winter. But the Pilgrims were not farmers. A Native American from the Patuxet tribe was introduced to the Pilgrims. He had learned English while being held captive by fishermen and instantly became a great friend to the English settlers, our Pilgrim ancestors.

As a *friend*, Squanto helped the children find native berries in the woods. As a *helper*, he introduced the Pilgrims to other Native American tribes, such as the Wampanoag. As a *guide*, Squanto showed the Pilgrims where to hunt and how eel hide in the muddy bottom of Town Brook. In the early spring, Squanto as a *teacher*, taught the Pilgrims how to plant fish in the soil with the corn seeds for a bountiful harvest.



Squanto showing a Pilgrim how  
to plant corn in a mound of dirt  
with herring as a fertilizer.

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