



THE INSTITUTE FOR
AMERICAN INDIAN STUDIES
museum & research center

Activity Ideas For *The Hartford Courant's* “News in Education” Articles

The Institute for American Indian Studies’ Education Department has been writing articles for *the Hartford Courant's* “News in Education” website. The activities below go along with the articles, which are aligned with Common Core Standards and are intended for various reading levels. Please feel free to modify the activities to fit your situation. Questions or comments can be directed to education@iaismuseum.org. Thank you for the important role you play in our communities.

Link to Articles: <https://www.nieonline.com/courantnie/iais.cfm>

Article 3: “Food For Thought: Native Americans and Thanksgiving”

Suggested Reading Level: Grades 4-8

- *Thanksgiving*: While the history around the Thanksgiving holiday celebrated today is complicated, particularly for Native Americans, the concept of giving thanks is one that anyone can participate in. Have your students write a paragraph explaining what, or who, they are most thankful for in their lives and why.
- *Celebrating Cultural Differences*: Different cultures often have different celebrations, or different ways of celebrating certain holidays. Have students write about a holiday meal that their family eats or a tradition that their family practices.
 - If they are writing about their own family or culture, have them talk with their parents or another trusted adult in their community who may be able to explain why they practice certain traditions or what makes a certain meal or dish special for that occasion.

- You could also have students research cultural traditions from another culture or country, but you would want to guide them to or help them find reputable sources and be careful that they are not misrepresenting other cultures, particularly if they are sharing information with their peers.