

## Let's Visit Plymouth Rock | Lesson Plan

How do friendship and cooperation contribute to building a strong community, and how have these values shaped America's history?

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Students learn the significance of teamwork and promise-keeping as American values, echoing the historical cooperation between the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag tribe.

### Learning Objectives:

- Recognize the significance of Plymouth Rock as an important historical landmark in American history.
- Understand the role of the pilgrims and Native Americans (specifically the Wampanoag tribe) in early American history.
- Recognize the importance of friendship, cooperation, and promise-keeping as modeled by the characters Otto and Smidge.

### Key Vocabulary:

- **Pilgrims:** A group of English Puritans who traveled by boat to America on a ship called the *Mayflower*
- **Native Americans:** Also known as American Indians, the indigenous peoples of the North American continent
- **Plymouth Rock:** The traditional landing site of the *Mayflower*
- **Wampanoag:** Meaning "People of the First Light," one of many indigenous Native American tribes
- **Cooperation:** Working together to get something done

**Educational Standards:** CCRA.R.1, CCRA.L.2, CCRA.W.4, CCRA.R.7, CCRA.SL.1, CCRA.SL.2

**Academic Subject Areas:** America, American Values, History

### What You'll Need

- Video: *Otto's Tales: Let's Visit Plymouth Rock* (Watch [Here](#))
- Book (Optional): *Otto's Tales: Let's Visit Plymouth Rock* (Purchase [Here](#))
- Coloring Page: *Otto's Tales: Let's Visit Plymouth Rock* (Click [Here](#))
- Colored yarn precut to bracelet length for each child
- Online image of the painting *The First Thanksgiving* by Jean Louis Gerome Ferris
- Drawing paper and coloring supplies (Optional)

### Lesson Plan (45 minutes)



### Warm-Up: (10 minutes)

1. Start by setting the stage for today's lesson, which will focus on the roles of friendship and cooperation in American history and communities. Show the painting by Jean Louis Gerome Ferris to the students.
2. Introduce the enduring question for the day: "*How do friendship and cooperation contribute to building a strong community, and how have these values shaped America's history?*"
3. Initiate a classroom discussion by asking questions to get students thinking about friendship and cooperation. For example:
  - What do you see happening in this painting?
4. Ask students to share their observations about what they see.
5. Wrap up the discussion by telling the students to keep these ideas in mind as they watch the adventures of Otto and Smidge, which will provide examples of these themes in the context of American history.

### Watch and Complete: (20 minutes)

1. Play the video *Otto's Tales: Let's Visit Plymouth Rock* for the students.
2. Pause at opportune moments in the video to ask questions and check for understanding of key vocabulary words and their meaning.
3. Ask students to identify one of the problems that Otto and Smidge encountered in the video and how they solved it.
4. Bring up the enduring question again by discussing the teamwork between different characters in the video. Then, invite the students to consider how similar collaborations have been important in American history. Encourage them to think about instances where people working together made a big difference.
5. Give each student 2-3 pieces of precut-colored yarn. Show them how to tie the yarn into a simple bracelet.
6. Once the bracelets are made, use this moment to discuss what the characters Otto and Smidge learned about friendship in the story.

### Wrap-Up: (10-15 minutes)

1. After the students have made their friendship bracelets, organize a sharing session.
2. Ask each student to choose one word or draw a simple picture representing friendship or cooperation (e.g., friends, help, teamwork, love, etc.)
3. Assess the student's ability to choose appropriate words or symbols related to friendship and cooperation.
4. End by reiterating the importance of being good friends and helpers in their daily lives.

### **Don't have time for the full lesson? Quick Activity (15-20 minutes)**

Distribute the coloring page and allow students to complete it while they follow along with the video.