



Pete the Cat: The First Thanksgiving

By Kimberly and James Dean

Pete the Cat explains the history behind Thanksgiving during his class play.

READ

Before: Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, what do you think this story is about? Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an “I wonder” statement based on the cover illustration.

I wonder how Pete the Cat celebrates Thanksgiving?

During: Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out “rare words” (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words

Pilgrim-early US settlers from Europe

Mayflower-ship that brought Pilgrims to America

New World-the name the Pilgrims had for America

shelters-temporary protection from bad weather or danger

Native Americans-people originally from North America

After: Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Who is Pete the Cat playing in the class play?
- How did the Pilgrims get to the New World?
- What happened when the Pilgrims saw land?
- Did the Pilgrims like the New World?
- Who did the Pilgrims make friends with?
- Why did the Pilgrims and the Native Americans celebrate?
- What are you thankful for?



DO

Turkey Hats

Materials:

- paper plates
- construction paper
- paint
- googly eyes
- glue
- ribbon or string

Instructions:

1. Cut the paper plates in half and paint them brown.
2. While they dry, trace your hands on feather colored construction paper and cut out the feathers. Attach them to the back of the turkey using glue.
3. Using paint or construction paper make a beak for the turkey. Glue on the eyes.
4. Punch holes in the corners of the turkey and attach ribbon to tie it around your head.