

<b>Lesson Plan</b>	
Course Title	The National Day of Mourning Educational Resource
Course Month	November
Audience	REHS Team Members
Total Time	27 minutes

<b>Learning Objectives</b>	
<b>By completing this session, the learner will be able to:</b>	
1.	Identify and describe the importance of why Indigeneous people called for a National Day of Mourning
2.	Why US Thanksgiving is problematic and brings up painful memories for Indigeneous people
3.	Identify resources for ongoing learning

Delivery Method	Content	Materials	Obj #	Est. Time
Present and Discuss	<p><b>READ</b></p> <p><b>Setting a Tone:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We are all on a journey of learning and expanding our knowledge of this topic. It is NOT an expectation that you come into this presentation or discussion with a lot of in-depth knowledge about the topic. It is an expectation that you will engage with the material with an open mind and an ear for hearing new information.</li> <li>There may be some content, terminology, concepts with which you are unfamiliar. That is okay. If there are questions for which we do not have an answer, we can refer you to a resource that can answer that question.</li> </ul> <p><b>Setting Ground Rules:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be fully present and participate</li> <li>Push yourself outside of your comfort zone – the most learning happens when we are a little bit uncomfortable.</li> <li>Listen respectfully, share airtime, and encourage others to participate.</li> <li>It's ok for us all to be at different places with the things we discuss today.</li> <li>Show respect for one another's beliefs, values, and experiences.</li> <li>Understand intent, own your impact.</li> </ul>	Slide #1	1	2 min

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Vegas Rule – The learning can leave but the names and stories stay here.</li> <li>● Others? (allow the group to add their own ground rules)</li> </ul>			
Present and Discuss	<p>Introduction:</p> <p><b>READ</b></p> <p>Today’s topics will include talking about The National Day of Mourning, The History of The National Day of Mourning, The Truth of Thanksgiving, and Ways to Honor and Support the Indigeneous community.</p> <p>The National Day of Mourning is an annual day of remembrance and protest organized by the United American Indians of New England (UAINE). Held each year on Cole’s Hill in Plymouth overlooking the famed Plymouth Rock, the National Day of Mourning provides the space for Indigeneous People to speak about their history and the struggles they experience at the hands of the United States government.</p> <p>The National Day of Mourning began in 1970 as a form of protest to the 350th anniversary celebration of the arrival of the Pilgrims. The 350th celebration was organized to celebrate the glorified, and largely false, narrative of Wampanoag-Pilgrim relations in the 1620s.</p> <p>It is a solemn, spiritual and highly political day where Indigeneous people mourn for their ancestors, the genocide of their people, the theft of their lands, and the continued suffering of their people.</p>	Slide #2	1	3 min
		Slide #3	1	
Present and Discuss	<p>Introduction:</p> <p><b>READ</b></p> <p>Part of the mission behind the event is to educate Americans about the history of Thanksgiving.</p> <p>For many Americans, the popular story of the first Thanksgiving often goes like this: in 1620, the Pilgrims had recently arrived in what is today Plymouth, Massachusetts—the traditional lands of the Wampanoag and Massachusett people—and were faced with a cold and bitter winter.</p>	Slide #4	2	2 min

	<p>The Wampanoag people noticed their plight and generously provided the Pilgrims with the means to survive. To provide thanks, the Pilgrims welcomed the Wampanoags to a harmonious feast. This narrative is shared in classrooms across America every year, has persisted in public memory, and is deeply embedded in the national identity of the United States.</p> <p>However, like many exceptionalist narratives in American history, this story is a one-sided understanding that glorifies colonization and ignores the full truth of history, particularly for the Indigenous People of the United States.</p> <p>Organized by United American Indians of New England (UAINEN) during a period of Native American activism, the march has brought about revisions in the depiction of United States history and government and settler relationships with Native American people as well as a renewed appreciation for their culture.</p> <p>Thanksgiving is an important reminder that not everything is as it seems and for Indigenous people this day means something completely different.</p> <p><b>PLAY Video</b></p>	Slide #5	2	4 min
Present	<p>Importance: <b>READ</b></p> <p>As part of the celebration, organizers approached Wamsutta (Frank) James, a Wampanoag man, to give an appreciative speech. The speech that James was set to deliver at the celebration was censored because it was not in line with the mythological story celebration organizers were set on sharing. James declined to deliver a scripted speech at the celebration, and instead the suppressed speech was delivered at the first National Day of Mourning.</p> <p>In the <a href="#">suppressed speech</a>, James shared how the consequences of colonial settlement have impacted the Wampanoag people. James' speech includes the harsh truths for those who have grown accustomed to the narrative of harmony. The reality of the early relations with Indigenous People and the first</p>	Slide #6, 7, 8	2	3 min

	<p>Thanksgiving in what would become the United States is one marked by epidemics, robbery, and violence.</p> <p>While the suppressed speech was marked by great sorrow and truth, it also speaks of the resilience of the Indigenous People of the Americas and the enduring presence of their language and practices. James explained, "Today, I and many of my people are choosing to face the truth. We ARE Indians! Although time has drained our culture, and our language is almost extinct, we the Wampanoags still walk the lands of Massachusetts."</p>			
Present	<p>Importance: <b>PLAY VIDEO</b></p> <p><b>Ask</b> - How does this video make you feel? Did you know the truth about Thanksgiving?</p>	Slide #9	2	4 min
Present	<p>Importance: <b>READ</b></p> <p>The reason the United States talks about the pilgrims and not an earlier English-speaking colony, Jamestown, is that in Jamestown the circumstances were way too ugly to hold up as an effective national myth. For example, the white settlers in Jamestown turned to cannibalism to survive. Not a very nice story to tell the kids in school.</p> <p>The pilgrims did not find an empty land any more than Columbus "discovered" anything. Every inch of this land is Indian land. The pilgrims (who did not even call themselves pilgrims) did not come here seeking religious freedom; they already had that in Holland. They came here as part of a commercial venture.</p> <p>They introduced sexism, racism, anti-lesbian and gay bigotry, jails, and the class system to these shores. One of the very first things they did when they arrived on Cape Cod -- before they even made it to Plymouth -- was to rob Wampanoag graves at Corn Hill and steal as much of the Indians' winter provisions as they were able to carry.</p>	Slide #10, 11	2	3 min

	They were no better than any other group of Europeans when it came to their treatment of the Indigenous peoples.. And no, they did not even land at that sacred shrine called Plymouth Rock, a monument to racism and oppression which the UAINE are proud to say they buried it in 1995.			
Present	<p>Importance: <b>READ</b></p> <p>As a holiday, Thanksgiving began in 1637 when it was proclaimed by governor John Winthrop of the Massachusetts Bay Colony to celebrate the safe return of the men who had gone to fight against the Pequot in Mystic, Connecticut. The fighting led to the enslavement and massacre of over 700 men, women, and children from the New England-based tribe, a bloody precursor to what would be centuries of strife for native peoples in the U.S.</p>	Slide #12, 13	2	2 min
Present	<p>Importance: <b>READ</b></p> <p>Here is a Timeline of events: in 1620, Pilgrims arrived. English separatist Puritans, who had broken away from the Church of England, landed at Plymouth Rock. Today we refer to them as Pilgrims.</p> <p>In 1970, National Day of Mourning Began. The 1st annual protest takes place.</p> <p>In 1997, protests got violent. State troopers used force against protesters who gathered together to observe the 28th annual National Day of Mourning.</p>	Slide #14	2	2 min
Present	<p>Importance: <b>READ</b></p> <p>The UAINE is livestreaming from Plymouth, Massachusetts the National Day of Mourning on Thursday, November 25th 2021 at 12 noon from their website.</p> <p>They are also taking donations via their GoFundMe fundraiser to help defray the costs of the day and many other efforts throughout the year.</p>	Slide #15	3	1 min

	You can also join their Facebook group for updates on National Day of Mourning this year.			
Present	<p>Sources: <b>READ</b></p> <p>Thank you for your time and attention as we engaged in learning together. If you have additional questions or would like to continue the conversation, please feel free to reach out to our REHS Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Team</p>	Slide #16	3	1 min