

## SENECA THANKSGIVING

CCSSR1—read carefully/thoughtfully; CCSSR2—figure out a central idea; CCSSW1—inspire

**Background** The Seneca people were the largest group of the League of the Iroquois, a tribe of Native Americans. Today, about 7,000 Seneca live in New York, Ontario, and Pennsylvania.

**The Ceremony** The leaders of the group would hold a thanksgiving ceremony when they gathered together for an important occasion.

Here are a few of the statements of appreciation from the Seneca ceremony:

- ❖ **The earth, which holds up our feet.**
- ❖ **The young, who are taking their places among us.**
- ❖ **The elders, who share their wisdom with us.**
- ❖ **The birds, that are always free.**
- ❖ **The faith-givers, who help us in many ways.**

### THINK IT THROUGH

**Analyze:** Classify what the Seneca appreciate. Label the columns in the chart. Then draw pictures or list words to show examples for each column.

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*Respond to these questions and tasks on another page.*

**Analyze:** What does the chart show about what was important to the Seneca? Why do you think so?

**Infer:** What else might be included in the ceremony? Add it to your chart.

**SYNTHESIZE:** Create your own thanksgiving ceremony.