

Name _____

Historical Voices Answer Key

This assignment is based on creative expression and historical empathy. A strong response should meet the following criteria:

- **Historical Accuracy (Part 1):** Mentions things like wood smoke, linen clothing, harvesting corn, or gathering nuts. It should not mention modern technology.
- **Modern Context (Part 2):** Mentions things like cars, ovens, television, or specific modern foods like mashed potatoes or pie.
- **Sensory Details:** Includes at least one sight, sound, or smell for each entry.
- **Grammar:** Uses first person perspective (I, me, my) and proper 4th or 5th grade level sentence structure.

Teacher Guide

Engagement Tips

- **Sensory Stations:** Before writing, have students smell a piece of wood or dried corn for the 1621 prompt, and then smell a modern candle or spice for the 2025 prompt to trigger descriptive language.
- **Role Play:** Have two students come to the front of the class. One acts as the historical child and one as the modern child. Have them "interview" each other about their day.

Differentiation

- **For Struggling Writers:** Provide a list of "Topic Sentences" to help them start each entry (e.g., "The smoke from the fire makes my eyes sting as I...")
- **For Advanced Learners:** Require students to include a specific **conflict** in each entry. For example, the 1621 child might worry about winter supplies, while the 2025 child might be frustrated by a long car ride.

Extension Ideas

- **The Time Capsule:** Have students fold their paper in half. On the 1621 side, they can draw a tool used in the past (like a wooden bucket). On the 2025 side, they can draw a modern tool (like a microwave).