



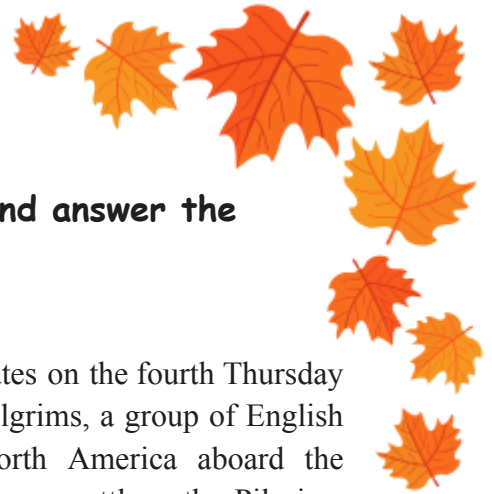
THANKSGIVING ACTIVITIES



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The history of Thanksgiving



Read the text about the history of Thanksgiving and answer the questions that follow:

Thanksgiving is an important holiday celebrated in the United States on the fourth Thursday of November. Its origins can be traced back to 1621 when the Pilgrims, a group of English settlers trying to escape religious persecution, arrived in North America aboard the *Mayflower*. After a harsh winter that resulted in the deaths of many settlers, the Pilgrims sought help from the Wampanoag, a Native American tribe. The Wampanoag taught the Pilgrims vital farming techniques, enabling them to cultivate crops such as corn, beans, and squash.

In the fall of 1621, the Pilgrims celebrated their first successful harvest with a three-day feast. They invited the Wampanoag to join them, marking what is often considered the “First Thanksgiving.” This event was not just about food; it symbolized cooperation and friendship between the two groups during a challenging time.

Over the years, Thanksgiving evolved into a national holiday. In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed it a day of “Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens.” Today, Thanksgiving is a time for families and friends to come together and reflect on what they are grateful for. Traditional foods served at Thanksgiving dinner include roast turkey, stuffing, cranberry sauce, and pumpkin pie.

In contemporary society, Thanksgiving is often accompanied by various traditions, such as watching parades, playing football, and volunteering to help those in need. Many people also



take time to express their gratitude, either verbally or through written notes. While Thanksgiving has its roots in historical events, it has transformed into a celebration of unity, gratitude, and the importance of family and community. This holiday reminds us to appreciate the good things in our lives and the relationships we cherish.

1. Who were the Pilgrims and where did they come from?
2. What challenges did the Pilgrims face during their first winter in America?

3. **How did the Wampanoag Native Americans assist the Pilgrims?**
4. **What was the purpose of the feast held in the fall of 1621?**
5. **Who proclaimed Thanksgiving a national holiday, and when was it?**
6. **How has the meaning of Thanksgiving evolved over the years?**



Now read another text about the myths and misconceptions surrounding this holiday and decide if the sentences that follow are True or False:

Thanksgiving is a beloved holiday in the United States, but many people hold misconceptions about its origins and celebrations. One common myth is that the first Thanksgiving was a harmonious event between the Pilgrims and Native Americans. In reality, the relationship between these groups was complex and often strained. While they did share a meal in 1621, this was not the beginning of a lasting friendship.

Another myth is that Thanksgiving has always been celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November. In fact, the date was only officially established in 1941. Before that, various presidents declared different dates for the holiday, leading to confusion among the states.

Additionally, many people believe that turkey has always been the central dish of Thanksgiving. While turkey is now a traditional favorite, early settlers likely ate a variety of foods, including venison and seafood.

Lastly, some assume Thanksgiving is purely a time for family and friends. However, many individuals and organizations use this holiday to promote community service and help those in need, reminding us of the importance of gratitude and giving back.

Are the sentences True or False?

1. The first Thanksgiving was a completely harmonious event between the Pilgrims and Native Americans.
2. Thanksgiving has always been celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November.
3. The date for Thanksgiving was officially established in 1941.
4. Turkey has always been the main dish at Thanksgiving dinners.
5. Many people use Thanksgiving as an opportunity to promote community service.





Read an article online about overlooked Thanksgiving rituals according to sociologists:

<https://www.mentalfloss.com/article/13149/7-overlooked-thanksgiving-rituals-according-to-sociologists>

Do you have similar traditions in your cultural environment? What is your favourite family tradition concerning the holidays? Write your ideas in a paragraph:



Thanksgiving Text Teacher's B2

Answers to the History of Thanksgiving:

1 Who were the Pilgrims and where did they come from?

The Pilgrims were a group of English settlers trying to escape religious persecution. They came to America in 1621 on the Mayflower

2 What challenges did the Pilgrims face during their first winter in America?

The Pilgrims faced a harsh winter, resulting in the deaths of many settlers due to cold and hunger.

3 How did the Wampanoag Native Americans assist the Pilgrims?

The Wampanoag taught the Pilgrims vital farming techniques, enabling them to cultivate crops such as corn, beans, and squash.

4 What was the purpose of the feast held in the fall of 1621?

The feast was held to celebrate the Pilgrims' first successful harvest and to symbolize cooperation and friendship with the Wampanoag.

5 Who proclaimed Thanksgiving a national holiday, and when was it?

President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed Thanksgiving a national holiday in 1863.

6 How has the meaning of Thanksgiving evolved over the years?

While Thanksgiving has its roots in historical events, it has transformed into a celebration of unity, gratitude, and the importance of family and community.

Answer to the myths of Thanksgiving:

1. False
2. False
3. True
4. False
5. True



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