

# THANKSGIVING ACTIVITIES



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# The history of Thanksgiving



Read the article from the National Geographic online and do the exercises that follow:

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/article/151121-first-thanksgiving-pilgrims-native-americans-wampanoag-saints-and-strangers>

## A Decide if the sentences below are True or False:

- 1 The most important aspect of the first Thanksgiving was not the feast but the treaty which preceded it
- 2 Abraham Lincoln established Thanksgiving as a holiday a little after the Civil War
- 3 The false notion of the climate that the Pilgrims had was the reason for their starvation
- 4 The Pilgrims settled in a desolate land due to a previous disease
- 5 The Narragansett was a tribe opposing the Wampanoag



**B How is the information contained in this article different from other presentations about the origins of this celebration? If this is the first time you are reading about this topic, you can research online and compare different articles and the way they present information about the history of Thanksgiving.**



Now read another article about the history of the wars and persecution against Native Americans and answer the questions that follow. This article may contain upsetting descriptions and images for sensitive/underage individuals. Reader/viewer discretion is advised.

<https://www.history.com/news/native-americans-genocide-united-states>

**1 In the course of four centuries starting from the first colonisation attempt with Columbus in 1492 and until the end of the Indian wars at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century millions of Native Americans were killed. What were the reasons for this racial genocide as presented in the article?**

**2 What was the problem with President Jackson’s “Indian removal bill” in 1830?**

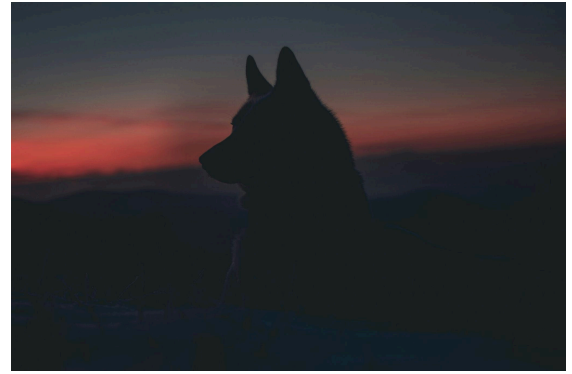
**3 How do you feel about the historical events described in this article? Can you understand why Thanksgiving is not a happy holiday for everyone? The “National Day of Mourning” as it is also called is commemorated in some areas with protests and festivities quite different from the usual celebrations. Have a look here: <http://www.uaine.org/>. Express your ideas and feelings in a paragraph:**





Watch the video “The Legend of the two wolves”. This is a story commonly attributed to native American peoples although in reality it is of unknown origin. After watching, write a paragraph describing the main elements of the story and your opinion of it:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x95\\_BTeanI8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x95_BTeanI8)



How were your ideas about the celebration of Thanksgiving affected by what you read and watched here?

If you could write a message to a Native American descendant living in the USA today, what would you like to tell them?



# Thanksgiving Text Teacher's C1-C2

## First article True or False:

- 1 The most important aspect of the first Thanksgiving was not the feast but the treaty which preceded it T
- 2 Abraham Lincoln established Thanksgiving as a holiday a little after the Civil War F
- 3 The false notion of the climate that the Pilgrims had was the reason for their starvation T
- 4 The Pilgrims settled in a desolate land due to a previous disease T
- 5 The Narragansett was a tribe opposing the Wampanoag T

## Second article, Questions

**1 In the course of four centuries starting from the first colonisation attempt with Columbus in 1492 and until the end of the Indian wars at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century millions of Native Americans were killed. What were the reasons for this racial genocide as presented in the article?**

The settlers were hungry for Indian land. Moreover, the Indians collusion with the British exacerbated American hostility towards them. The most important reason was that the Native populations were very different from the settlers not only in appearance but more importantly in beliefs and way of life.

**2 What was the problem with President Jackson's "Indian removal bill" in 1830?**

This was a policy that forced many Indian tribes to relocate. Many legislators tried in vain to stop this bill as immoral. The president's racial comments about the inferiority of the native populations compared to the settlers are testament to why the bill was passed. This resulted in a large number of populations being relocated forcefully in most cases. Thousands of lives were lost in an effort to diminish even more the Indian territory.



**Painting credits (from wikimedia):** “The first Thanksgiving 1621” by [Jean Leon G. Ferris](#)

[https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:The\\_First\\_Thanksgiving\\_cph.3g04961.jpg](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:The_First_Thanksgiving_cph.3g04961.jpg)

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