



# THANKSGIVING



Thanksgiving is the national holiday in the USA. It is celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November. On this day American give thanks for the good things in their lives.

Everything starts in 1620, when the Pilgrims (members of the English Separatist Church or Puritans) leave their country – England, on a ship called the Mayflower, because of religious reasons.

Their trip takes 65 days and is very difficult. They land near Plymouth Rock in America and they start to build their homes there. ( The first people living in America are Indians).

During the first winter many people die because they have not got enough food to eat. In the spring of 1621, the Pilgrims become friends with the Wampanoag tribe of Native Americans. The Wampanoag tell the Pilgrims how to hunt better and how to plant crops like corn.

In 1621 the harvest is very good. The Pilgrims are very thankful to the Indians but also to God and they invite their Native American friends to a feast.



The first Thanksgiving is celebrated and lasts for three days. The main dishes include corn, pumpkins, fish and turkeys.

Thanksgiving becomes a national holiday in 1863.



Today Thanksgiving is still a day to be thankful for family, friends and good food. Families sit around the table and enjoy a traditional dinner of roast turkey with cranberries, sweet potatoes and pumpkin pie for dessert. On this day many Americans go to or watch on TV, football matches.

The Canadians celebrate Thanksgiving too. In Canada it is on the second Monday of October.

