



MY FIRST THANKSGIVING

When do they celebrate Thanksgiving?

- a) 4th Thursday Nov.
- b) 4th October
- c) 4th November

Who are the "Pilgrim Fathers"?

- a) Just two pilgrims
- b) The founders of a colony
- c) The Church of England

What is the name of their ship?

- a) Mayflower
- b) Unknown
- c) Wampanoag

When do the pilgrims arrive?

- a) In 1620
- b) In 1621
- c) Unknown

How many people are there in the Mayflower?

- a) 50
- b) Unknown
- c) 120

What is the Thanksgiving traditional meal?

- a) Pumpkin Pie
- b) Roast Turkey
- c) Both and more

What is the name of the first city they found?

- a) Plymouth
- b) New York
- c) Wampanoag

What's the reason to celebrate Thanksgiving?

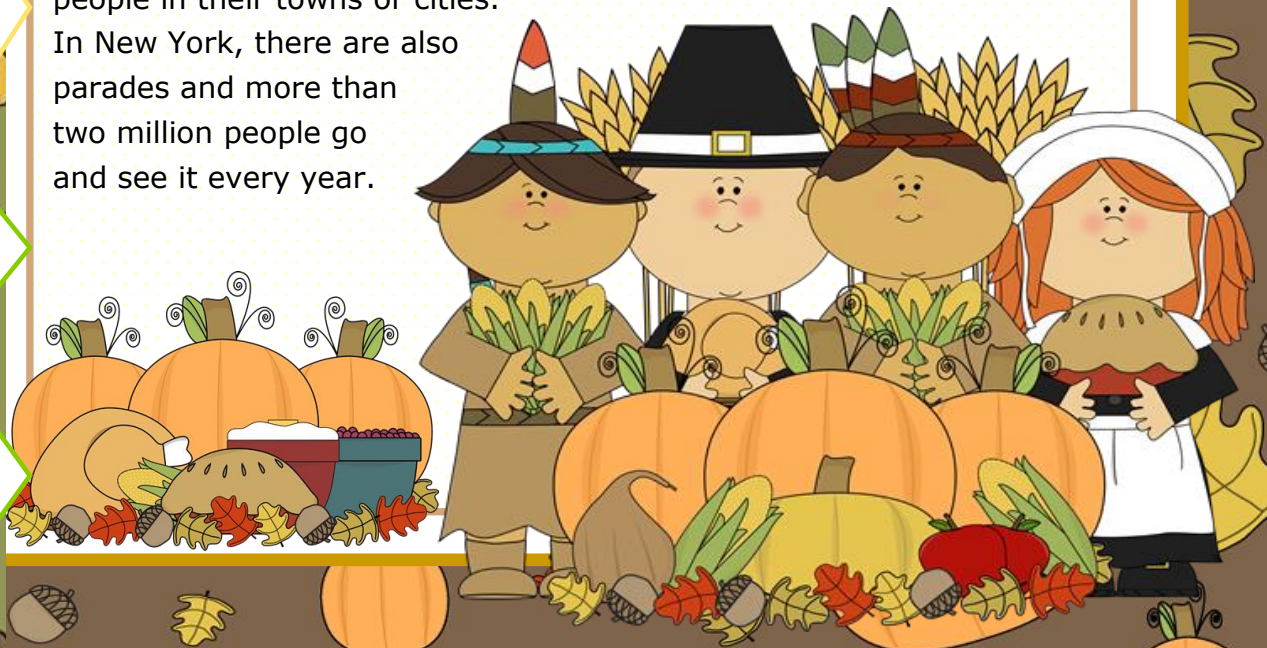
- a) Thank God
- b) Religious festivity
- c) Eat turkey.

Americans celebrate Thanksgiving on the fourth Thursday of November. Children don't go to school and businesses close for four days. It is a special day for families, and people travel great distances just to be with their families for this occasion.

This tradition starts with the "Pilgrim Fathers". They are the founders of a colony in North America. These people are Puritans, they are against the Church of England and they suffer religious persecution in England, so they want to start a new life. So, on the 6th September 1620, 102 men, women and children leave Plymouth on a ship called *Mayflower*. The voyage is not easy, but finally they arrive in America on the 11th December 1620. They land on the north-west coast and they call this place Plymouth. But it is winter, and there is not much food. They immediately begin to build small houses, but it is too late to grow crops. The winter is long and half of them die. In spring, a Wampanoag native American called Squanto tells them how to grow corn and how to hunt. Soon, the pilgrims and the native Americans become friends. The pilgrims grow crops and the harvest is excellent. By November 1621, everyone has food and a home. There is hope for the future. Then, the governor of the Pilgrim's colony decides to celebrate this with a dinner because he wants to thank God. That is the first Thanksgiving dinner, and it continues for three days.

Today the traditional Thanksgiving meal is similar to the first. People eat roast turkey with cranberry sauce, potatoes and pumpkin pie. Many organisations also prepare a free meal for poor people in their towns or cities.

In New York, there are also parades and more than two million people go and see it every year.



Activities



A Say if they are True (T), False (F) or Unknown (DS). Then, correct the sentences by showing an evidence from the text.

- 1 Canadians do not celebrate Thanksgiving.
.....
- 2 Americans celebrate Thanksgiving on the fourth Thursday of November.
.....
- 3 The tradition of Thanksgiving starts with the Pilgrims.
.....
- 4 There are only fifty people on the "Mayflower".
.....
- 5 They settle a colony in the south-west coast, and they call it Plymouth.
.....
- 6 The first winter in Plymouth is very difficult.
.....
- 7 Native Americans do not help them grow crops and build houses.
.....
- 8 The first Thanksgiving dinner continues for three days.
.....
- 9 They aren't very religious. That's why they leave.
.....

T	F	DS
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B Match each word with the suitable meaning.

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| a) Puritans | 1) Native American tribe. |
| b) Voyage | 2) Time to collect the crops. |
| c) Grow crops | 3) Very religious people that follows religious rules very strictly. |
| d) Wampanoag | 4) Person who emigrates for some reason. |
| e) Pilgrim | 5) Very long trip. |
| f) Harvest | 6) Cultivate new products to harvest. |

C Complete the letter of this pilgrim to his friend with the most appropriate words/expressions.

My dear Thomas,

It is difficult to believe we arrived (0)_____ nearly only one (1)_____ ago. The voyage (2)_____ the "Mayflower" was terrible. We are lucky to be alive.

We have our own (3)_____, and you'll be surprised to know we have called it Plymouth. Winter was very long and (4)_____. But the natives have helped us friendly to (5)_____ houses and (6)_____ crops. We have worked a lot, and the (6) _____ has been good – we have a lot of food-
Thank God for his help,

Your friend, William