# Thanksgiving



### What is Thanksgiving?

Thanksgiving is a special holiday where families and friends get together to celebrate the things they are thankful for in their lives. It is a federal holiday, so schools, banks, post offices, and government offices are closed. It is celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November.



### The Pilgrims Come to America

To be able to understand the story of Thanksgiving and why we celebrate it, you need to know how and why the Pilgrims came to North America.

### Who were the Pilgrims?

A long time ago, the King of England said that everyone had to go to the church that he wanted them to go to. Some of the people didn't want to go to the King's church because they had another church they liked better. They believed that it was unfair that the King was telling them what to do, so they decided to get away from England and go to another country.

### Voyage to America

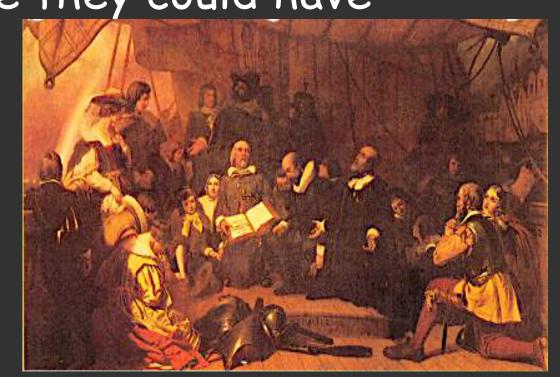
They got on a big ship called the Mayflower with food, rifles, and tools to build. They decided to go to another country to start a new life where they could have

religious freedom.

were called the Pilgrims.

arrived in North America

in 1620.



### History of Thanksgiving

The first Thanksgiving was in 1621 when the Pilgrims invited the Native Americans to a three-day feast to celebrate the autumn harvest.

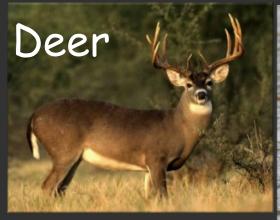


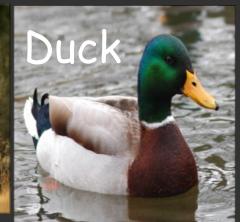
The Pilgrims and the Wampanoag also used this holiday to thank God for what they had in their lives.

## The First Thanksgiving Feast

The Pilgrims and Native Americans did not eat turkey for their first Thanksgiving dinner. Pilgrims hunted ducks for dinner and the Wampanoag hunted deer to eat. Everyone also ate seafood, cabbage, onions, corn, fruits, nuts, and squash.

See each kind of food the Pilgrims and Wampanoag ate.











## Today's Thanksgiving Feast

On Thanksgiving, families get together and celebrate what they are thankful for. Then they usually eat a big meal. The most popular thing to eat on Thanksgiving is turkey.



Live Turkey



Cooked Turkey



### Thanksgiving Foods

Here are some of the other popular foods that we

eat on Thanksgiving!



Cranberry
Sauce



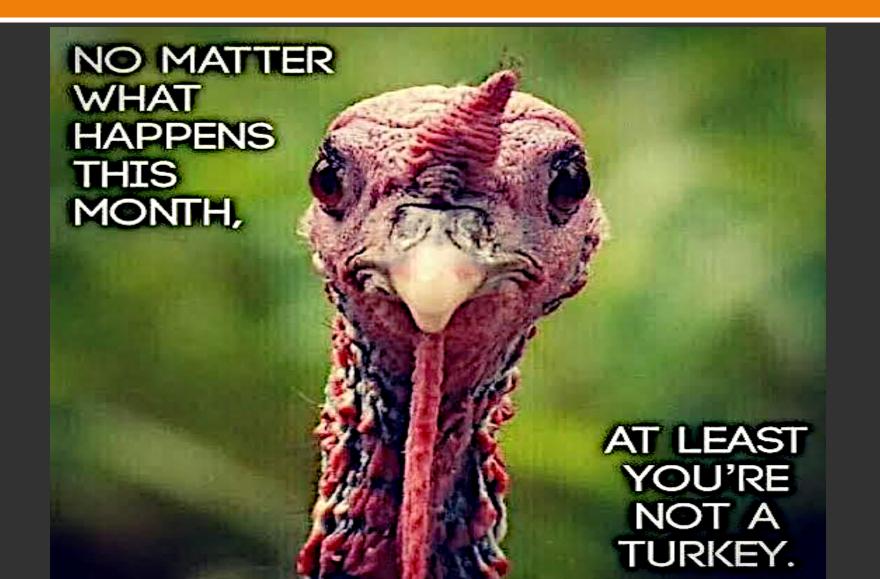
Stuffing



Mashed
Potatoes and
Gravy



Pumpkin Pie



#### Quiz

Test your knowledge of the first Thanksgiving and Thanksgiving today!



During the year 1620, Pilgrims sailed on a boat called the . They took this boat to the new world.

The Titanic

No!!

The Mayflower

Yes!!

The Santa Maria No!!

When is Thanksgiving celebrated?

The fourth Thursday in November

The first Tuesday in November

The last Tuesday in November

YES

NO!

NO!

What do we celebrate on Thanksgiving?

America's Birthday

No!!

People in our military

No!!

What we are thankful for

Yes!!

Why did the Pilgrims come to North America?

For religious freedom

Yes!!

To get rich

No!!

To see their families

No!!

What year was the first Thanksgiving celebrated?

2012 No!! 1621 Yes!!

No!!

What was being celebrated on the first Thanksgiving between the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag?

A birthday

No!!

A new year

No!!

The autumn harvest

Yes!!

#### People talk about what they are thankful for...



...or tell about experiences during the past year which have caused them to feel grateful.



Before the meal, many people say grace, which is a short prayer to thank God.



#### THANK GOD FOR OUR CITIZENSHIP!

"Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."

1 Timothy 2:1-4