



# THANKSGIVING

## The Story of Thanksgiving - Fill The Gaps

thanks	join	fourth	struggled	called
mashed	feast	taught	company	official

Thanksgiving started a long time ago in the year 1621. The Pilgrims, a group of people from England, had just arrived in what is now \_\_\_\_\_ Massachusetts. Life was tough for them; they \_\_\_\_\_ through a harsh winter, and many of them didn't survive. But the following spring, things started to look up. The Pilgrims met Native Americans who \_\_\_\_\_ them how to plant corn, fish, and hunt. Because of this help, the Pilgrims were able to grow enough food for the winter.

In the fall, the Pilgrims wanted to celebrate their successful harvest, so they invited the Native Americans who had helped them to \_\_\_\_\_ in. They had a big \_\_\_\_\_ together, sharing food and friendship. This meal is now known as the "First Thanksgiving."

Thanksgiving didn't become an \_\_\_\_\_ holiday right away. In fact, it wasn't until the 1800s, over 200 years later, that President Abraham Lincoln decided it should be a national holiday. He wanted everyone in the country to have a day to give \_\_\_\_\_, especially since it was a difficult time during the Civil War.

Today, Thanksgiving is celebrated each year on the \_\_\_\_\_ Thursday of November. Families and friends come together to share a meal and remember what they are thankful for. Traditional foods include turkey, \_\_\_\_\_ potatoes, stuffing, and pumpkin pie. And just like at the first Thanksgiving, it's a time for people to come together and enjoy good food and each other's \_\_\_\_\_.

1. What are you thankful for?
2. Who were the Pilgrims, and where did they come from?
3. Why was the help from the Native Americans so important to the Pilgrims?
4. What foods do you think were served at the first Thanksgiving?
5. Why did President Abraham Lincoln decide to make Thanksgiving a holiday?
6. How do you celebrate Thanksgiving (or a similar holiday) with your family or friends?

## Teacher's Key

Thanksgiving started a long time ago in the year 1621. The Pilgrims, a group of people from England, had just arrived in what is now **called** Massachusetts. Life was tough for them; they **struggled** through a harsh winter, and many of them didn't survive. But the following spring, things started to look up. The Pilgrims met Native Americans who **taught** them how to plant corn, fish, and hunt. Because of this help, the Pilgrims were able to grow enough food for the winter.

In the fall, the Pilgrims wanted to celebrate their successful harvest, so they invited the Native Americans who had helped them to **join** in. They had a big **feast** together, sharing food and friendship. This meal is now known as the "First Thanksgiving."

Thanksgiving didn't become an **official** holiday right away. In fact, it wasn't until the 1800s, over 200 years later, that President Abraham Lincoln decided it should be a national holiday. He wanted everyone in the country to have a day to give **thanks**, especially since it was a difficult time during the Civil War.

Today, Thanksgiving is celebrated each year on the **fourth** Thursday of November. Families and friends come together to share a meal and remember what they are thankful for. Traditional foods include turkey, **mashed** potatoes, stuffing, and pumpkin pie. And just like at the first Thanksgiving, it's a time for people to come together and enjoy good food and each other's **company**.

1. What are you thankful for?
2. Who were the Pilgrims, and where did they come from?
3. Why was the help from the Native Americans so important to the Pilgrims?
4. What foods do you think were served at the first Thanksgiving?
5. Why did President Abraham Lincoln decide to make Thanksgiving a holiday?
6. How do you celebrate Thanksgiving (or a similar holiday) with your family or friends?