

Thanksgiving Story

Thanksgiving is one of America's oldest national holidays. The tradition began nearly 400 years ago when a group of people called Pilgrims came to North America to start a new life. They had come across the English Channel to find a new home.

The Pilgrims arrived in America in the year 1620 on a ship called the Mayflower. However, they were not prepared for the harsh winter of North America, where the temperature sometimes reached -10 degrees below zero. They quickly ran out of food and many people died.

Fortunately, the Pilgrims met a group of Indians called the Wampanoag and learned how to grow food. The Indians gave the Pilgrims food and showed them how to survive in the new land. The Pilgrims were grateful for the help and invited the Indians to a feast.

Later, the Pilgrims and the Indians all came together for a big feast, and this was the first Thanksgiving. This special occasion brought friendship and cooperation. In America, Thanksgiving means peace, harmony, and gratitude, reminding us to reflect and coming together as a family.

Today, Americans celebrate Thanksgiving every year during the last week of November. Every family gets together and has a big dinner. In some homes, people have turkey and stuffing, they will find a maple pie together for the holiday - turkeys, water, pumpkins, green pumpkins, cranberries, maple and apples. People Thanksgiving traditions include turkey, corn, cranberry sauce, and pumpkin pie. It is all very delicious. Also, people of all ages come together as pilgrims and Indians to celebrate the history of the holiday. On this day we "give thanks" for our family and all of the good things that we have in life - and that really is called Thanksgiving.

Directions

Each group should be given a copy of the story. Have the teacher read the story and ask the questions on the slide.