

NAME:

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The History of Thanksgiving

The Thanksgiving story is connected to the Pilgrims, a group of English settlers who traveled to North America in 1620. They sailed across the Atlantic Ocean on a ship called the Mayflower. The Pilgrims settled in a place they called Plymouth.

The first winter was very difficult. Many Pilgrims became sick, and some died. In the spring, the Pilgrims received help from members of the Wampanoag people. They learned how to grow crops and find food in their new environment.

In the fall of 1621, the Pilgrims and Wampanoag people shared a harvest celebration. The celebration lasted for several days. They ate food, played games, and spent time together.

Thanksgiving did not become an official national holiday right away. Over many years, different communities celebrated days of thanksgiving. In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national Thanksgiving holiday to be celebrated in November.

Today, Thanksgiving is celebrated in the United States on the fourth Thursday of November. Families and friends often gather for a meal and think about the things they are thankful for.

Put the Events in Order!

Directions: Write 1–8 to show the correct order of the events.

- Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national Thanksgiving holiday.
- The Pilgrims traveled to North America on the Mayflower.
- The Pilgrims and Wampanoag shared a harvest celebration.
- The Pilgrims arrived in North America.
- The Wampanoag helped the Pilgrims learn how to grow food.
- The Pilgrims settled at Plymouth.
- The Pilgrims experienced a difficult first winter.
- The Pilgrims prepared for winter in their new home.