

History of...(text analysis - intermediate)

Name:

Date:



Thanksgiving is a holiday celebrated in the United States and Canada. It is a day when people give thanks for the harvest and other blessings from the past year. The history of Thanksgiving dates back to 1621. In 1620, a group of people called the Pilgrims left England on a ship called the Mayflower. They were looking for a place where they could practice their religion freely. After a long and difficult journey, they arrived in what is now Plymouth, Massachusetts. The first winter was very hard for the Pilgrims, and many of them did not survive.

In the spring of 1621, the Pilgrims met a Native American from the Wampanoag tribe named Squanto. Squanto taught them how to plant corn, fish, and gather other food. With his help, the Pilgrims were able to grow enough food to survive.

In the fall of 1621, the Pilgrims had a good harvest. To celebrate, they held a feast and invited the Wampanoag people. This feast is often called the "First Thanksgiving." They ate foods like turkey, corn, and pumpkin. This celebration lasted for three days.

Thanksgiving did not become a national holiday right away. Different colonies and states celebrated it on different days. In 1863, during the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln declared Thanksgiving a national holiday. He decided it should be celebrated on the last Thursday of November. Later, in 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt changed the date to the fourth Thursday in November, where it remains today. Today, people celebrate Thanksgiving by having a big meal with family and friends. Common foods include turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, and cranberry sauce. Many people also watch parades and football games. Thanksgiving is a time for people to be thankful for what they have and to spend time with loved ones.

Select the correct answer

What is the main reason people in the United States celebrate Thanksgiving?

- To honor the signing of the Declaration of Independence
- To commemorate the end of the Civil War
- To give thanks for the harvest and blessings of the past year
- To celebrate the establishment of the United Nations

Which year is commonly recognized as the year of the first Thanksgiving celebration?

- 1776
- 1621
- 1492
- 1865

Which group of people celebrated the first Thanksgiving with the Pilgrims?

- The French
- The British
- The Wampanoag
- The Spanish

What is the traditional main dish served at most Thanksgiving meals?

- Chicken
- Beef
- Turkey
- Ham

Which U.S. President proclaimed Thanksgiving a national holiday in 1863?

- Abraham Lincoln Thomas Jefferson Franklin D. Roosevelt George Washington

On which day of the week is Thanksgiving celebrated in the United States?

- Thursday Friday Sunday Monday

What activity is commonly associated with the day after Thanksgiving in the United States?

- Black Friday shopping Setting up Christmas trees Watching fireworks
 Easter egg hunts

Which parade is famous for being held on Thanksgiving Day in New York City?

- Rose Parade Veterans Day Parade St. Patrick's Day Parade
 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade

Analyze the cultural implications of Thanksgiving celebrations in contemporary American society.

Discuss how Thanksgiving has influenced the socio-economic patterns in the United States.

Explain the ways in which Thanksgiving traditions have been adapted or changed by different cultural groups within the United States.

Analyze the historical context and impact of Thanksgiving in a short essay.
