

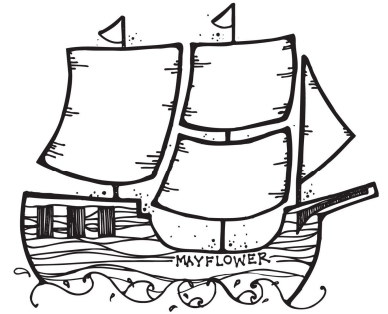


Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# The First Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is a special holiday celebrated in the United States and Canada. It's a time when families and friends come together to share a delicious meal and express their gratitude for the good things in their lives. But do you know where this tradition comes from? Let's travel back in time to learn about the history of Thanksgiving.

The very first Thanksgiving took place in 1621 in what would become Plymouth, Massachusetts. The Pilgrims, a group of English people who sailed across the Atlantic Ocean in a ship called the Mayflower, settled in Plymouth. They faced a tough first winter with harsh weather and limited food.



Fortunately, the Native Americans, who had been living in the area for generations, helped the Pilgrims. A kind Native American named Squanto taught them how to plant corn, which became a valuable source of food. The Pilgrims and Native Americans decided to celebrate their successful harvest by sharing a three-day feast. It was the first Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving wasn't an official holiday at first. It took many years before it became a regular tradition. President Abraham Lincoln declared Thanksgiving a national holiday in 1863 during the Civil War. He wanted people to focus on unity and gratitude during a challenging time in the nation's history.

Over the years, Thanksgiving has evolved, but certain traditions have remained. Families across the country gather to enjoy a meal that often includes turkey, stuffing, cranberry sauce, and pumpkin pie. Some people like to watch parades and football games, while others volunteer to help those in need.



Have you ever seen a symbol that looks like a horn filled with fruits and vegetables? That's called a cornucopia, and it's often associated with Thanksgiving. It represents abundance and the bountiful harvest that the Pilgrims and Native Americans celebrated.



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Today, Thanksgiving is more than just a feast. It's a time to reflect on the things we're grateful for - family, friends, good health, and all the blessings in our lives. It's a day to appreciate what we have and to share our good fortune with others.

As you gather around the table for your Thanksgiving meal, remember the history of this special holiday. Think about the Pilgrims and Native Americans who came together to celebrate the harvest and the values of gratitude and unity that have made Thanksgiving a cherished tradition for generations.

1. What is the text structure of this passage?

description / cause and effect / compare and contrast / problem and solution / sequence

2. What was the name of the Native American that taught the pilgrims how to plant corn?  
(highlight text evidence)

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3. Why did Abraham Lincoln declare Thanksgiving a national holiday? (highlight text evidence)

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4. What are your favorite Thanksgiving traditions? Use complete sentences.

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HAPPY  
THANKSGIVING