

Thanksgiving

Day

- *The fourth Thursday of November in the USA*
- *The second Monday of October in Canada*



The History of Thanksgiving



THE STORY OF THANKSGIVING STARTS WITH THE PILGRIMS

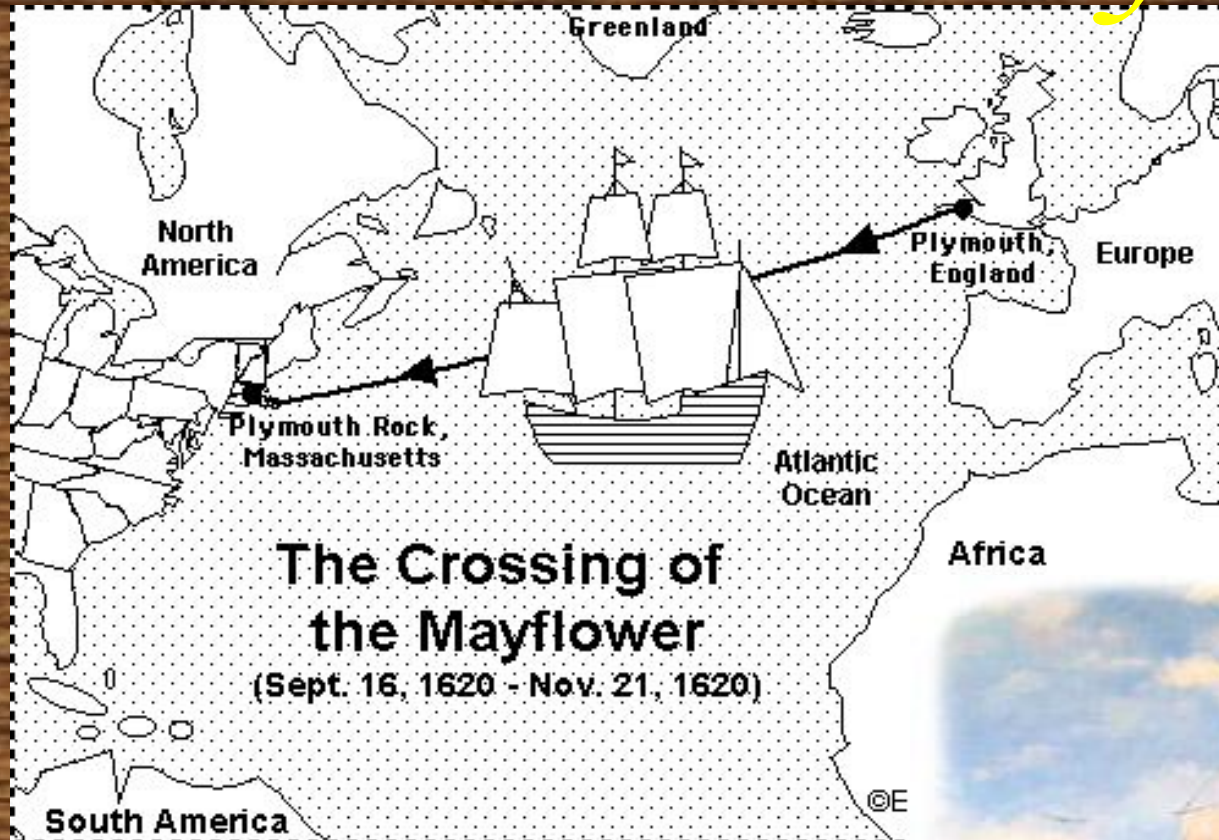
- WHO WERE THE PILGRIMS?

- They were people who
- Came from England

- They wanted religious
- freedom

- They left Plymouth England
- In 1620

History



Mayflower





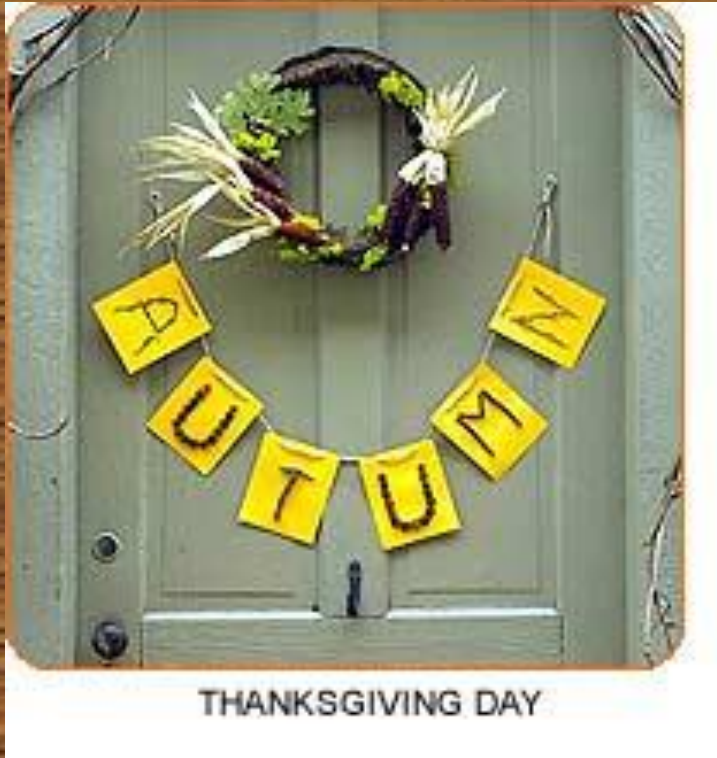
THE INDIANS HELPED THE PILGRIMS

- An Indian named Samoset visited the pilgrims
- Samoset brought a friend named Squanto
- Squanto helped the pilgrims
- Squanto taught the pilgrims how to grow corn and other crops

THE FIRST THANKSGIVING



Traditions



Thanksgiving Day has its own traditions. People decorate their houses with autumn fruits and flowers

The Thanksgiving Meal

The first Thanksgiving meal in 1621 might have included roast goose, corn, codfish and lobster.

American families today traditionally eat roast turkey and stuffing with side dishes such as green beans, roasted winter squash, and cranberry relish.





The family sits at the table during dinner and offer prayer to the God for his continuous grace. People dress different colorful costumes and go to parade. It is also a time for relatives living in different places to come together and celebrate. In these days the most American people watch on TV American football games.

Thanksgiving is a day when people send loving messages and warm wishes to their relatives, friends, near and dear ones. It is a day of conveying their feelings through Thanksgiving cards. The day is a time to show your gratitude and respect to your elders, friends. Popular gifts include thanksgiving flowers, jewellery, baked cookie, chocolate gift baskets, candies, wine etc.



Other Thanksgiving Traditions: Attending or watching parades



The first American Thanksgiving Day parade was held in 1920, organized by Gimbel's Department Store in Philadelphia, not Macy's as most people believe. The NYC Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade tradition actually began in 1924, and has grown into an annual event of balloons, bands, and floats, enjoyed by more than 46 million people each year in person and on TV.

Parades



Other Thanksgiving Traditions

Watching and playing American football

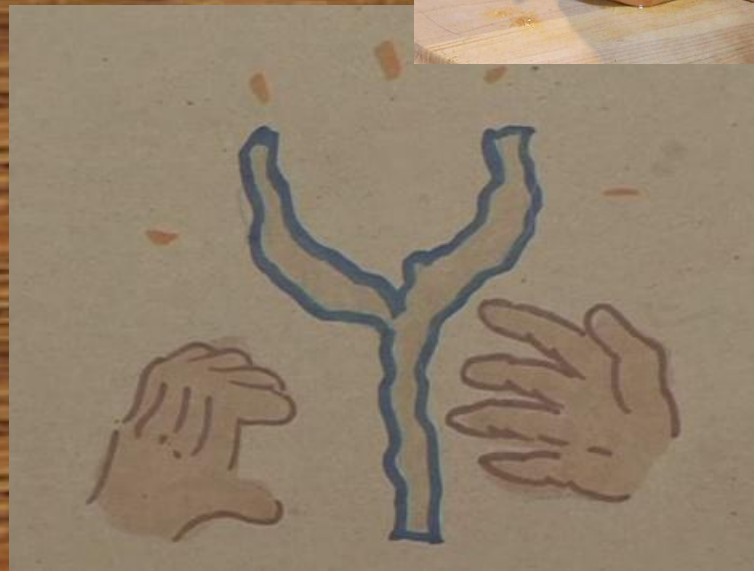
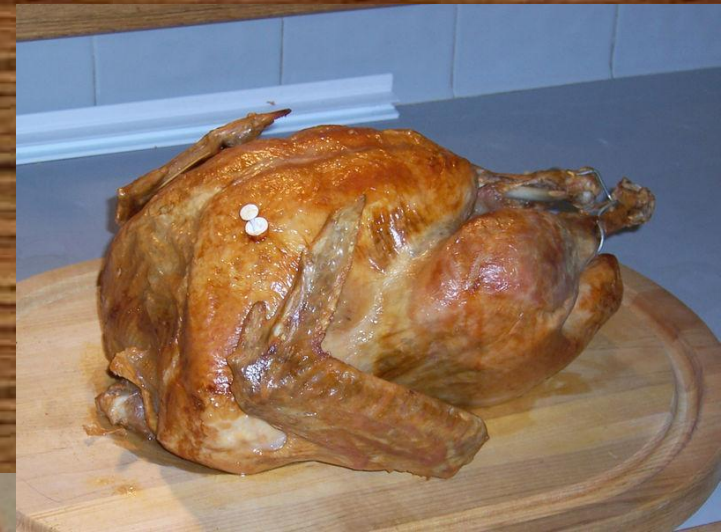


Throughout the United States, football on Thanksgiving Day is as big a part of the celebration as turkey and pumpkin pie. Dating back to the first intercollegiate football championship held on Thanksgiving Day in 1876, traditional holiday football rivalries have become so popular that a reporter once called Thanksgiving "a holiday granted by the State and the Nation to see a game of football."

Other Thanksgiving Traditions

Playing the Wishbone Game

Family fights over the wishbone from the Thanksgiving turkey. Known as a "lucky break" the tradition of tugging on either end of a fowl's bone to win the larger piece and its accompanying "wish" dates back to the Etruscans of 322 B.C. The Romans brought the tradition with them when they conquered England and the English colonists carried the tradition on to America.



Food Drives

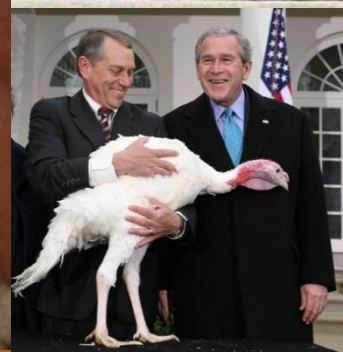
These are an important part of Thanksgiving for at schools, businesses and community organizations. Children in the US often are asked to bring canned goods to school during November to help needy families at this time. Turkeys are sometimes raffled away at places of work and supermarkets will sometimes give away turkeys to churches and homeless shelters for their annual Thanksgiving meal to the poor.



Other Thanksgiving Traditions

Turkey Pardon

The ceremony that takes place at the White House every year. The President of the United States is presented with a live turkey, and the president has granted the turkey a "presidential pardon". The turkey is then taken to a farm where it may live out the rest of its natural life.



Symbols of Thanksgiving Day

Turkey, corn (or maize), pumpkins and cranberry sauce are symbols which represent the first Thanksgiving. Now all of these symbols are drawn on holiday decorations and greeting cards.



Turkey

Turkey is an inseparable part of Thanksgiving celebration.



Pumpkin

Pumpkins are the Thanksgiving favourite for about 400 years.



Corn

The use of corn meant the survival of the colonies. "Indian corn" as a table or door decoration represents the harvest and the fall season.



Cranberry

Sweet-sour cranberry sauce was on the first Thanksgiving table and is still served today. Indians taught the colonists how to cook the berries with sweetener and water to make a sauce.



Cornucopia

Cornucopia is a horn-shaped basket filled with fruits & goodies.



Beans

Beans are one of the symbols of Thanksgiving Day since Pilgrims had learnt to grow beans.

**Have A Happy
Thanksgiving Day**

