

Thanksgiving: The Traditional American Holiday

History

Thanksgiving dates back to a group of people in England who were called the Pilgrim Fathers. They could not practice their religion in England and decided to leave. They went to the Netherlands for a short period. They did not like the Netherlands so they decided to go to North America. They traveled on a ship, the Mayflower, and the trip lasted 66 days and carried 102 men, women and children.

The Pilgrims landed in the New World on 11 November 1620 in Plymouth, Massachusetts to establish their colony. The first winter was very difficult for the Pilgrims because they did not have enough food and the weather was very cold.

The next year, the Pilgrims met the Native Americans of the Wampanoag tribe. They taught the Pilgrims how to grow crops. That winter, the Pilgrims had lots of food and they invited members of the tribe to have a large feast to give thanks. This marked the first Thanksgiving. They ate turkey, duck, deer, berries, squash, and many other foods.



Modern-day Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is a time when families and friends get together to give thanks for what they have. The people eat a lot of food. The main dish is the turkey, but other popular foods include mashed potatoes, green beans, sweet potatoes, gravy, cranberry sauce, sweet corn, pumpkin pie and apple pie.



On Thanksgiving Day, there is a large parade in New York City. There are many floats with cartoon characters and Santa Claus. Before eating dinner, many families watch American football matches.