

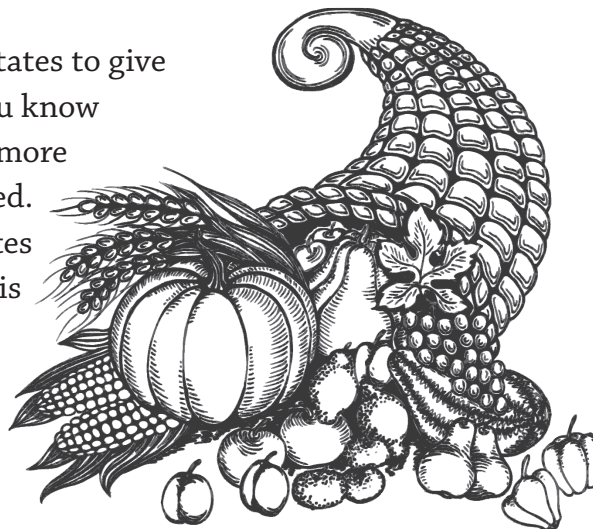
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Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving Day is a day set aside each year in the United States to give thanks for and remember the good things in life. What do you know about the history of this holiday? Use this webquest to learn more about Thanksgiving's history and how the holiday is celebrated. While Thanksgiving Day is celebrated in both the United States and Canada (where the holiday is falls on a different date), this webquest will focus on Thanksgiving in the United States.



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Find it

Find the answers to the questions below by using the "search" tool to search key words. Since this activity is about Thanksgiving Day, you can start by searching the key words "Thanksgiving Day."

Write the answers on the lines provided or below the question.

1. When is Thanksgiving Day observed each year in the United States?
2. In 1789, President _____ issued a general proclamation naming _____ a national day of thanksgiving.
3. Which U.S. president proclaimed the last Thursday in November 1863, as "a day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father"?
4. Which woman, the editor of *Godey's Lady's Book*, worked many years to promote the idea of a national Thanksgiving Day?

5. Why did President Franklin D. Roosevelt set Thanksgiving Day one week earlier in 1939?
6. Congress ruled that after _____ the fourth Thursday of November would be observed as Thanksgiving Day and would be a legal _____ holiday.
7. Look at the image “Dinner on Thanksgiving Day.” Name five food items that are traditionally included in a Thanksgiving Day dinner.

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The First Thanksgiving

Popular accounts of the first Thanksgiving festival do not always match up with what we know about the original event. Answer these questions about the first Thanksgiving festival.

8. The first Thanksgiving festival was held at _____ Colony in the year _____.
9. The first Thanksgiving festival was held by an Indian tribe called the _____ and the English pilgrims.
10. Why did William Bradford, the colony’s governor, organize the festival?
11. How long did the first Thanksgiving festival last?
12. In addition to deer, name four foods that were probably served at the first Thanksgiving festival.



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Thanksgiving Feast!

Answer these questions about foods often eaten on Thanksgiving Day.

13. Which state raises the most turkeys? (Hint: For this question see the “Leading turkey-raising states and provinces” graph in the “Turkey” article.)

14. Which state raises the most sweet potatoes? (Hint: For this question see the “Leading sweet potato growing states” graph in the “Sweet potato” article.)

15. Which state raises the most potatoes (for mashing)? (Hint: For this question see the “Leading potato-growing states and provinces” graph in the “Potato” article.)

16. Name five states that grow cranberries commercially (for sauce). (Hint: For this question see the “Cranberry” article.)

17. Which state grows and processes the most pumpkins (for pumpkin pie)? (Hint: For this question see the “Pumpkin” article.)

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Watch It!

Within the *Thanksgiving Day* article, you will find a tab labeled “Images, Videos, and Audio.” Click on that tab and watch the videos entitled “What was the first Thanksgiving like (Pilgrim’s perspective)?” and “What was the first Thanksgiving like (Native American perspective)?”

18. Back in 1621, the English colonists did not call the three-day harvest feast that we refer to as Thanksgiving by that name. What was “thanksgiving” to them?

19. When did the Wampanoag Indians give thanks and what were some things that they gave thanks for?



Teacher Page

Answers:

1. Thanksgiving Day is observed each year in the United States on the fourth Thursday of November.
2. In 1789, President George Washington issued a general proclamation naming November 26 a national day of thanksgiving.
3. Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday in November 1863, as “a day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father.”
4. Sarah Hale worked many years to promote the idea of a national Thanksgiving Day.
5. In 1939, President Franklin D. Roosevelt set Thanksgiving Day one week earlier to help businesses by lengthening the shopping period before Christmas.
6. Congress ruled that after 1941 the fourth Thursday of November would be observed as Thanksgiving Day and would be a legal federal holiday.
7. Five food items that are traditionally included in a Thanksgiving Day dinner are roast turkey, gravy, cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes, and pumpkin pie.
8. The first thanksgiving was held at Plymouth Colony in the year 1621.
9. The first Thanksgiving festival was held by an Indian tribe called the Wampanoag and the English pilgrims.
10. William Bradford organized the festival to give thanks to God for the survival of the colony and for their first harvest.
11. The first thanksgiving festival lasted three days.
12. Four foods that were probably served at the first Thanksgiving festival included duck and turkey; a corn porridge called *nasaump*; and a pumpkin dish called *pompion*.
13. Minnesota is the leading turkey-raising state.
14. North Carolina is the leading sweet potato growing state.
15. Idaho is the leading potato-growing state.
16. Five states that commercially grow cranberries are Massachusetts, New Jersey, Oregon, Washington, and Wisconsin.
17. Illinois is the leading pumpkin growing state.
18. To the English colonists thanksgiving was a particular day they spent at church when something really important had happened, whether it was the defeat of their enemies or the end of a drought.
19. The Wampanoag people gave thanks every day. They would give thanks for the Sun, whatever meat was in season, and for things as they come.