

The First Thanksgiving

"[Many] historians believe that most of the story of 'The First Thanksgiving' is a myth that people started telling more than 200 years after the event is said to have occurred." – Plimoth.org

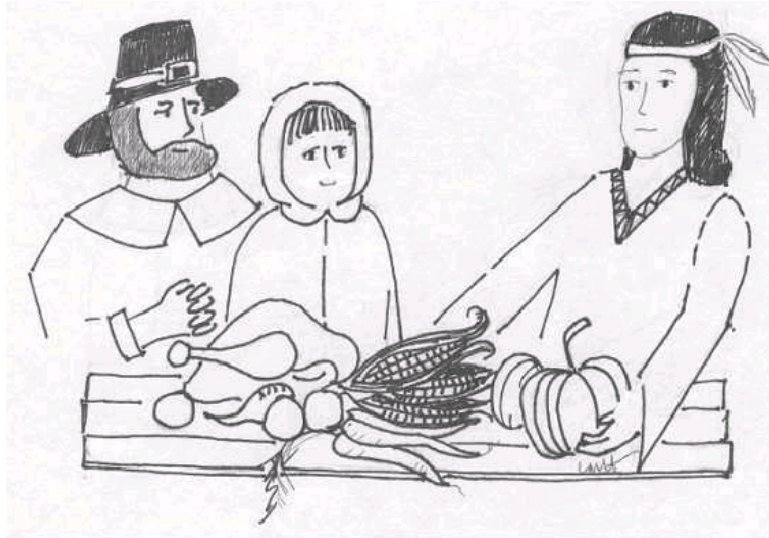


Illustration by Lynn M. Hanousek

The first Thanksgiving was a huge **celebration**¹ for the Pilgrims and their Native American neighbors. There were actually more Native Americans than Pilgrims at the feast!

The first Thanksgiving lasted three days. Many meals were served. All of the cooking and eating happened outside. They ate goose, duck, and **seafood**². Did they eat turkey? No one knows for sure.

They also ate a lot of deer meat, or venison. With all of this meat, they ate corn, cabbage, onions, and squash. They might have had fresh berries and dried fruits for dessert.

Today's Thanksgiving is actually a lot like the first one. The greatest joy of Thanksgiving isn't the food. It's the **companionship**³ and celebration with loved ones, family, and friends.

¹ **celebration**- party

² **seafood**- animals to eat that come from the sea

³ **companionship**- friendship

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. Which of these was eaten at the first Thanksgiving?

- a. seafood
- b. mashed potatoes
- c. pie
- d. all of the above

2. How long did the first Thanksgiving last?

- a. an afternoon
- b. three days
- c. a week
- d. all fall

3. Which of these is an opinion?

- a. The first Thanksgiving lasted three days.
- b. Native Americans outnumbered the pilgrims.
- c. The greatest joy of Thanksgiving isn't the food.
- d. They ate venison.

4. How is Thanksgiving today a lot like the first Thanksgiving?

- a. We celebrate by eating a big meal.
- b. We always eat fish on Thanksgiving.
- c. We always eat the Thanksgiving meal outside.
- d. We bake a lot of pies.

5. Based on the passage, it is likely that the Pilgrims and Native Americans

- a. did not get along very well
- b. did not have enough food for everyone
- c. were friendly with one another
- d. really liked to bake pies

6. How is the picture related to the passage?

7. Based on the passage, why do people still celebrate Thanksgiving today?

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

The Pilgrims and Native Americans had goose, duck, and seafood, _____ no one knows if they actually had turkey.

- a. since
- b. so
- c. because
- d. but

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

During the first Thanksgiving, the Pilgrims and Native Americans celebrated for days because there were many meals served.

Who? the Pilgrims and Native Americans

What? _____

When? _____

Why? _____

10. **Vocabulary Word:** celebration: party.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: _____
