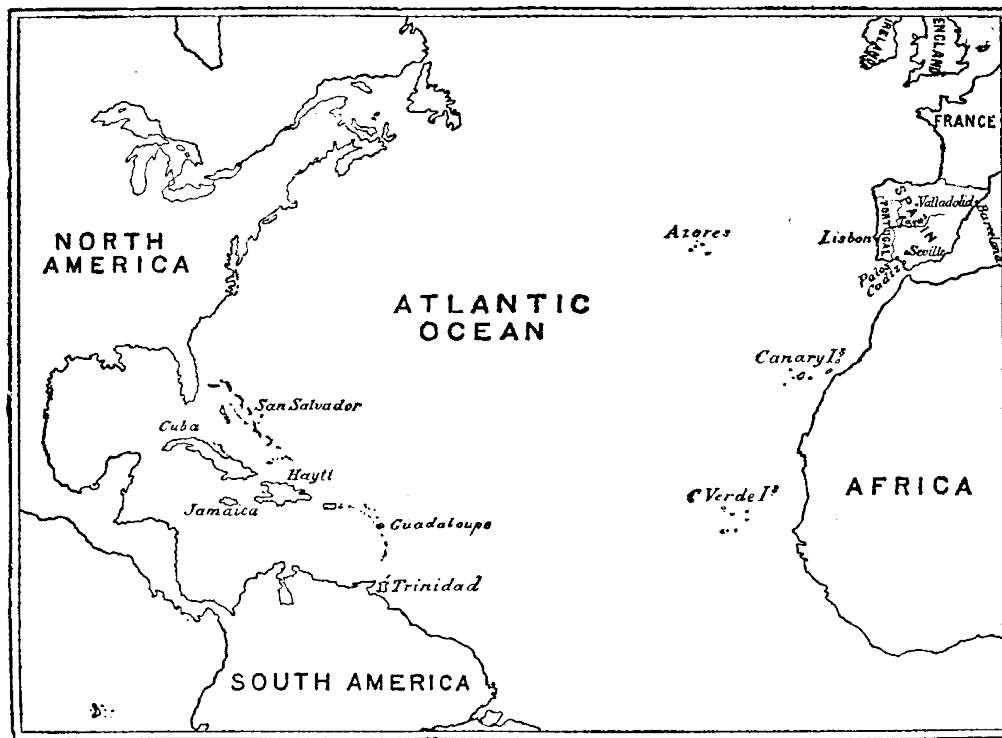


Thanksgiving Story Vocabulary

Talk about the words before you read the story.

1. **Thanksgiving:** a holiday to remember what you are thankful for and how our country started, on the fourth Thursday in November
2. **Journey:** a trip, to travel to a new place
3. **Pilgrim:** people who left England because they wanted freedom of religion and a new life
4. **Native American:** original or first people who lived in North America before Europeans
5. **Ship:** a large boat
6. **Meal:** breakfast, lunch, dinner
7. **Religion:** what you believe about God, how you **worship** and live life
8. **Freedom:** “be” free, “have” freedom
9. **Crop:** to grow food like corn, wheat, or beans
10. **Harvest:** the time that crops are picked, usually in the fall—also the picked crops are called “The Harvest”

Draw a line from England to America.



Plymouth is in the state of Massachusetts.

Find Massachusetts on the map.

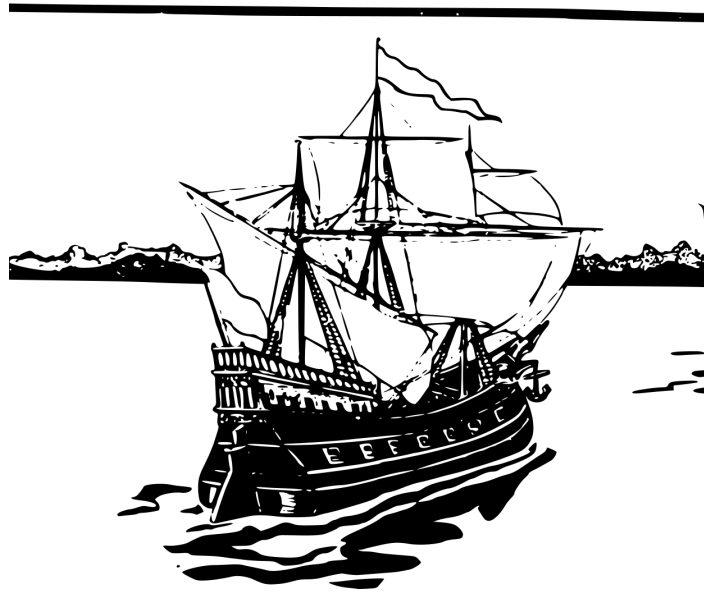
THANKSGIVING



Thanksgiving is the 4th Thursday of November. This is the story of how Thanksgiving began.

A group of people called the “**Pilgrims**” lived in England. They didn’t have **religious freedom** there. The pilgrims were a people who read God’s word and prayed every day. They wanted to be free to worship God, so they decided to leave England.

At first, they went to Holland (Netherlands). They were free there, but there were problems. They could not find good jobs and their kids forgot how to speak English! They decided to go to America and start a new life there. This was long before the United States was a country.



In 1620, 102 Pilgrims went on a **ship** called the Mayflower. On November 9, 1620, they arrived. It was a long **journey**. It took 66 days. They started a new life in what is now Plymouth, Massachusetts.

It was very difficult, but they did it for their children. They wanted their children and grandchildren to have a better life.

They were cold and hungry. The men started to build a large house, but it burned down. The women and children had to live on the ship for a long time. They didn't know how to grow food in a new land. Many people got sick. Almost half of the people died.

They prayed to God for help. Help came!

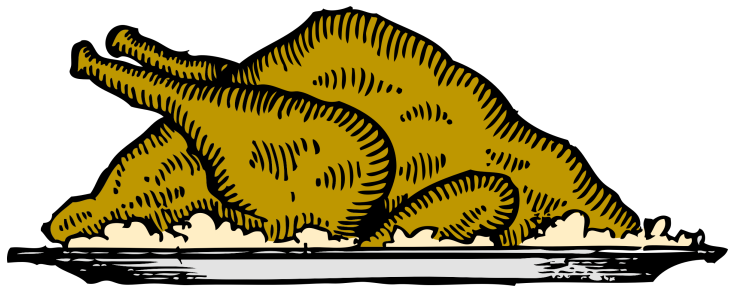


Native Americans watched the pilgrims. They came to them and decided to help. (Native Americans are people who lived in America before Europeans.)

They taught the Pilgrims how to grow **crops** in America and helped them in many other ways too.

The Pilgrims and Native Americans celebrated the **harvest** with a large **meal** together. The Pilgrims said a "Blessing". They said "Thank you" to God. This was the first Thanksgiving.

Why turkey??? We do not know for sure if the first Thanksgiving had turkey, but turkeys are **native** to America and the pilgrims ate turkey other times.



turkey

On Thanksgiving Day, people “give thanks” (pray and say thank you) to God and eat a big turkey dinner with family and friends.

What are you thankful for?



1. Answer the questions out loud.

What is the name of the holiday?

When is Thanksgiving?

Where were the Pilgrims from?

Why did the Pilgrims come to America?

What was the name of the ship?

Who helped the Pilgrims in America?

What do people do on Thanksgiving Day?

2. What are you thankful for? Write sentences in your notebook, and then ask someone else this question.

3. Did you ever ask God for help? What happened?

4. This story is told in the past tense. Use a notebook to make a list.

Write all the verbs from the story in the past tense and in the present tense.

Use the verbs to write about what you did before you lived in America. (*If you were born in the U.S., write about a family member or a friend.*)

Ex. lived, live
began, begin

I lived in Canada.
I began a new job there.

5. Tell your story of coming to America. (*If you were born in the U.S., tell the story of a family member or a friend.*)