

The First Thanksgiving

Many Many years ago some people who called themselves Pilgrims left England to find a new home. Pilgrims were people who went to far away places for religious reasons. These Pilgrims wanted to have their own churches . But the King of England would not let them have their own churches. He wanted them to go to his church.

The Pilgrims knew about a new land far across the ocean. It was called America. The Pilgrims got on a ship named the Mayflower and sailed for America. The Mayflower had sails. The wind blowing on the sails made the ship go. The trip across the ocean seemed to take a very long time. The ship was very crowded. There were 102 people besides the sailors. There were 31 children. It was very cold and many people got sick. At last the Pilgrims could see land. They were very happy.

They called the place where they landed Plymouth. They had to live on the ship for many more days while the men cut down trees and built houses. The weather was cold and there was not enough food.. Many of the people got sick and only half of them lived until spring came.

One day an Indian came to Plymouth. His name was Samoset. He could say some English words. Samoset brought other Indians to meet the Pilgrims. He brought Massasoit, the chief of the Indians. The governor of Plymouth and Chief Massasoit agreed that the Indians and the Pilgrims would be friends and help each other.

With Chief Massasoit came Squanto. Squanto had been to England with some sailors. He could talk English. Squanto lived with the Pilgrims. Squanto was a good friend. He showed the Pilgrims where to fish and how to plant corn. He told them to plant the corn seeds with dead fish. The fish made the soil better so that the corn grew well.

The Indian corn was very important. The seed the Pilgrims brought from England did not grow well. They made bread out of corn. When spring came the Mayflower left to go back to England. Not one of the Pilgrims went back. They were brave people. They wanted to stay and work hard. When Fall came, things were better . The Pilgrims had homes. They had all the food they could eat. Governor Bradford said.--We should thank God for all these things. They decided to have a feast and invite their Indian friends.

On Thanksgiving day they went to church and thanked God for all their blessings, then they went home to feast. The pilgrims and Indians sat down at long tables. There were 90 Indians. There was enough food for everybody. They had deer, turkeys, geese, ducks, fish, and clams. They had corn, beans, squash, pumpkins, plums, grapes, nuts, cranberries, and corn cakes. After dinner they had games and fun. The Indians had such a good time they stayed for three days.

It is a long time since the Pilgrims thanked God for helping them in a new country. Their new country is now the United States of America. Americans in many states have held Thanksgiving every fall since the time of the Pilgrims. President Abraham Lincoln set a special day for Thanksgiving and said it should be held each year all over the country. Now every year the fourth Thursday in November is Thanksgiving Day.

<p>What was the name of their ship?</p>	<p>When spring came, the Pilgrims...</p>	<p>The Indians.</p>	<p>What did the Indians bring to eat?</p>
<p>Why did the Pilgrims come to America?</p>	<p>The Indians taught the Pilgrims how to?</p>	<p>The Mayflower.</p>	<p>Who did the Pilgrims invite to their feast?</p>
<p>Harvested the fruits and vegetables they grew.</p>	<p>To be able to worship as they pleased.</p>	<p>When fall came, the Pilgrims?</p>	<p>Where did the Pilgrims come from?</p>
<p>Turkeys.</p>	<p>Plowed the land and planted new seed.</p>	<p>Hunt for food.</p>	<p>England.</p>



