

Reading Comprehension

THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving is celebrated annually in the USA and Canada. It is generally held on the last Thursday in November for the USA, and the second Monday of October for Canada.



The tradition of Thanksgiving began in Massachusetts in 1621, when Plymouth colonists (called Puritans) and Wampanoag Native Americans came together to share a harvest feast.

The Puritans were English Protestants who were attempting to break away from the Church of England. They travelled to the USA on the Mayflower, carrying 101 men, women and children. With the help of a Native American man named Samoset, the Wampanoag people helped the settlers grow crops and hunt, and a formal agreement was made to protect each other from other tribes. Sadly, the peace they enjoyed did not last forever.



It wasn't until 1863 that Thanksgiving became an annual national holiday. On Thanksgiving, people are encouraged to give thanks and general blessings.

1 Look up a calendar and determine on which date Thanksgiving falls this year: _____

2 Who were the Puritans? _____

3 Why do you think the peace that the early settlers and Native Americans enjoyed did not last?

4 Why do people give thanks on Thanksgiving?

