Thanksgiving

This tradition started in 1621, when the English colonists celebrated their first successful harvest. They shared food and gave thanks together with the Native Americans, and the celebration lasted three days.

The colonists had arrived the year before on a ship called the Mayflower, and they settled in Plymouth (which is now part of the state of Massachusetts). Only half of them survived the first winter, so the good harvest the next year was a big reason to celebrate and feel thankful.

During the celebration, they shared turkey, pumpkins, and dried fruits with the Native Americans. Today, this is known as the first Thanksgiving Day, but the celebration did not happen again for many years.

In 1789, President George Washington made Thanksgiving a national holiday for the first time. That year, it was celebrated on Thursday, November 26. For a long time, each state celebrated it on a different date.

Then, in 1863, President Abraham Lincoln said that the last Thursday of November should be the official Thanksgiving Day. After that, every year, the president of the United States announced the date of the holiday.

Finally, in 1941, the U.S. Congress made Thanksgiving a legal holiday.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Questions time

1. In what year did the Thanksgiving tradition begin?

_____

2. With whom did the colonists celebrate their first harvest?

_____

3. How many days did the first successful harvest celebration last?

_____

4. What was the name of the ship in which the colonists arrived in America?

_____

5. What percentage of the colonists survived the first winter?

_____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Multiple questions

1. What foods did the colonists share with the natives during the celebration?

A. turkey, pumpkins, and dried fruits

B. Potatoes, French fries

C. Cake and coke

2. In what year did President George Washington declare Thanksgiving a national holiday?

A. 1789

B. 1899

C. 2000

3. On what date was Thanksgiving celebrated in 1789?

A. On Thursday, November 26

B. On Monday, October 27

C. On Tuesday, September 29

4. Who proclaimed the last Thursday of November as National Thanksgiving Day?

A. The neighbor

B. George Washington

C. President Abraham Lincoln

5. In what year did Congress declare Thanksgiving a legal holiday?

A. In 1935

B. in 1941

C. In 1933

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Answer the next questions

Answer true (T) or false (F) to the following questions:

1. The colonists arrived in America on a ship called the Mayflower.

   V / F

2. The first Thanksgiving celebration lasted for one week.

   V / F

3. Only half of the colonists survived their first winter in America.

   V / F

4. President Abraham Lincoln declared Thanksgiving a national holiday in 1789.

   V / F

5. The U.S. Congress made Thanksgiving a legal holiday in 1941.

   V / F

6. The colonists shared food with the Native Americans during the first Thanksgiving.

   V / F

7. All the colonists survived the first winter in America.

   V / F

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Matching Words

Match each definition with the correct word from the word box. Write the correct word next to each definition:

Colonist - Tradition - Harvest - Holiday

1. The gathering of fruits, vegetables, or grains after they have grown.

2. People who travel to a new place to live there and start a community.

3. A special day when people don' t work or go to school and celebrate something important.

4. A custom that people repeat over time, like a special celebration.

Order the Events - Thanksgiving History

Read the events below. They are in the wrong order. Number them from 1 to 5 according to the order they happened in the text.

- The colonists and Native Americans celebrated the first Thanksgiving.
- George Washington made Thanksgiving a national holiday for the first time.
- The colonists arrived on the Mayflower and settled in Plymouth.
- Abraham Lincoln said Thanksgiving should be on the last Thursday of November.
- The U.S. Congress made Thanksgiving a legal holiday.

LIVEWORKSHEETS