



Thanksgiving – 2025

The first Thanksgiving Day

In 1620, 102 people sailed (הפליגו) from England to North America on a small ship called the *Mayflower*. These **pilgrims** (מתיישבים), settled in Plymouth in what is today Massachusetts. The first winter for these families was very hard. In the very cold weather, it was difficult to find food and a place to live. Only half of the pilgrims survived (שרדו). However, when spring arrived, the settlers were taught by the local Native Americans how to grow corn and catch fish in the rivers.

After their first corn harvest (קציר) in 1621, the pilgrims invited their Native American friends to a meal to thank them for their help. The festival (חפלה) lasted three days and is considered (נחשב) the first Thanksgiving celebration. This celebration then became a yearly event (אירוע שנתי).

Thanksgiving Day in later years

In 1789, President George Washington decided that Thanksgiving would be a national holiday. In 1941, a law was passed (חוקק חוק) making Thanksgiving the 4th Thursday in November.

Thanksgiving Day Traditions

These are some Thanksgiving traditions (מנהגים) in the United States.

Family reunion

One of the most important traditions of Thanksgiving Day is getting together with the family and eating together the Thanksgiving meal. More people travel on the days before Thanksgiving than on any other day of the year.

Thanksgiving Meal

Every Thanksgiving meal has turkey (תרנגול הודו) on the dinner table. This is served (מוגש) with cranberry sauce (ג'ל חמוציות), stuffing (מילוי של ההודו), pumpkin pie (פאי דלעת), potatoes and vegetables.

Parades (מצעדים)

There are parades all over the country, but the most famous one is the Macy's Parade in New York which lasts around three hours.

American Football

One important Thanksgiving tradition is to watch a (American) football game on TV.



Questions:

1. How many people sailed from England to America in 1620? _____
2. Where in America did the pilgrims first settle? _____
3. How many of the pilgrims survived? _____
4. Name **TWO** things the Native Americans taught the pilgrims:
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
5. Why did the pilgrims invite Native American to this very festive (חגיגי) meal?

6. How many years ago did George Washington make Thanksgiving a national holiday? _____
7. When in November does Thanksgiving take place each year?

8. How do we know Thanksgiving is a popular holiday in the US?

9. Name **TWO** things Americans eat at the Thanksgiving meal.
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
10. Which sport is associated with Thanksgiving?
