THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving is the national holiday in the USA. It is celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November. On this day American give thanks for the good things in their live.

Everything started in 1620, when the Pilgrims (members of the English Separatist Church) left their country – England, on a ship called the Mayflower, because of he religious reasons.

Their trip took 65 days and was very difficult. They landed near Plymouth Rock in America and they started to build their homes there. (In those time the first people living in America were Indians).

During the first winter many people died because they hadn't got enough food to eat. In the spring of 1621, the Pilgrims became friends with the Wampanoag tribe of Native Americans. The Wampanoag helped the Pilgrims learn how to hunt better and how to plant crops like corn.

In 1621 the harvest was very good. The Pilgrims were very thankful and they invited their Native American friends to a feast.

The first Thanksgiving was celebrated and lasted for three days. The main dishes included corns, pumpkins, fish and turkeys.

Thanksgiving became a national holiday in 1863.

Today Thanksgiving is still a day to be thankful for family, friends and good food. Families gather around the table and enjoy a traditional dinner of roast turkey with cranberries, sweet potatoes and pumpkin pie for dessert. On this day many Americans go to or watch on TV, football matches.

The Canadians celebrate Thanksgiving, too. In Canada it is on the second Monday in October.

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS:

1. When is Thanksgiving celebrated in the USA

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2. Who were the Pilgrims ? _____
3. What was the name of the ship the Pilgrims sailed ? _____
4. How many days did the trip take ? _____
5. Who helped the Pilgrims in spring of 1621 ? _____
6. How many days was Thanksgiving celebrated ? _____
7. When did Thanksgiving become a national holiday ? _____
8. What do Americans have for traditional dinner today ?

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9. What do Americans do after dinner ? _____
10. When do Canadians celebrate Thanksgiving ?

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ANSWERS

1. On the fourth Thursday in November
2. The members of the English Separatist Church
3. The Mayflower
4. 65 days
5. The Indians OR The Wampanoag tribe of Native Americans
6. Three
7. In 1863
8. The roast turkey with cranberries, sweet potatoes and pumpkin pie (for dessert)
9. They go to a football (American football) match or watch it on TV
10. On the second Monday in October