



THANKSGIVING: TRUE OR FALSE?

The First Thanksgiving
occurred in 1621.

THANKSGIVING: TRUE OR FALSE?

FALSE

No one knows when the “first” thanksgiving occurred. People give thanks all over the world, and harvest feasts are celebrated in many different cultures. Eastern Indians had been celebrating the harvest feast for centuries prior to the Plymouth settlers’ arrival.

THANKSGIVING: TRUE OR FALSE?

The people who came across the ocean on the Mayflower called themselves Pilgrims.

THANKSGIVING: TRUE OR FALSE?

FALSE

A “pilgrimage” is a journey made for religious reasons, such as the Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca. The Plymouth settlers did not refer to themselves as “Pilgrims.” The term “Pilgrims” was not used until the 1870’s. No one used the term “Pilgrims” until the 1870’s.



THANKSGIVING: TRUE OR FALSE?

When the Pilgrims landed,
they first stepped foot on
“Plymouth Rock.”

THANKSGIVING: TRUE OR FALSE?

FALSE

The small boat that carried the settlers from the Mayflower to the mainland would have been destroyed if they attempted to land on what is known as “Plymouth Rock.” Plymouth Rock was first referred to in a town surveying record in 1715. Since then, the rock has been moved, cracked in two, and pasted together.

THANKSGIVING: TRUE OR FALSE?

The Pilgrims stole corn seeds from the Wampanoag Tribe to plant their first crops.

THANKSGIVING: TRUE OR FALSE?

TRUE

“Pilgrims” reported “finding” caches of stored corn seed, stating that compensation for the corn will be given to the local tribes at a later date. No compensation was ever reported.

THANKSGIVING: TRUE OR FALSE?

The Pilgrims took objects from several Indian homes.

THANKSGIVING: TRUE OR FALSE?

TRUE

They were reported taking objects from Indian homes. In addition to theft, Pilgrims reported finding “grave-like” mounds and retrieved several objects from the graves before re-interring the bodies.



THANKSGIVING: TRUE OR FALSE?

The Pilgrims invited the
Indians to celebrate the First
Thanksgiving.

THANKSGIVING: TRUE OR FALSE?

FALSE

The Wampanoag tribe, upon hearing gunshots from the Plymouth settlement, gathered approximately 90 men in fear that a battle was about to begin. Upon arriving at Plymouth and seeing the “festivities,” they then went out and brought back 5 deer and several turkeys. Again, Native and Europeans alike were very familiar with harvest feasts long before 1621.

THANKSGIVING: TRUE OR FALSE?

The Pilgrims provided the food for their Indian friends.

THANKSGIVING: TRUE OR FALSE?

FALSE

All of the food present at “the First Thanksgiving” was indigenous to North America. This fact, combined with the account of the Wampanoag tribe providing venison and turkeys, makes it more likely that the Native people provided the food for the Pilgrims.



THANKSGIVING: TRUE OR FALSE?

The Pilgrims and Indians
became great friends.

THANKSGIVING: TRUE OR FALSE?

FALSE

About a century later, theft of Indian lands by European settlers forced the Wampanoag to go to war to keep their homes. In 1637, English soldiers massacred some 700 Pequot men, women and children at Mystic Fort, burning many alive and shooting those that fled. The Colony of Connecticut and Massachusetts Bay Colony observed a day of thanksgiving commemorating the massacre.

THANKSGIVING: TRUE OR FALSE?

Squanto was fluent
in English.

THANKSGIVING: TRUE OR FALSE?

TRUE

Squanto learned English after being taken to England. He saw many parts of Europe, eventually escaped captivity and made his way back to North America. Squanto may have crossed the Atlantic as many as six times.

THANKSGIVING: TRUE OR FALSE?

Thanksgiving has been celebrated every year since the First Thanksgiving in 1621.

THANKSGIVING: TRUE OR FALSE?

FALSE

Our modern celebrations of the Thanksgiving “holiday” date back only to 1863. President Lincoln named it a National Holiday during the Civil War in an attempt to promote solidarity and unity between the warring states.