



## Elementary

***Today you are going to read about Thanksgiving which is a very popular celebration in the U.S.***

In the early 1600's the government of England only allowed (megenged) its citizens (állampolgár) to belong to (tartozni valahova) one church known as *The Church of England*. Because the government in England had little tolerance for religious freedom, some people who wanted to make religion "pure" (tisztá) again went to Holland in 1609. The "Puritans" lived in Holland, however, they became worried when their children began speaking Dutch and started to live the Dutch way of life.

So, on September 6, 1620 the Pilgrims (zarándok), and an unknown number of crew (legénység) members, boarded (felszáll) the Mayflower to travel to the New World. The **passenger** list (utaslista) included Pilgrims, also known as the "saints" and others, whom the Pilgrims called the "strangers". The trip to the new world took several weeks. Because the ship was made of wood, the passengers could not build a fire, so they had to eat cold food. Many of the passengers became ill and some even died. This long trip led to many arguments (vita) between the Saints and the Strangers.

After they saw the land from the ship, they sat down and wrote the Mayflower Compact. The Mayflower Compact guaranteed each group equality and joined the two groups together, all to be known as the Pilgrims.

Due to the long voyage (utazás), the Mayflower landed at Plymouth, north of Cape Cod, Massachusetts in November. This was very bad timing (időzítés) as the Pilgrims did not have time to plant (ültetni) food for the winter. The first winter was very harsh (kemény) for the new settlers. The cold temperatures and snow interfered (közbeavatkozni) as the Pilgrims tried to construct their settlement. Out of the original group of Pilgrims, only about half survived (túlélni) the first winter.

On March 16, 1621 an Indian named Samoset arrived at the settlement and frightened (megijeszt) the Pilgrims until he called out "Welcome" in English. Although the Pilgrims and Samoset had a difficult time communicating, he did stay for some time and even spent the night. Samoset left the next day and returned a few days later with an English speaking Indian named Squanto. Squanto taught the Pilgrims how to hunt (vadászni), fish and grow corn (kukorica). Because of Squanto's help, the Pilgrims had a very successful (sikeres) harvest (termés) in October and had a lot of food for the next winter. The Pilgrim's Governor William Bradford proclaimed (kihirdet, kinyilvánít) a day of celebration and thanksgiving sometime in the middle of October. The Pilgrims invited Squanto and many other Indians to join in (becsatlakozni) the celebration (ünneplés). The Thanksgiving feast (lakoma) lasted for three days.

The custom (szokás) of celebrating after harvest time became an annual (évi, évenkénti) event (esemény). However, it was not until 1863 when President Abraham Lincoln officially (hivatalosan) proclaimed the last Thursday in November a national day of Thanksgiving. On November 26, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared the fourth Thursday in November as a national Thanksgiving holiday.

*Now answer the questions.*

1. Why did the Puritans leave England?
2. Where did they go to live?
3. Why did they leave that country?
4. What was the name of the ship that took them to the new land?
5. Why did they have to eat cold food?
6. Did all the passengers arrive in America?
7. What is the Mayflower compact about?
8. Why was the first winter very harsh for the Pilgrims?
9. Who helped the Pilgrims to survive?
10. What did they say thanks for?



Match the syllables to get the words in connection with Thanksgiving.

1. thank-
2. tur –
3. tin –
4. Pil –
5. har –
6. pum –
7. plat –
8. sup –
9. corn –
10. staff –

- a. key
- b. ful
- c. grim
- d. ner
- e. ter
- f. vest
- g. kin
- h. ing
- i. per
- j. cob

## Intermediate

***Today you are going to read about Thanksgiving which is a very popular celebration in the U.S.***

The Pilgrims, who celebrated the first thanksgiving in America, were fleeing religious persecution in their native England. In 1609 a group of Pilgrims left England for the religious freedom in Holland where they lived and prospered. After a few years their children were speaking Dutch and had become attached to the Dutch way of life. This worried the Pilgrims. They considered the Dutch frivolous and their ideas a threat to their children's education and morality.

So they decided to leave Holland and travel to the New World. Their trip was financed by a group of English investors, the Merchant Adventurers. It was agreed that the Pilgrims would be given passage and supplies in exchange for their working for their backers for 7 years.

On Sept. 6, 1620 the Pilgrims set sail for the New World on a ship called the Mayflower. They sailed from Plymouth, England and aboard were 44 Pilgrims, who called themselves the "Saints", and 66 others, whom the Pilgrims called the "Strangers."

The long trip was cold and damp and took 65 days. Since there was the danger of fire on the wooden ship, the food had to be eaten cold. Many passengers became sick and one person died by the time land was sighted on November 10th.

The long trip led to many disagreements between the "Saints" and the "Strangers". After land was sighted a meeting was held and an agreement was worked out, called the Mayflower Compact, which guaranteed equality and unified the two groups. They joined together and named themselves the "Pilgrims."

Although they had first sighted land off Cape Cod they did not settle until they arrived at Plymouth, which had been named by Captain John Smith in 1614. It was there that the Pilgrims decided to settle. Plymouth offered an excellent harbour. A large brook offered a resource for fish. The Pilgrims biggest concern was attack by the local Native American Indians. But the *Patuxets* were a peaceful group and did not prove to be a threat.



The first winter was devastating to the Pilgrims. The cold, snow and sleet were exceptionally heavy, interfering with the workers as they tried to construct their settlement. March brought warmer weather and the health of the Pilgrims improved, but many had died during the long winter. Of the 110 Pilgrims and crew who left England, less than 50 survived the first winter.

On March 16, 1621, what was to become an important event took place, an Indian brave walked into the Plymouth settlement. The Pilgrims were frightened until the Indian called out "Welcome" (in English!).

His name was *Samoset* and he was an Abnaki Indian. He had learned English from the captains of fishing boats that had sailed off the coast. After staying the night Samoset left the next day. He soon returned with another Indian named *Squanto* who spoke better English than Samoset. Squanto told the Pilgrims of his [voyages](#) across the ocean and his visits to England and Spain. It was in England where he had learned English.

Squanto's importance to the Pilgrims was enormous and it can be said that they would not have survived without his help. It was Squanto who taught the Pilgrims how to tap the maple trees for sap. He taught them which plants were poisonous and which had medicinal powers. He taught them how to plant the Indian corn by heaping the earth into low mounds with several seeds and fish in each mound. The decaying fish fertilized the corn. He also taught them to plant other crops with the corn.

The harvest in October was very successful and the Pilgrims found themselves with enough food to put away for the winter. There was corn, fruits and vegetables, fish to be packed in salt, and meat to be cured over smoky fires.

The Pilgrims had much to celebrate, they had built homes in the wilderness, they had raised enough crops to keep them alive during the long coming winter, they were at peace with their Indian neighbours. They had beaten the odds and it was time to celebrate.

The Pilgrim Governor William Bradford proclaimed a day of thanksgiving to be shared by all the colonists and the neighbouring Native Americans. They invited Squanto and the other Indians to join them in their celebration. Their chief, *Massasoit*, and 90 braves came to the celebration which lasted for 3 days. They played games, ran races, marched and played drums. The Indians demonstrated their skills with the bow and arrow and the Pilgrims demonstrated their musket skills. Exactly when the festival took place is uncertain, but it is believed the celebration took place in mid-October.

The following year the Pilgrims harvest was not as bountiful, as they were still unused to growing the corn. During the year they had also shared their stored food with newcomers and the Pilgrims ran short of food.

The 3rd year brought a spring and summer that was hot and dry with the crops dying in the fields. Governor Bradford ordered a day of prayer, and it was soon thereafter that the rain came. To celebrate - November 29th of that year was proclaimed a day of thanksgiving. This date is believed to be the real true beginning of the present day Thanksgiving Day.

The custom of an annually celebrated thanksgiving, held after the harvest, continued through the years. During the American Revolution (late 1770's) a day of national thanksgiving was suggested by the Continental Congress.

In 1817 New York State adopted Thanksgiving Day as an annual custom. By the middle of the 19th century many other states also celebrated a Thanksgiving Day. In 1863 President Abraham Lincoln appointed a national day of thanksgiving. Since then each president has issued a Thanksgiving Day proclamation, usually designating the fourth Thursday of each November as the holiday.

*Decide if these sentences are true or false.*

1. The Pilgrims were Dutch people who wanted to be better people and that's why they left for the New World.
2. The voyage was very tough and some of the passengers even died.
3. The passengers were divided into Saints and Evils.
4. The first winter was surprisingly easy for the settlers.
5. The first Indian who they met was called Samoset.



6. Samoset could speak English perfectly because he learned it in England.
7. The settlers were thankful for the plentiful harvest they had that year, and that's why they celebrated Thanksgiving.
8. The celebration lasted for a week.
9. The settlers said prayers for the rain to come.
10. Nowadays presidents don't issue Thanksgiving Day proclamations any longer.

*Find the missing letters in the words in connection with Thanksgiving.*

1. P\_\_ E
2. \_\_ AM
3. \_\_ORN
4. \_\_AT
5. H\_\_Y
6. T\_\_RKEY
7. INDIA\_\_S
8. PIL\_\_RIMS
9. \_\_ORNUCOPIA
10. PUMP\_\_IN

## **Advanced**

***Today you are going to read about Thanksgiving which is a very popular celebration in the U.S.***

Thanksgiving, or Thanksgiving Day, is an annual one-day holiday to give thanks, traditionally to God, for the things one has at the close of the harvest season. In the United States, Thanksgiving is celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November, and in Canada it is celebrated on the second Monday in October. In the United Kingdom, Thanksgiving is another name for the Harvest festival, held in churches across the country on a relevant Sunday to mark the end of the local harvest, though it is not thought of as a major event (compared to Christmas or Easter) as it is in North America, where this tradition taken by early settlers became much more important. In the United States, certain kinds of food are traditionally served at Thanksgiving meals. First and foremost, turkey is usually the featured item on any Thanksgiving feast table (so much so that Thanksgiving is sometimes referred to as "Turkey Day"). Stuffing, mashed potatoes with gravy, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, Indian corn, other fall vegetables, and pumpkin pie are commonly associated with Thanksgiving dinner.

On Thanksgiving Day, families and friends usually gather for a large meal or dinner, the result being that the Thanksgiving holiday weekend is one of the busiest travel periods of the year.

In New York City, the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade (often erroneously referred to as the "Macy's Day Parade") is held annually every Thanksgiving Day on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. The parade features parade floats with specific themes, scenes from Broadway plays, large balloons of cartoon characters and TV personalities, and high school marching bands. The float that traditionally ends the Macy's Parade is the Santa Claus float. This float is a sign that the Christmas season has begun. Thanksgiving parades also occur in many cities such as Plymouth, Houston, Philadelphia (which claims the oldest parade), and Detroit (where it is the only major parade of the year). Within the New York metropolitan area, the city of Stamford, Connecticut holds an alternative parade to the Macy's parade (with different characters on the balloons) the Sunday before Thanksgiving that has attracted over 250,000 people in recent years. The American winter holiday season (generally the Christmas shopping season in the U.S.) traditionally begins when Thanksgiving ends, on "Black Friday" (the day after Thanksgiving); this tradition has held forth since at least the 1930s. This day is called "Black Friday" due to all of the money being transacted, causing cashiers' hands to become black. While the biggest day of shopping of the year in the U.S., as measured by customer traffic, is still the Friday after



Thanksgiving (the biggest by sales volume is either the Saturday before Christmas or December 23), most shops start to stock for and promote the December holidays immediately after Halloween, and sometimes even before. Opponents of consumerism in some places protest this behavior by declaring the day after Thanksgiving Buy Nothing Day.

American football is often a major part of Thanksgiving celebrations in the U.S. and likewise Canadian football in Canada. Professional games are traditionally played on Thanksgiving Day in both countries; until recently in the U.S., these were the only games played during the week apart from Sunday or Monday night. The Detroit Lions of the American National Football League have hosted a game every Thanksgiving Day since 1934, with the exception of 1939–1944 (due to World War II). The Dallas Cowboys have hosted every Thanksgiving Day since 1966, with the exception of 1975 and 1977 when the then-St. Louis Cardinals hosted. The Kansas City Chiefs hosted games during their days in the American Football League, and will revive that tradition in 2006 when they host the Denver Broncos on Thanksgiving. Additionally, many college and high school football games are played over Thanksgiving weekend, often between regional or historic rivals.

U.S. tradition associates the holiday with a meal held in 1621 by the Wampanoag and the Pilgrims who settled in Plymouth, Massachusetts. This element continues in modern times with the Thanksgiving dinner, often featuring turkey, playing a large role in the celebration of Thanksgiving. Some of the details of the American Thanksgiving story are myths that developed in the 1890s and early 1900s as part of the effort to forge a common national identity in the aftermath of the Civil War and in the melting pot of new immigrants.

*Now answer the questions.*

1. When exactly is Thanksgiving celebrated in the US?
2. What's the most important element of Thanksgiving meals?
3. Give another name for Thanksgiving Day.
4. What is Black Friday?
5. Why is it called black?
6. What sport is an important part of the celebration?
7. Why did they create details about the Thanksgiving story?

*Find synonyms for each Thanksgiving related words.*

1. frosty
  2. autumn
  3. grateful
  4. fall
  5. harvest
  6. Native Americans
  7. maize
  8. dine
  9. dish
  10. banquet
- 
- a. Indians
  - b. Thankful
  - c. Corn
  - d. Cold
  - e. Eat
  - f. Plunge
  - g. Feast
  - h. Plate
  - i. Fall
  - j. Crop