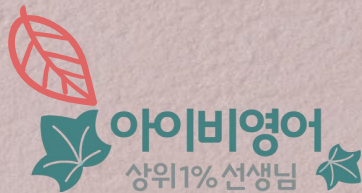


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History of the Holidays





Lesson 1

History of Thanksgiving



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Vocabulary

A. Match the words with their meanings.



01 relating to or devoted to religious beliefs or practices. _____

02 having or expressing strong emotions or intense conviction. _____

03 to announce or make known officially or publicly. _____

04 an abstract idea or general notion. _____

05 necessary to make a whole complete; essential or fundamental. _____

passionate

religious

integral

declare

concept



Vocabulary

B. Choose the correct word.

- 01 For later generations, New England days of Thanksgiving had little to do with the 1621 Harvest Festival; theirs was a (**religious** / **passionate**) holiday descended from Puritan days of fasting, prayer, and giving thanks to God.
- 02 Sarah Josephina Hale (**integral** / **passionately**) believed that a national Thanksgiving day would help unite a nation headed towards Civil War, leading her to begin a one-woman letter-writing campaign.
- 03 In 1863, four months after the victory at Gettysburg, Abraham Lincoln (**concept** / **declared**) the last Thursday of November to be Thanksgiving Day.
- 04 In the 1920s, the National Football League was formed to boost attendance, and the Detroit Lions devised the (**integral** / **concept**) of a Thanksgiving Day game.
- 05 Thanksgiving traditions, including parades and the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade starting in 1924, became (**integral** / **religious**) to the holiday, reminding us that, most of all, Thanksgiving is about family and taking a collective breath to reconnect with loved ones.



Comprehension



A. Choose the correct answers.

01

What inspired today's Thanksgiving feast for most Americans?

- a) Pilgrims from Jamestown
- b) Colonists from Roanoke
- c) Pilgrims from Plymouth, Massachusetts
- d) Native Americans from Massachusetts

02

What happened after the winter of 1620 for the Plymouth colonists?

- a) They formed a relationship with the neighboring tribe.
- b) They returned to England.
- c) They faced a drought.
- d) They celebrated Christmas.

03

What probably did not include in the 1621 Harvest meal, according to the passage?

- a) Turkey
- b) Codfish
- c) Roast Goose
- d) Lobster



Comprehension



A. Choose the correct answers.

04 **What is commonly thought of as the first Thanksgiving feast in 1621?**

- a) A celebration of a victory over the British
- b) The Plymouth colonists' Harvest Festival
- c) The Wampanoag tribe's religious holiday
- d) A day of fasting and prayer

05 **For later generations of colonists, what were New England Thanksgiving days primarily associated with?**

- a) Harvest Festivals
- b) Victorious battles
- c) Religious holidays
- d) Drought-ending rains

06 **In 1777, what did the Continental Congress decree regarding Thanksgiving?**

- a) Only a few colonies should celebrate.
- b) It should be a national day celebrated by all 13 colonies.
- c) It should be celebrated in the spring.
- d) It should be abolished.





Comprehension

C. Choose T if the statement is correct, but if it is false, change the underlined word to make the statement true.

01 To most Americans, the Pilgrims of Plymouth, Massachusetts, are the iconic inspiration for today's Christmas feast. _____

02 The colonists formed a relationship with the neighboring friends, who taught them about fishing, planting, and hunting. _____

03 In autumn 1621, the colonists and the Wampanoag tribe joined for a 3-day feast in honor of their bounty. _____

04 By the 20th century, Thanksgiving was a welcome day of leisure from a seven-day work week. _____

05 The 1621 Harvest meal probably did not include our modern Thanksgiving staple, turkey. More likely, the colonists and Wampanoag dined on roast goose, corn, codfish, and lobster. _____



Discussion Questions



A. Answer the questions.

- 01 What are some symbols associated with Thanksgiving?
- 02 Why do people talk a lot about being thankful during Thanksgiving?
Can you think of some things you are thankful for?
- 03 If there's a similar celebration in your country, how does it compare to Thanksgiving in terms of traditions, significance, and the values it represents?
- 04 Do you and your family have any special traditions for Thanksgiving? If not, what fun activity would you like to do on this day?



Discussion Questions



A. Answer the questions.

- 05 How have the traditions of Thanksgiving changed over time, from its early celebrations to the present day?
- 06 Thanksgiving is celebrated in various ways by different families and communities. How does cultural diversity influence the way people celebrate Thanksgiving?
- 07 In your opinion, how does the idea of expressing gratitude play a role in the celebration of Thanksgiving? Do you think it's an important aspect?
- 08 Thanksgiving is often depicted in movies and TV shows. Can you think of any movies or shows that portray Thanksgiving celebrations, and how accurate do you think they are?

