



Thanksgiving in the United States of America

Hi, everyone! Today I am going to talk to you about Thanksgiving in the United States? Have you heard of Thanksgiving?



What is Thanksgiving?



Thanksgiving is celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November.

- Americans gather with their families for a very big meal.
- We celebrate and reflect on what we are thankful for, like family, friends, our health, and happiness.

Thanksgiving is a really big holiday throughout all of America. I'm sure you have seen pictures of it before.

Typical Thanksgiving foods

- Roasted turkey
- Stuffing
- Mashed potatoes
- Gravy
- Green beans
- Cranberry sauce



These are just some of the most popular foods on Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving dessert

Apple pie



Pumpkin pie



These are two of my favorite desserts on Thanksgiving. I don't have a big enough oven, but if I did, I would have made an apple pie for you all. It is made of apples, sugar, cinnamon, spices, and cream.



2. Origins of Thanksgiving

Now, we are going to talk about the origins of Thanksgiving. The story of Thanksgiving has been mistold for a very long time. Today, I am going to teach you the truth behind Thanksgiving and the importance of acknowledging the problems with this holiday.

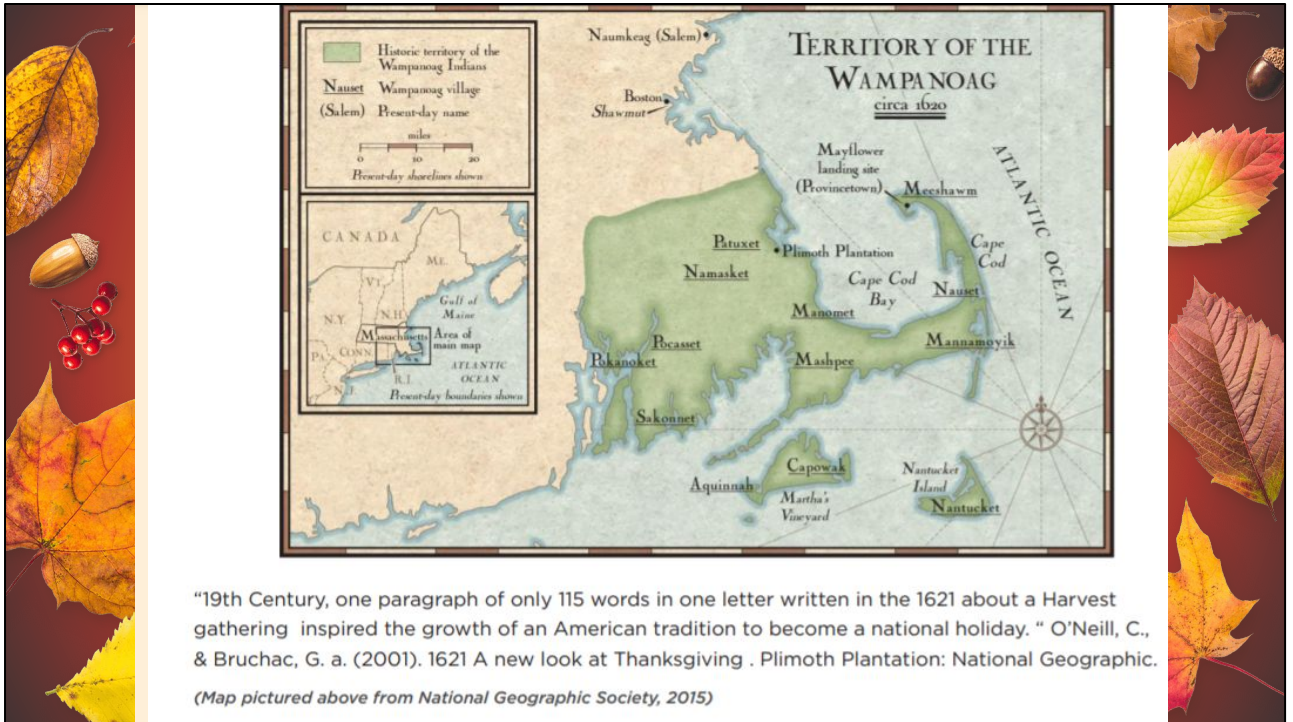


What happened?

In 1620, the Pilgrims sailed from England to North America in search of **religious freedom**.

The **Pilgrims** landed in what is now Massachusetts, at a location they named Plymouth Rock.

The Pilgrims came over on a boat called The Mayflower. It was a very big boat with lots of people. It was a very long journey. Have you heard of The Mayflower?



Here is a map of where the Pilgrims landed. This is actually very close to where I live. It is about 5 hours away in car, which is close for Americans.



The Pilgrims & the Native Americans

The Pilgrims struggled during their first year on the Native Americans' land.


Many of them died, but the **Native Americans** helped them **survive** by teaching them how to grow **crops**.

People say that, the Pilgrims had a “celebration and a **feast** with the Native Americans to **give thanks** to them for their help, and to celebrate the **harvest**.”

These are facts that people fail to talk about. The Pilgrims would not have been able to survive without the Native American, but they did not have a friendly relationship. The Pilgrims were exploited and taken advantage of.



Is the story of a “nice, friendly” dinner true? No, it is not.



America was not “new land,”
but it was actually the
homeland of Indigenous
people of many diverse
cultures.



The Truth about Thanksgiving

Christopher Columbus and the Pilgrims came to land that was already owned by the Native Americans. The Pilgrims would not have been able to survive with the knowledge of the Native Americans.

Much of what was written at the time was wrong and distorted. The story of Thanksgiving has been retold and changed over centuries by Americans.

about the Native people in the Northeast are written from the point of view of the English. Much of what was written at the time was wrong and distorted. The story would be lost, recovered, told, and retold over centuries.



The Truth about Thanksgiving

- Popular Thanksgiving narratives portray the relationship between the Pilgrims and Native Americans as friendly.
- But it was actually very exploitative and violent. Many Native Americans were killed by the Pilgrims on their own land.

Unfortunately, it was actually a very violent encounter over months.



Mass Extermination of Native Americans

Thanksgiving is a reminder of the genocide (mass killing) of thousands of Native Americans, the theft of native lands, and an attack on native culture.

Do you know what a genocide is? It is an intentional killing of a large group of people of the same ethnic or racial group.



Current Day

Although Thanksgiving is a time to celebrate and give thanks with family and friends, we must remember the history of the holiday.

Yes, Americans still celebrate Thanksgiving by eating a large meal with our friends and families. But it is more important to understand the historical roots and context of this holiday in order to recognize that Americans will always be living on stolen land.



Vocabulary

Give thanks ... Dar gracias

Thankful/grateful ... Agradecido/a

Story ... La historia

Pilgrims ... Los Peregrinos

Native Americans ... Los Nativos Americanos

Crops ... Los cultivos

Harvest ... La cosecha

Feast ... La banquete de comida

Turkey ... El pavo

Here are some key vocabulary terms about Thanksgiving. Can you add any more?



What are you thankful for?

If you'd like to share, tell me something that you are thankful for this year.