

Name _____

Date _____



Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Thanksgiving

Though it was not called Thanksgiving at the time, what we recognize as the first Thanksgiving feast was celebrated in 1621 by the pilgrims of the Plymouth colony along with about 90 Wampanoag Indians. The Pilgrims had suffered through a devastating winter in which nearly half their number died. Without the help of the Indians, all would have perished.

After the first harvest, Governor William Bradford proclaimed a day of thanksgiving and prayer to God. The food, which was eaten outdoors, included corn, geese, turkeys, ducks, eel, clams, leeks, plums, cod, bass, barley, venison and corn bread. The feast lasted 3 days. Though the exact date is unknown, the feast clearly took place in late autumn.

1. How old is the tradition of Thanksgiving?

2. What were the Pilgrims thankful for?

3. What person is famous for formalizing the tradition of Thanksgiving?

4. Which season of the year did the first Thanksgiving take place?
