

proclaimed, harvest, fare feast, accustomed, associated, native, contributed, centered, centerpiece, vehicular, attempted socialized fowl, prevailed, treaty,

Thanksgiving Day, Thanksgiving Day, annual national holiday in the United States and Canada celebrating the _____ and other blessings of the past year. Americans generally believe that their Thanksgiving is modeled on a 1621 harvest feast shared by the English colonists (Pilgrims) of Plymouth and the Wampanoag people. The American holiday is particularly rich in legend and symbolism, and the traditional _____ of the Thanksgiving meal typically includes turkey, bread stuffing, potatoes, cranberries, and pumpkin pie. With respect to _____ travel, the holiday is often the busiest of the year, as family members gather with one another.

Plymouth's Thanksgiving began with a few colonists going out "fowling," possibly for turkeys but more probably for the easier prey of geese and ducks, since they "in one day killed as much as...served the company almost a week." Next, 90 or so Wampanoag made a surprise appearance at the settlement's gate, doubtlessly unnerving the 50 or so colonists. Nevertheless, over the next few days the two groups _____ without incident. The Wampanoag contributed venison to the _____, which included the _____ and probably fish, eels, shellfish, stews, vegetables, and beer. Since Plymouth had few buildings and manufactured goods, most people ate outside while sitting on the ground or on barrels with plates on their laps. The men fired guns, ran races, and drank liquor, struggling to speak in broken English and Wampanoag. This was a rather disorderly affair, but it sealed a _____ between the two groups that lasted until King Philip's War (1675–76).

The New England colonists were _____ to regularly celebrating "Thanksgivings," days of prayer thanking God for blessings such as military victory or the end of a drought.

Thanksgiving Day did not become an official holiday until Northerners dominated the federal government. While sectional tensions _____ in the mid-19th century, the editor of the popular magazine Godey's Lady's Book, Sarah Josepha Hale, campaigned for a national Thanksgiving Day to promote unity. She finally won the support of President Abraham Lincoln. On October 3, 1863, during the Civil War, Lincoln proclaimed a national day of thanksgiving to be celebrated on Thursday, November 26.

The holiday was annually _____ by every president thereafter, and the date chosen, with few exceptions, was the last Thursday in November. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, however, _____ to extend the Christmas shopping season, which generally begins with the Thanksgiving holiday, and to boost the economy by moving the date back a week, to the third week in November. But not all states complied, and, after a joint resolution of Congress in 1941, Roosevelt issued a proclamation in 1942 designating the fourth Thursday in November (which is not always the last Thursday) as Thanksgiving Day.

As the country became more urban and family members began to live farther apart, Thanksgiving became a time to gather together. The holiday moved away from its religious roots to allow immigrants of every background to participate in a common tradition. The holiday _____ with Pilgrims and Native Americans has come to symbolize intercultural peace, America's opportunity for newcomers, and the sanctity of home and family.

Thanksgiving Dinner

The _____ of contemporary Thanksgiving in the United States and Canada is a large meal, generally _____ on a large roasted turkey. It is served with a variety of side dishes which vary from traditional dishes such as mashed potatoes, stuffing, and cranberry sauce, to ones that reflect regional or cultural heritage. The majority of the dishes in the traditional American version of Thanksgiving dinner are made from foods _____ to the New World, as according to tradition Native Americans _____ these foods, or instructed the Pilgrims how to grow them. Thanksgiving dinner is the largest eating event in the United States; people eat more on Thanksgiving than on any other day of the year.