

Grade 3
Reading - History

“The Story of the First Thanksgiving”

In the year 1620, a group of people called the Pilgrims decided to leave their homes in England and make a long journey across the Atlantic Ocean to find a new place to live. They wanted to be able to practice their own religion freely, which they couldn’t do in England at that time. After 66 days of sailing on a ship called the Mayflower, they finally reached the shores of what is now Massachusetts in North America.

The winter was harsh, and the Pilgrims had a tough time adapting to the new land. They weren’t prepared for the cold weather, and they didn’t know how to grow food in the unfamiliar soil. Many of them fell sick, and nearly half of the group died.

Fortunately, the Pilgrims weren’t alone for long. A Native American tribe called the Wampanoag lived nearby, and they saw that the Pilgrims needed help. A brave and kind Wampanoag man named Squanto decided to teach the Pilgrims how to grow corn, fish, and hunt for food. With Squanto’s help, the Pilgrims learned to survive in their new home.

By the time the next harvest season came around, the Pilgrims had plenty of food thanks to Squanto and the Wampanoag. To celebrate and give thanks, the Pilgrims held a big feast and invited their Native American friends to join. This event is now remembered as the first Thanksgiving.

The feast lasted for three whole days, and both the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag enjoyed food, games, and dancing together. It was a time of joy and gratitude, and it showed the importance of friendship and helping one another in times of need. This spirit of Thanksgiving is something that people all over the United States continue to celebrate every year on the fourth Thursday of November.

Multiple Choice Questions:

Why did the Pilgrims leave England?

- A. To find gold
- B. To practice their religion freely
- C. To meet the Wampanoag
- D. To learn farming

What was the name of the ship the Pilgrims sailed on?

- A. The Titanic
- B. The Santa Maria
- C. The Mayflower
- D. The Endeavour

How long did the Pilgrims' journey across the Atlantic Ocean take?

- A. 30 days
- B. 66 days
- C. 100 days
- D. 120 days

What happened to the Pilgrims during their first winter in North America?

- A. They had a big party
- B. They made friends with the Wampanoag
- C. Many of them fell sick and nearly half died
- D. They grew lots of food

Who helped the Pilgrims learn how to survive in their new home?

- A. The King of England
- B. Squanto and the Wampanoag
- C. Other Pilgrims
- D. Animals

What did the Pilgrims grow with the help of Squanto?

- A. Potatoes
- B. Rice
- C. Corn
- D. Apples

What did the Pilgrims do to celebrate their successful harvest?

- A. They went back to England
- B. They had a big feast
- C. They planted more crops
- D. They slept for three days

How long did the first Thanksgiving feast last?

- A. One day
- B. Three days
- C. One week
- D. One month

Who were the Pilgrims' special guests at the first Thanksgiving?

- A. The King of England
- B. Other Pilgrims
- C. The Wampanoag
- D. Squanto's family

What is celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November in the United States?

- A. The Pilgrims' journey
- B. Squanto's birthday
- C. The first Thanksgiving
- D. The Wampanoag's New Year

Answers:

1. B. To practice their religion freely. The Pilgrims left England because they wanted to practice their religion in their own way, which they couldn't do in England at that time.
2. C. The Mayflower. The Pilgrims sailed to North America on a ship called the Mayflower.
3. B. 66 days. The Pilgrims' journey across the Atlantic Ocean took 66 days.
4. C. Many of them fell sick and nearly half died. The Pilgrims had a very tough time during their first winter in North America, as they were not prepared for the cold weather and many of them fell sick and died.
5. B. Squanto and the Wampanoag. Squanto, a member of the Wampanoag tribe, helped teach the Pilgrims how to grow corn, fish, and hunt, which helped them survive.
6. C. Corn. Squanto taught the Pilgrims how to grow corn, which was a new and important food for them.
7. B. They had a big feast. To celebrate their successful harvest and to give thanks for the help they received from the Wampanoag, the Pilgrims held a big feast.
8. B. Three days. The first Thanksgiving feast lasted for three days.
9. C. The Wampanoag. The Pilgrims invited the Wampanoag to join them for the first Thanksgiving feast.
10. C. The first Thanksgiving. Every year on the fourth Thursday of November, people in the United States celebrate Thanksgiving to remember the first Thanksgiving feast and to give thanks for the good things in their lives.