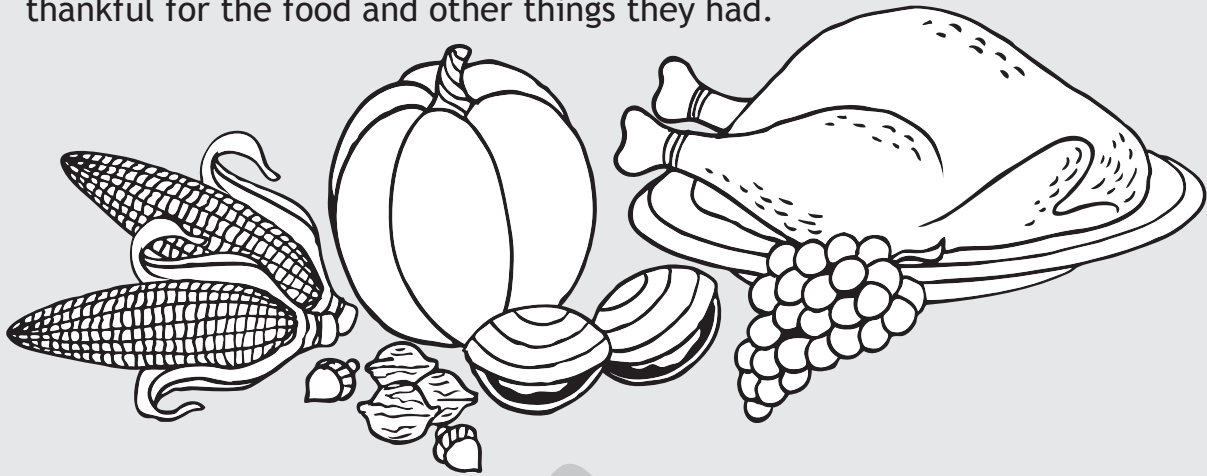


# Thanksgiving

## Fourth Thursday in November

People have celebrated Thanksgiving for many years. George Washington said the fourth Thursday in November would be a day to give thanks. Even before this, people gave thanks for a good harvest. It was a long journey for the pilgrims to sail to the new land. The first winter was hard. The Native Americans shared food with the pilgrims. The pilgrims were thankful for the food and other things they had.



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## Summary of Activities

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### Reading: Literature

*Thanks-Giving*—fictional story with a writing activity

### Reading: Informational Text

*Cranberries*—nonfiction passage with comprehension questions

### Writing

*Dangerous Journey*—activity in which students write journal entries

### Speaking & Listening

*Acts of Gratitude*—activity in which students make plans to give to others, showing gratitude for what they are thankful for

**Vocabulary:** acid, bog, contentment, cranberries, gratitude, marshes, peat



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Thanks-Giving

**Directions:** Read the story. Then complete the activity.

"Mom, when is Thanksgiving?" Kenneth looked up from the picture he was drawing.

Mom glanced at the calendar. "In a couple of weeks."

His twin brother, Brian, walked into the kitchen. "Why do we have Thanksgiving?"

"I know!" Kenneth jumped up. "First you say thanks, then you say giving."

Later that day, Kenneth and Brian went to the store with Mom. Displays of holiday decorations crowded the aisles. There were no turkeys, pilgrims, or harvest decorations.

As they stood in line, Brian pointed to a jar of candy canes at the checkout stand. "Did we skip Thanksgiving this year? I was looking forward to Mom's crescent rolls and jello salad!"

"I don't know." Kenneth shrugged his shoulders.

Mom laughed and picked up the grocery bags. "No. But what we saw in the store reminds me of what Kenneth said earlier. 'First you say thanks, then you say giving.'"

When they got home, Brian and Kenneth took their activity books to the kitchen table. Kenneth dumped out the crayons and flipped through the pages. "See, they had corn on the cob even back then. Yum!" He pointed to a picture of the first Thanksgiving feast.

"What else did they have?" Brian leaned over the picture. "Lots of things. I remember my teacher said the natives were thankful for the harvest, and they gave food to the pilgrims."

"I bet the pilgrims were grateful for friends after the hard winter." Kenneth began coloring pictures of food. "Do you suppose they shared what they had with the natives?"

"I don't know, but it sounds like they did what you said. They said thanks, and people gave people other things."

"Okay. Will you trace my hands, Mom? I'm going to list what I'm thankful for on one hand and ideas for what I can do for other people on the other hand." He held out a blue crayon and put his hand on a piece of paper.

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**Activity:** Read the steps to "Thanks-Giving" together with students. Help them think through and answer each question.

1. **Gratitude**—I am thankful.  
What am I grateful for? \_\_\_\_\_

2. **Contentment**—I am happy.  
How can I show contentment? \_\_\_\_\_

3. **Giving**—I can give to others.  
In what ways can I give to someone else? \_\_\_\_\_



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Cranberries

**Directions:** Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

A common part of a Thanksgiving celebration is to have a large meal. At Thanksgiving, people eat many different foods besides turkey. The first Thanksgiving meal celebrated the harvest. People ate cornbread, vegetables, deer meat, and a large bird. The pilgrims planted many crops in gardens, such as pumpkin, beans, carrots, turnips, and onions. In the years since those early Thanksgiving celebrations, we have added other foods.

One of the foods people added to the Thanksgiving meal was cranberry sauce. The pilgrims probably had cranberries since they grew wild. However, they didn't have sugar to make sauce. The natives mixed deer meat with mashed cranberries. They knew the berries were a healthy food.

Cranberries are native to North America. They grow wild on long vines in sandy bogs and marshes. A bog is an area of soft, wet

ground. It has acid peat soil. Cranberries grow in the Northeast and the Pacific Northwest. About two hundred years ago, farmers started growing the berries as a crop. They are harvested in the fall.

Many years ago, cranberries were picked by hand. Now, there are two ways to harvest them. Farmers flood the fields for a wet harvest. The berries float to the top of the bog. A machine stirs the water to knock the cranberries off the vine. The berries are scooped up. The cranberries are used for juice or cranberry sauce.

Cranberries can also be harvested without water. A machine with a blade combs through the vines to pick the berries. The berries are put in cloth sacks. Berries picked this way are sold fresh at markets. Some cranberry bogs are over one hundred years old. They still produce fruit today.

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1. Which best describes a *bog*?
    - a. an area of dry, sandy ground
    - b. an area of soft, wet ground
    - c. an area of rocky ground
  
  2. Why might the pilgrims have had cranberries for their celebration?
    - a. They could make cranberry sauce with sugar.
    - b. They grew cranberries in their gardens.
    - c. They could pick cranberries that grew wild.
  
  3. Where do cranberries grow?
    - a. in the Northeast and Northwest areas of the United States
    - b. in the Northeast and Southeast areas of the United States
    - c. in the Midwest area of the United States



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Dangerous Journey

**Directions:** Read the passage. Then complete the activity.

The pilgrims had a long, hard journey to get to the new land. At first, they had planned to sail on a ship called *Speedwell*. The ship would sail with the *Mayflower*. But their ship leaked more than once. It could not be patched to make the long trip across the ocean. Some pilgrims still wanted to go to America. They joined others on the *Mayflower*. The ship was very crowded. By the time they finally set sail, it was early fall. Halfway across the ocean, severe storms came up. It was unsafe to use the sails. The ship drifted with the wind. But they were still able to stay close to their planned route until the very end. One last storm made it too risky to continue south. The pilgrims turned back to Cape Cod and anchored in a harbor there.

**Activity:** Pretend you are a pilgrim crossing the Atlantic Ocean on the *Mayflower* or one of the ships that followed. Write a journal entry describing your experiences on the journey.

Journal entry writing area with 15 horizontal lines.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Acts of Gratitude

In the story "Thanks-Giving," the characters thought about things they were thankful for. They talked about ways they could help or give to others.

Complete the sentence stems below. Write the sentence for each idea you have. Make a plan to put your ideas into action. Your class might decide on an idea you would like to do together for a community service project.

**Because I am thankful for** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_, **I can give** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**to** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

**Because I am thankful for** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_, **I can give** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**to** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

**Because I am thankful for** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_, **I can give** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**to** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.