



# Cultural perspectives

The story of the first Thanksgiving is usually told from the perspective of the Pilgrims. The Pilgrims were puritan Christians who left England for the 'new world'. They wanted to find a place where they had religious freedom. They landed in Plymouth Harbour in December 1620. The first winter was hard for the Pilgrims. In the spring they planted food and hunted. In the autumn of 1621, they had a harvest festival to celebrate. They invited the local Wampanoag tribe to share their food.

What is the perspective of the Native American tribe who lived in the area? Imagine what they thought when they saw a ship full of strangers settle in their summer village. The Wampanoag tribe had seen English ships before. They thought the people were peaceful because there were women and children in the village. One day in the autumn they heard a lot of gunshots, so the Wampanoag warriors went to see if there was fighting. It was the Pilgrims hunting. The Pilgrims invited the Wampanoag to the feast, but there wasn't enough food, so the Wampanoag brought five deer to share. The harvest festival lasted for three days.

***Work in pairs. What do you think the Pilgrims thought about the Wampanoag people? What did the Wampanoag people think about the Pilgrims? Role play a meeting between them one year after the first Thanksgiving.***

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***Find out more about Thanksgiving in these webpages:***

<http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2011/11/22/wampanoag-side-first-thanksgiving-story-64076>

<http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2012/11/23/what-really-happened-first-thanksgiving-wampanoag-side-tale-and-whats-done-today-145807>

[http://www.scholastic.com/scholastic\\_thanksgiving/feast/slideshow.htm](http://www.scholastic.com/scholastic_thanksgiving/feast/slideshow.htm)

<http://www.history.com/topics/thanksgiving/first-thanksgiving-meal>

# Thanksgiving menu

## Starters

Clam \_\_\_\_\_  
(made with clams, cream and potatoes)

Pumpkin \_\_\_\_\_

## Mains

\_\_\_\_\_ turkey with gravy

\_\_\_\_\_ roast (vegetarian)  
(made with pistachios and chestnuts)



All mains come with cranberry \_\_\_\_\_ and corn \_\_\_\_\_.

Choose between \_\_\_\_\_ potatoes or roast \_\_\_\_\_.

Choose between green \_\_\_\_\_ or tossed \_\_\_\_\_.

## Desserts

Pumpkin \_\_\_\_\_ with cream

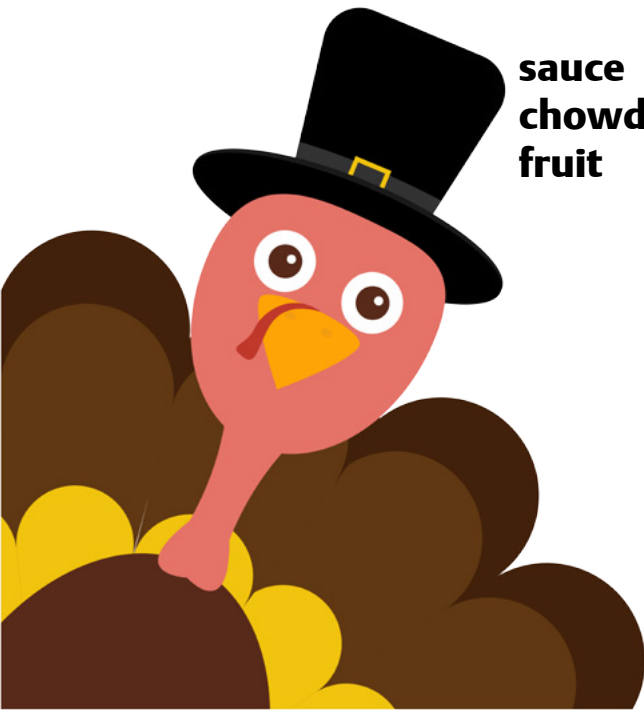
\_\_\_\_\_ salad

sauce  
chowder  
fruit

nut  
sweet  
beans

soup  
bread  
potatoes

roast  
pie  
salad





# Giving thanks

Thanksgiving is a time when we give thanks for the good things in our life. During the Thanksgiving meal, it is a tradition in many families to tell each other what they are thankful for. You can do this in your class, too.

**Young learners** - Adapted from an idea by Verri Toste, Oxford University Press Professional Development Services

1. Tell students about the first Thanksgiving using the story below or your own.

*The year was 1620. The Pilgrims wanted a new place to live. They sailed on a ship called the Mayflower from England to the new world. They stayed in Plymouth. It was December. It was cold and there was no food. They were hungry. In the spring they planted food. In the autumn they had lots of food. They were very thankful for the food, so they decided to have a party with all the food. This was the first Thanksgiving. Now every November people in the United States have a Thanksgiving celebration. They eat lots of food. They say thank you for all their blessings.*

2. Ask students to think about the things that make them happy. Write some ideas on the board.
3. Give each student a card. Write on the board, Thank you for... Ask each student to finish the sentence.
4. Ask each student to share their sentence, then put them on the wall or board.

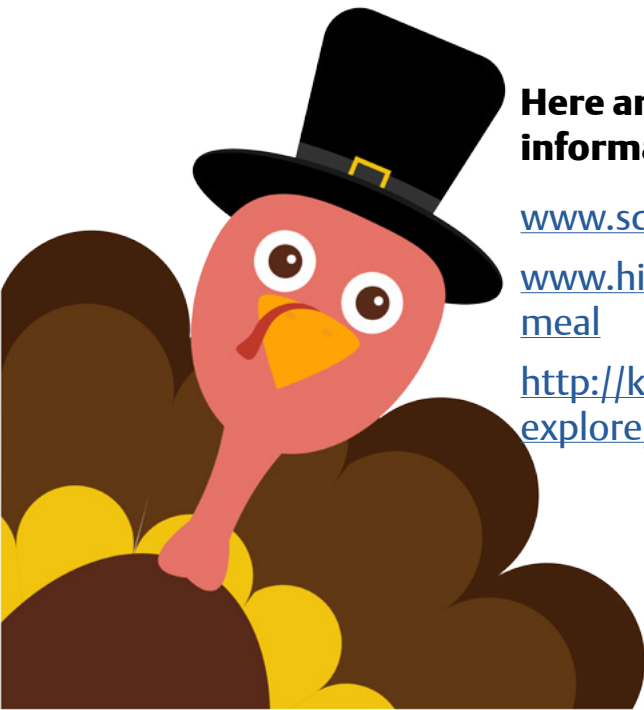
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## **Upper secondary and adult**

1. Ask students to do a web search to find out why people celebrate Thanksgiving
2. Put students into groups to share what they found out.
3. Ask students why they think the holiday is called 'Thanksgiving'.
4. If students feel comfortable doing this, ask them to say what they are thankful for.

# Thanksgiving webquest

1. When was the first Thanksgiving?
2. What foods did they eat on the first Thanksgiving?
3. What was the name of the Native American tribe who shared the first Thanksgiving with the pilgrims?
4. What's a turducken?
5. When is Thanksgiving celebrated in the United States?
6. Who does the US president give a presidential pardon to every year at Thanksgiving?



**Here are some web pages that can help you find the information:**

[www.scholastic.com/scholastic\\_thanksgiving/daily\\_life/](http://www.scholastic.com/scholastic_thanksgiving/daily_life/)

[www.history.com/topics/thanksgiving/first-thanksgiving-meal](http://www.history.com/topics/thanksgiving/first-thanksgiving-meal)

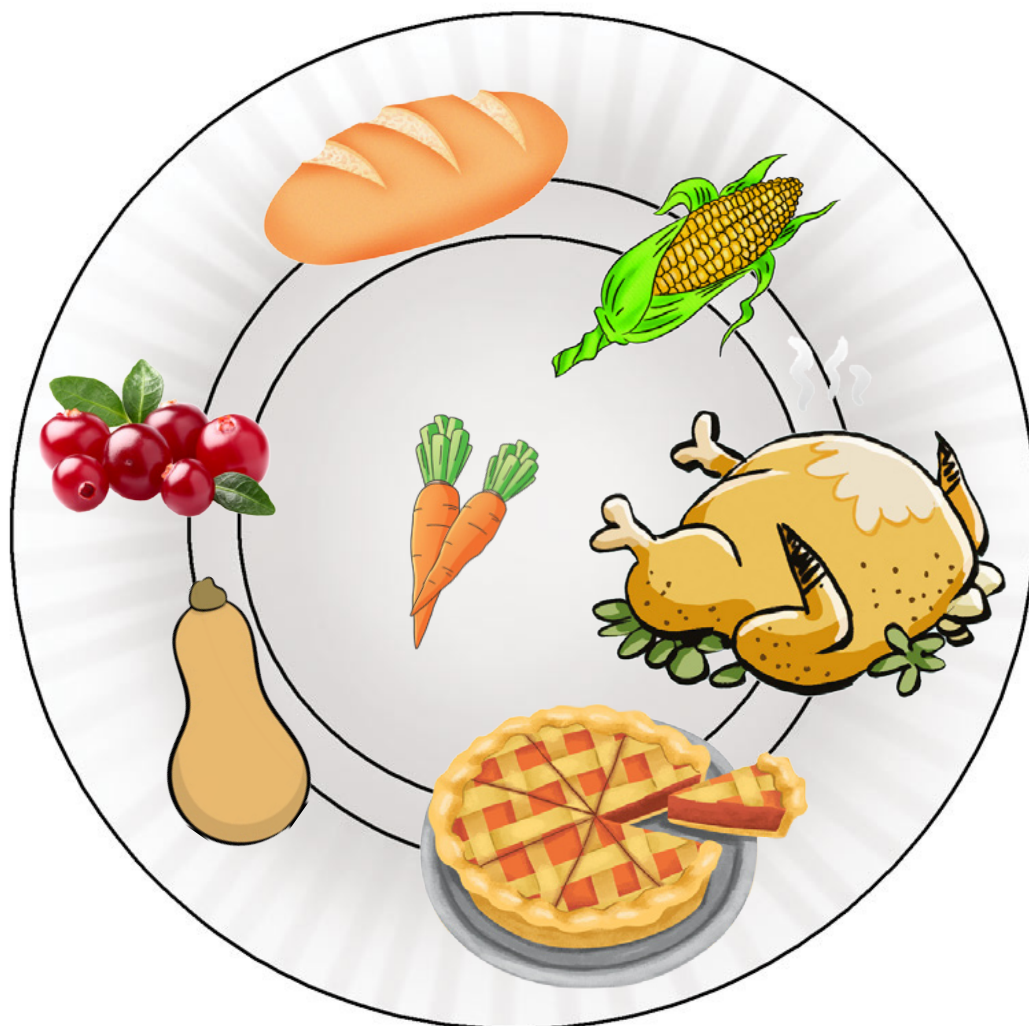
[http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/content/kids/en\\_US/explore/history/first-thanksgiving/](http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/content/kids/en_US/explore/history/first-thanksgiving/)





# What's for Thanksgiving dinner?

*Match the words with the food pictures*



**cranberries**

**carrots**

**corn (maize)**

**squash**

**pumpkin pie**

**potatoes**

**roast turkey**

**bread**

# What's for Thanksgiving dinner?

*What traditional foods would you put on your Thanksgiving dinner plate?  
Draw and label the food.*

