

FRIENDSHIP NEWSLETTER

For Thai English Students

THANKSGIVING - A Time to be Thankful!

On September 16, 1620, a group of 102 people left England on the small ship, called The Mayflower. They were going to America to begin a new life. These people were called The Pilgrims. On November 21, 1620, after 65 days on the ship, they saw land. Their trip had been very dangerous. Once the ship nearly sank in a storm. They did not have enough food to eat. Many of them got sick during the trip.



They arrived in America during the winter and the weather was very cold. They found a good place to build their village, but life was very difficult. They had not brought enough food with them so they did not have much to eat. During that first winter, over half of the people died.



One day an Indian man walked into their village. They had heard stories that the Indians had killed people. They were very frightened when they saw this Indian man. But to their surprise, he began to speak to them in English! The Indians and The Pilgrims agreed to live together peacefully. The Indians taught these newcomers how to grow corn and how to live in their new land. The Pilgrims planted gardens and stored up food for the next winter. Now they had plenty of good food to eat.

One year after their arrival in America The Pilgrims prepared a big feast of thanksgiving. They cooked and baked lots of their favorite foods and invited the Indians to join them. Their meat was wild turkey. They thanked God for the food they had grown in their gardens. They thanked Him that they were still alive. They thanked Him for the Indians, who were such helpful friends.



Thanksgiving is still celebrated in the USA, every year, on the fourth Thursday of November. In Canada, Thanksgiving is celebrated in October. It is a time when many families get together for a special meal of turkey and lots of other delicious foods.

1. How did the Pilgrims travel to America?
2. What did you learn about their 65-day journey on the Mayflower?
3. What happened during the first winter in America?
4. How did the Pilgrims feel when they met the Indian man?
5. What special ability did the Indian man have?
5. Who celebrated the first Thanksgiving Day in America?
6. Who did they thank? What were they thankful for?

Share one thing you are thankful for.

By Arlene Sorenson

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