

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

THANKSGIVING



Thanksgiving (or Thanksgiving Day) is a holiday that is celebrated both in Canada and in the U.S.A. It has been a holiday in many places in Canada since 1957 and in all of the American states since 1863. In Canada it is celebrated on the second Monday in October, while in the U.S. it is celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November. No one is sure exactly when the first Thanksgiving was celebrated, but many Americans think it was in 1621 – in a small town called Plymouth. It was

celebrated by a small group of people from England called 'Pilgrims'. It was celebrated because one of the Native American people (people who first lived in North America) taught them how to catch fish and how to grow corn. This man's name was Squanto. The Pilgrims were very thankful for this help. Without it, many more Pilgrims might have died from hunger. The first Thanksgiving celebration lasted for three days and it included fifty English men, women and children and about ninety Native Americans. Afterwards, Thanksgiving became more and more popular in the United States until it finally became a national holiday. In both Canada and the U.S., turkey is the main part of the traditional Thanksgiving meal. Other foods commonly eaten include stuffing and mashed potatoes with gravy, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie. According to Wikipedia, "Americans eat more food on Thanksgiving than on any other day of the year." Along with Christmas and New Year's Day, Thanksgiving is one of the three major holiday celebrations of the year. According to usnews.com, 46.3 million Americans will travel fifty miles or more to be with friends and family to eat Thanksgiving dinner.