



Life was very difficult for the Pilgrims in the Plymouth colony.
Many of them died during the first year.

The Native Americans helped the Pilgrims.
They taught the Pilgrims how to grow corn and other food.
They taught them how to fish.
They also helped them build houses.

The Pilgrims wanted to give thanks for the many good things they had in America.
They celebrated a holiday in the fall of 1621.
They invited the Native Americans to a big dinner.
The Native Americans brought most of the food.

This holiday in the Plymouth colony is called the first Thanksgiving in America.
Actually, the Native Americans already had celebrations like this one.
Also, many people believe that the Jamestown colonists in Virginia celebrated the
first Thanksgiving.

Others believe that colonists in the areas that are now North Carolina, Florida, or
Texas celebrated the first holiday.

Americans still celebrate Thanksgiving.
Thanksgiving Day is on the fourth Thursday in November every year.
Families come together and have a big dinner.
They usually eat turkey, potatoes, corn, squash, and cranberries.
The Pilgrims and the Native Americans ate these foods at their celebration in 1621.



Vocabulary Check

came celebrated helped invited taught

1. The Native Americans _____ the Pilgrims in the Plymouth colony.
2. They _____ the Pilgrims how to grow food.
3. The Pilgrims _____ a holiday.
4. They _____ the Native Americans to a big dinner.
5. The Pilgrims _____ to Plymouth, Massachusetts, in 1620.

Grammar Check

Fill in the blanks with the correct words.

come came

1. The Pilgrims _____ together to celebrate Thanksgiving in the Plymouth colony.
2. Every year American families _____ together to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday.

have had

3. Americans usually _____ a big dinner on Thanksgiving Day.
4. The colonists _____ a big Thanksgiving dinner in 1621.

eat ate

5. The Pilgrims and the Native Americans _____ turkey at their Thanksgiving dinner.
6. Americans usually _____ corn and cranberries with their Thanksgiving turkey.

Discussion

1. What holidays did your family celebrate in your native country? How did you celebrate?
2. Do you celebrate Thanksgiving here in the United States? What do you do on that day?
3. Life was very difficult for the Pilgrims in the Plymouth colony. Was life difficult for you when you came to the United States? What didn't you know how to do when you came here? How did you learn?

