



Name _____

The History of Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is a holiday celebrated each year in November on the fourth Thursday of November. Its origins date back to the early pilgrims. The pilgrims had settled in land that had been abandoned. After a harsh winter killed half of the pilgrims, a Native American who spoke English named Squanto helped them. Squanto taught the Pilgrims how to catch and grow food and served as an interpreter for them. The Wampanoag leader also gave food to the colonists during the first winter when the supplies they had brought from England were insufficient.

The Pilgrims celebrated their first harvest and celebrated with a feast. It included the pilgrims and Native Americans. Despite the popularity of turkey as the main dish today, there was no mention of turkey being at the original feast. The feast most likely did have fish, berries, lobster, dried fruit, clams, and venison,

George Washington proclaimed a National Day of Thanksgiving in 1789 but some people were opposed to it. President Thomas Jefferson opposed the idea of having a day of thanksgiving. It wasn't made an official holiday until 1863, when President Abraham Lincoln declared it as a kind of thank you for the Civil War victories.

1. The holiday was dated back to _____ .
2. Squanto taught the pilgrims to _____ .
3. The main dish at the first feast was not _____ .
4. President Lincoln made the holiday official in _____ .