

Thanksgiving

Pre-reading

Questions:

- What do you know about Thanksgiving?

Definitions:

- Venison – meat from a deer



Reading

16 What do you do on the fourth Thursday of November? Most people in the United States
17 celebrate Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is a national holiday. On this day, most people do not go to
32 work. They travel by plane, train, bus, or car to be together with family and friends. They gather
50 to give thanks and share in great food and fun.

60 Thanksgiving morning is a fun time for children. Many large cities throughout the United
74 States host wonderful parades. New York City's "Macy's Day Parade" is one of the best known.
90 Turn on your television Thanksgiving morning, and you can see a parade on almost every station!

106 In the afternoon, families gather for a special holiday dinner. They feast on the traditional meal
122 of turkey with stuffing, mashed potatoes, and cranberries. Save room for dessert! The pumpkin
136 pie is delicious. After dinner families relax and talk. Many people watch football games on TV.

152 Thanksgiving began over 350 years ago. On December 11, 1620, one hundred Pilgrims landed
166 at Plymouth Rock. They sailed from England on a boat called the Mayflower. Many came for
182 religious freedom. All came for new lives.

189 The first winter the Pilgrims were hungry, sick, and very cold. Many did not survive. Forty six
206 of the original 102 people died. The native Indians helped the **struggling** Pilgrims. They taught
221 the Pilgrims to plant corn and build houses. They taught the Pilgrims about the land's plants and
238 animals. Without the help of the Indians, all the Pilgrims may have died that first year.

254 In the fall of 1621, the Pilgrims gave thanks for their new land and large harvest. They also
272 gave thanks for the help of the Indians. The first Thanksgiving holiday lasted for three days. No
289 one knows if turkey was served. We do know the Pilgrims and Indians feasted on venison and fish.
307 They also had boiled pumpkin, berries, plums and fried bread made from corn.

320 Today, Thanksgiving is more than giving thanks and sharing a tasty meal. It is also the
336 beginning of the holiday shopping season. The biggest shopping day of the year happens the day
352 after Thanksgiving. Many stores open their doors to shoppers at 6 a.m. These early-birds find
368 many special savings!

Understanding

1. Who celebrated the first Thanksgiving? _____

2. Why was it celebrated? _____

3. What day of the week is the biggest shopping day of the year? _____

4. What are the similarities and differences between the traditional Thanksgiving meal and the first Thanksgiving meal? _____

5. What does the word **struggle** mean? _____

6. What are early-birds? _____

7. What percentage of Pilgrims died that first year at Plymouth Rock? _____

Writing

Option A: What do you do during the Thanksgiving holiday?

Option B: In your own words, summarize what you know about Thanksgiving.
