

THE STORY OF THANKSGIVING



In England, a group of puritans named the Pilgrims, were persecuted because of their religion.

They decided to seek a new land where they would be free to practice their religion.

The Pilgrims boarded a ship, the Mayflower, and crossed the Atlantic. They landed in Plymouth, America in December 1620.

Their first year was very difficult and many of them got sick and died.

The natives of the area were called the Wampanoag. Among them, Squanto who had lived in Europe as a slave could speak English.

In the Spring 1621, Squanto helped them and taught them how to hunt, fish and grow corn.

In the fall of 1621, the Pilgrims decided to celebrate their first successful harvest. They had a feast and shared food with the natives. The celebration lasted for 3 days.

In 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt designated the fourth Thursday of November as Thanksgiving. Since then, it has become a national holiday and it is celebrated every year.

On that day, we celebrate helpness and gratitude to remember that the natives helped the Pilgrims to survive. However, we must also remember that there were many negative experiences with unfair treatment of native Americans.

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