

Thanksgiving

Giorno del Ringraziamento



A brief history

Thanksgiving is a holiday in the USA and Canada when people give thanks. It is celebrated every year on the fourth Thursday of November in the USA and on the second Monday of October in Canada.

In 1863, Abraham Lincoln set aside the last Thursday of November as a national Day of Thanksgiving. American immigrants then brought the customs and practices of the American Thanksgiving to Canada. The United States Congress permanently established the fourth Thursday of each November as a national holiday in the year 1941, and Canadian Parliament later established the second Monday of each October as a national holiday in the year 1957.

The First Thanksgiving

The Pilgrims arrived in Massachusetts, on the east coast of North America, in 1620. They were early settlers and they had travelled from Plymouth, England on a ship called the *Mayflower*. They established the first settlement in what is now Plymouth, Massachusetts, 380 km northeast of what is now New York.

Many of the Pilgrims died during their first winter in North America. They were cold and did not have enough food. The following year, though, the Native Americans, who were from the Wampanoag tribe, helped them grow crops. At harvest time in the winter of 1621, they were very thankful that they had a good crop of food to eat during the coming winter. They thanked God and the Native Americans for teaching them how to grow the local foods.

They invited three of the Wampanoags who had helped them to their feast. They were Squanto, Samoset and Chief Massasoit with their families. This was over 90 people. There were so many people that the Pilgrims did not have enough food to make the *meal*, so the Wampanoags brought along their own food for the feast; they brought turkey, duck, fish, deer, berries, squash, and cornbread. They also brought vegetables that they had farmed and shown the Pilgrims how to care for.

Thanksgiving today

The Thanksgiving holiday is a four-day holiday over the weekend. Families and friends usually eat a special meal together (usually with a turkey as the main dish). This meal also usually includes mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, pumpkin pies, several casseroles, and stuffing. The food eaten today for Thanksgiving is very different from the food that was eaten at the First Thanksgiving in 1621.

Thanksgiving dinner

The centerpiece of contemporary Thanksgiving in the United States and Canada is a large meal, generally centered on a large roasted turkey. The majority of the dishes in the traditional American version of **Thanksgiving dinner** are made from foods native to the New World, as according to tradition the Pilgrims received these foods from the Native Americans. However, many of the classic traditions attributed to the first Thanksgiving are actually myths later introduced. Many other foods are typically served alongside the main dish—so many that, because of the amount of food, the Thanksgiving meal is sometimes served midday or early afternoon to make time for all the eating, and preparation may begin at dawn or on days prior. Copious leftovers are also common following the meal.

MAIN DISH

ROAST STUFFED TURKEY

Most Thanksgiving turkeys are stuffed with a bread-based mixture and roasted



SIDE DISHES

- MASHED POTATOES...



... AND GRAVY

- SQUASH

Raw...



...and cooked



- **SWEET POTATOES**

Raw...



...and cooked



- **GREEN BEANS CASSEROLE**



And to go along:

•**CORNBREAD...**



•**OR BISCUITS...**



- **AND CRANBERRY SAUCE**



TYPICAL DESSERTS

- PECAN PIE



- PUMPKIN PIE



HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

- And enjoy!



A thankful heart is not only the greatest virtue, but the parent of all other virtues.

- Cicero

Thanksgiving is a time to be grateful and to think about all the special people who have touched our lives.

May you and your family be blessed on Thanksgiving and throughout the rest of the year.

And finally...

This Thanksgiving

Eat..

drink..

and be

thankfull

you're

not a

TURKEY!

