

Thanksgiving Day

- I. Thanksgiving is one of the most important holidays in the US. How much do you know about it? Can you name the pictures?

the Pilgrim Fathers – the group of English people who arrived to settle at Plymouth, Massachusetts in the US in 1620



- II. Read the text quickly and fill in the missing word. Then, try to match the word to their definitions on the right.

A short history of Thanksgiving in North America

Most people recognize the first Thanksgiving as taking place on an unremembered date, sometime in the autumn of 1621, [_____] the Pilgrims held a three-day **FEAST** to celebrate the bountiful harvest they **REAPed** following their first winter in North America. The Pilgrims did not hold Thanksgiving again until 1623, [_____] it followed a **DROUGHT**, prayers for rain and a **SUBSEQUENT** rain shower. Irregular Thanksgivings continued after favourable events and days of **FASTing** after unfavourable ones.

Gradually an annual Thanksgiving after the harvest developed in the mid-17th century. This did not occur on any set day or necessarily on the same day in different colonies.

a) a large meal where a lot of people celebrate a special occasion

b) a long period of dry weather when there is not enough water for plants and animals to live

c) happening or coming after something else

d) old-fashioned to cut and collect a crop of grain

e) to eat little or no food for a period of time, especially for religious reasons

- III. Read a short text on the history of Thanksgiving Day in America and answer the questions. Then, find synonyms to the words in the box.

George Washington, leader of the revolutionary forces in the American Revolutionary War, proclaimed a Thanksgiving in December 1777 as a victory celebration honouring the defeat of the British at Saratoga. The Continental Congress proclaimed annual December Thanksgivings from 1777 to 1783, except

in 1782. George Washington again proclaimed Thanksgivings, now as President, in 1789 and 1795. President John Adams declared Thanksgivings in 1798 and 1799, and President James Madison declared the holiday twice in 1815; however, none of these were celebrated in autumn.

It was President Abraham Lincoln that set the holiday as a regular yearly event for the final Thursday of November in 1863. In 1939, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt declared that Thanksgiving would be the penultimate Thursday of November rather than the last. This was to give merchants a longer period to sell goods before Christmas; at the time it was considered inappropriate to advertise goods for Christmas until after Thanksgiving.

However, Roosevelt's declaration was not mandatory; some states went along with this recommendation and others did not. The United States Congress in 1941 split the difference and established that the holiday would occur annually on the fourth Thursday of November, which was sometimes the last Thursday and sometimes the next to last.

On November 26 that year President Roosevelt signed this bill into US law. Since 1970 some American Indians and others have held a National Day of Mourning protest on Thanksgiving at Plymouth Rock in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

A glossary

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| armed conflict | the last but one |
| victory | binding |
| taking place every year | demonstrate |
| apart from | |

1. Was George Washington US President in 1777?
2. Who won the battle of Saratoga?
3. Was Thanksgiving Day celebrated in 1782?
4. Who declared Thanksgiving Days twice?
5. Did the American celebrate Thanksgiving Day in autumn of 1815?
6. Which Thursday of November did Franklin Delano Roosevelt declare Thanksgiving?
7. Was Roosevelt's decision binding for the states?
8. Since when has Thanksgiving Day been celebrated every year?
9. Who demonstrates at Plymouth Rock every year?

Klucz

Zadanie I

ship
corn
cranberries
turkey

Zadanie II

The missing word is **WHEN** (brakujący wyraz pasujący do obydwu luk)

| | |
|------------|----|
| FEAST | a) |
| REAP | e) |
| DROUGHT | b) |
| SUBSEQUENT | c) |
| FAST | e) |

Zadanie III

1. No, he wasn't.
2. The Americans.
3. No, it wasn't.
4. John Adams and James Madison
5. No, they didn't.
6. The last but one Thursday of November.
7. Yes, it was.
8. Since 1941.
9. Some American Indians and others.

Materiały źródłowe:

The Internet
pearson.pl
en.wikipedia.org
Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English