

A FREE RESOURCE PACK FROM EDMENTUM

Thanksgiving

PreK-
6th

Grade Range

Thanksgiving Elementary Teaching Resources

What Does This Pack Include?

This pack has been created by teachers, for teachers. In it you'll find high-quality teaching resources to help explore the history of Thanksgiving and why we celebrate it.

To go directly to the content, simply click on the title in the index below:

FACT SHEETS:	
Pre-K–Grade 2	Grades 3-6
Explore the history of Thanksgiving and how it is celebrated.	

ACTIVITY SHEETS:	
Pre-K–Grade 2	Grades 3-6

POSTERS:	
Color	Black and white

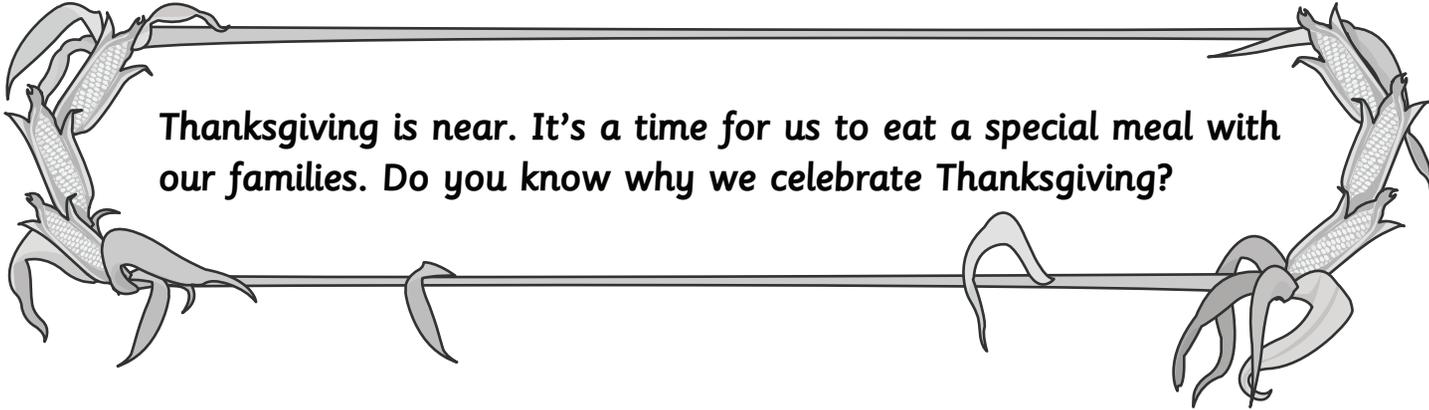
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Name: _____ Class: _____



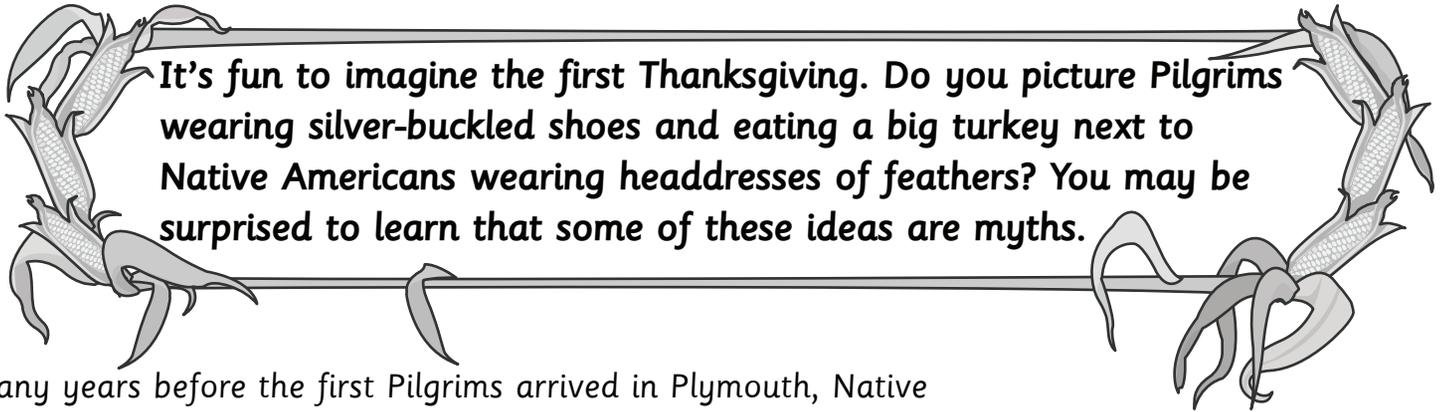
Thanksgiving is near. It's a time for us to eat a special meal with our families. Do you know why we celebrate Thanksgiving?

- Thanksgiving is always on the last Thursday in November. November is a fall month.
- Most farmers plant their crops in the spring. The crops grow larger in the summer, and then in the fall they are ready to pick. The Pilgrims celebrated the first Thanksgiving to show their thanks for the crops that had been grown.
- Pilgrims arrived in America in November of 1620. There was no time to plant crops. They ate the food they brought on their ship. They were able to fish and hunt. It was a very rough fall and winter. Many people got sick and died.
- The next spring, the Pilgrims were able to plant crops. Some of the Native Americans helped them. They showed the Pilgrims what plants to grow and gave them ideas about how to plant them.
- The crops grew well. So, the Pilgrims were very happy to celebrate the first Thanksgiving. It was a three-day celebration. They invited 90 of their Native American neighbors to join them.
- Many people today enjoy turkey, stuffing, and pumpkin pie for Thanksgiving dinner. The first Thanksgiving had very different foods. We don't know exactly what was served, but we can guess based on the types of foods Pilgrims ate at other meals. They probably ate goose or duck. They may have eaten deer, fish, and shellfish like lobster or clams. There was corn. The pilgrims often ate it in corn bread or corn porridge. They may also have had pumpkin although it would not have been served in a pie.



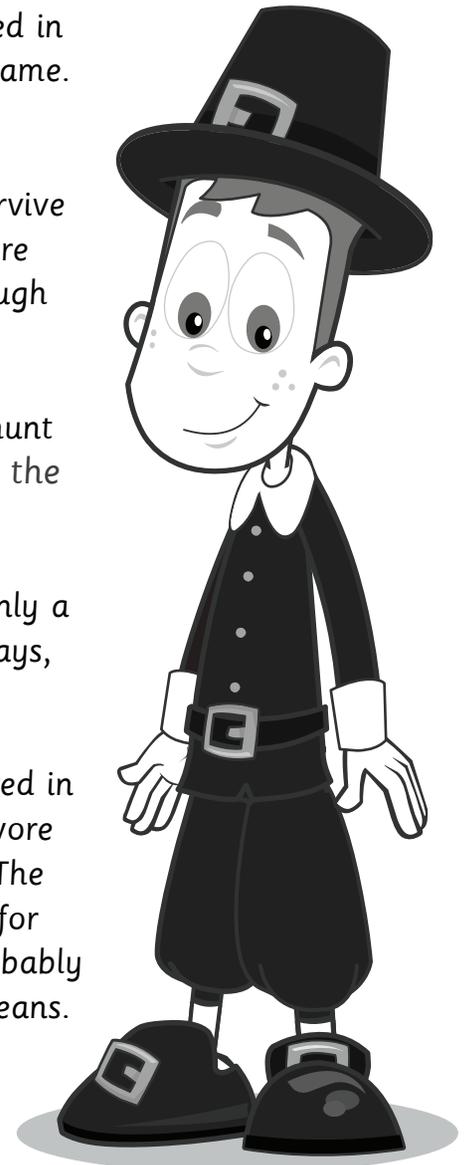


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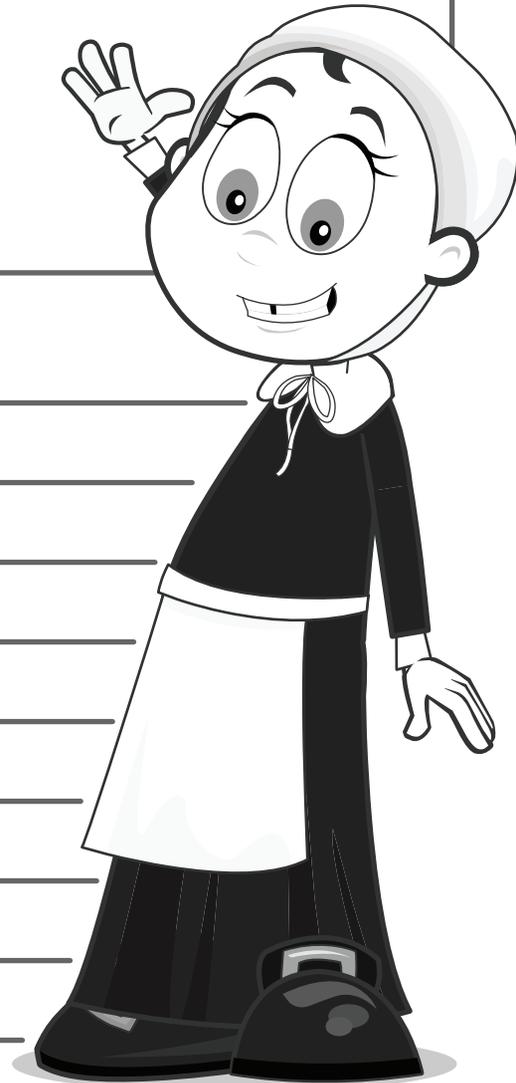
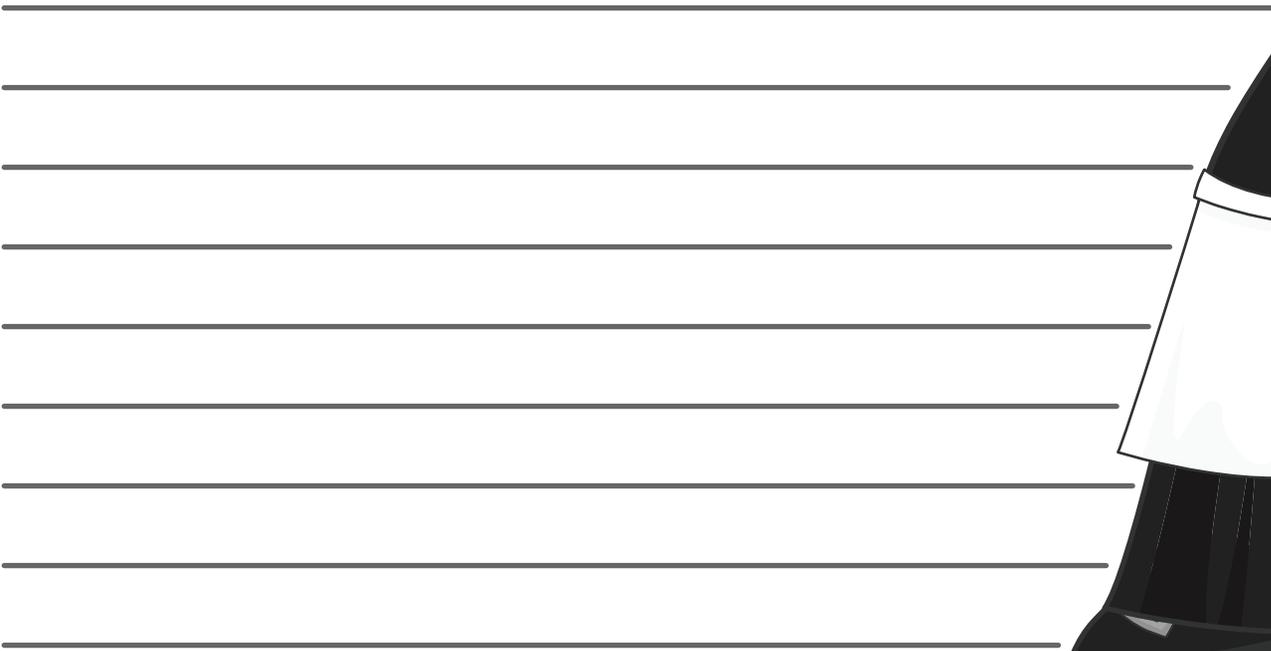
It's fun to imagine the first Thanksgiving. Do you picture Pilgrims wearing silver-buckled shoes and eating a big turkey next to Native Americans wearing headdresses of feathers? You may be surprised to learn that some of these ideas are myths.

- Many years before the first Pilgrims arrived in Plymouth, Native American tribes lived in the area. One of these tribes was the Wampanoag.
- The Pilgrims were a group of people who left Europe to settle in a “New World.” About 100 of them arrived in Plymouth Colony on the Mayflower. Most were men, but there were also women and children. They arrived in the fall and were not prepared for the harsh winter conditions that came.
- The Pilgrims met a Wampanoag named Squanto. He had met other English settlers and spoke English. He helped the Pilgrims learn to survive in the new world by teaching them how to grow crops. The crops were very successful. The next fall, the Pilgrims had grown and saved enough food to help them survive through the winter.
- The Pilgrims planned a celebration. They sent some settlers out to hunt for some meat. This scared the native Massasoit tribe. They thought the settlers might want to battle.
- When the Massasoit visited the Pilgrims, they realized that it was only a celebration. They sent their own people to hunt for deer. For three days, the Massasoit and Pilgrims had a feast.
- The feast probably looked different from what you may have pictured in your mind. The settlers wore bright clothing. The Native Americans wore clothes made out of local materials such as leather from deer skins. The Native Americans did not wear feather headdresses. We don't know for sure what they ate during the Thanksgiving celebration, but they probably had geese, deer, shellfish, fish, corn, cooked pumpkin, squash, and beans.



Name: _____ Class: _____

Describe your favorite part of Thanksgiving.
Think about what it looks like, sounds like, smells like, feels like, and tastes like.
Draw a picture to go along with the words.



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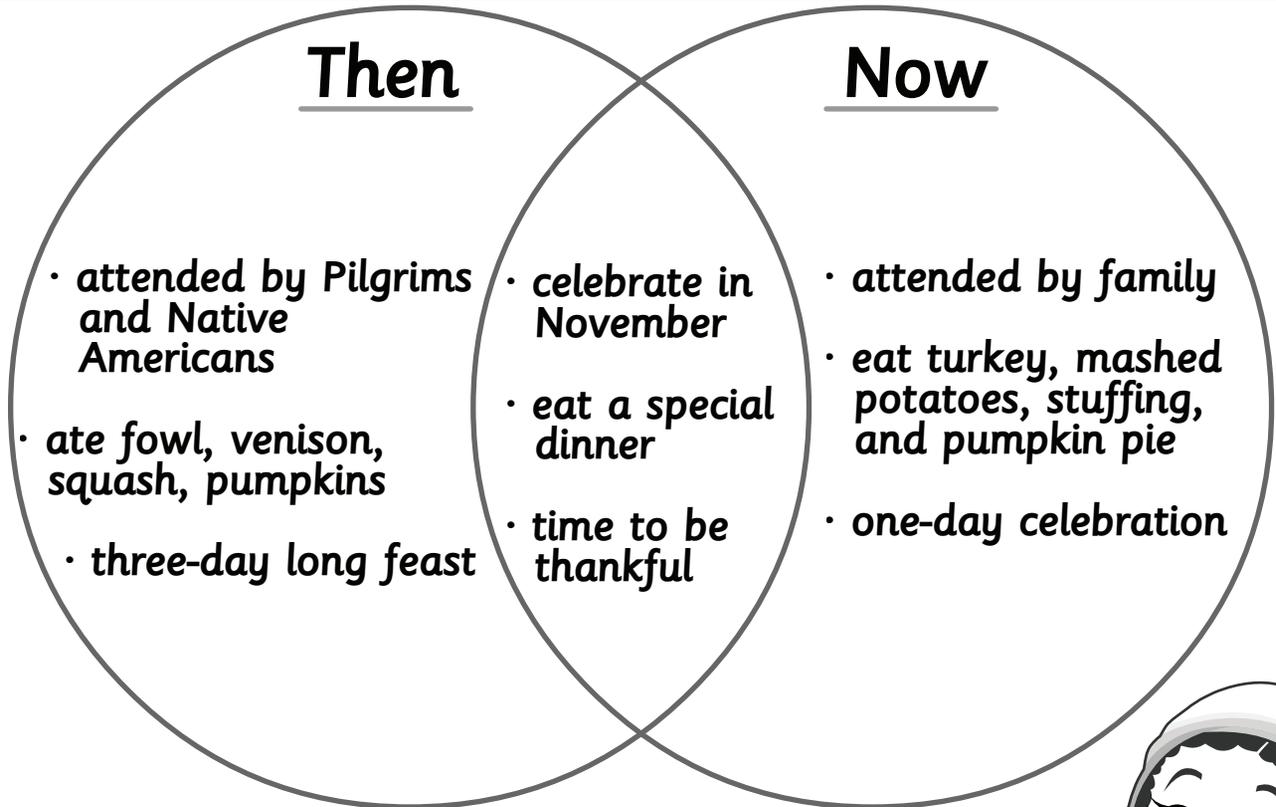
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Name: _____ Class: _____

Read the Thanksgiving Fact Sheet. Then, write a compare and contrast paragraph to explain how the way we celebrate Thanksgiving now is similar to and different from the first Thanksgiving. Use the Venn diagram below to organize your ideas.



Accept all reasonable responses based on information from the Fact Sheet and student experience. The paragraph should reflect information outlined in the Venn diagram.





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