

THANKSGIVING



Amanda Bennett

Introduction

Thanksgiving is a time of gratitude, thankfulness, and counting God’s blessings, while we enjoy a bountiful feast with friends and family around us. Thanksgiving has become an American holiday that encompasses many special traditions and historical events. From the baking of the pumpkin pie and the roasting of the turkey to the glad shouts of arriving friends and family and the smiles on everyone’s faces—these are the familiar sights, sounds, and smells that remind us of this special day and its significance. We have so much to be thankful for, and this special day is one during which we choose to show our thanks and share our bounty and blessings with those that we hold dear.

From the very first harvest celebration of the Pilgrims, the later celebration of Forefathers’ Day, and the need to give thanks for all that we Americans have been blessed with, Thanksgiving has evolved into a uniquely American holiday. With such a rich history of the early colonization of this country, the story of the Saints and Strangers unfolds like a good novel, vividly holding our interest. Far different than the dry brief history that we were taught as children, this part of history has been interesting for all of us, adults and children alike, to study.

The story of these people, their plight, and the time span and geography covered, are amazing to learn about. The Pilgrim’s endurance and commitment, their willingness to leave the known and comfortable to go to the unknown, and their hard work and deep faith in God helped them firmly establish themselves in the New World. At the same time, Europeans were already interacting with Native Americans along North American shores. Captain John Smith had already explored the New England area and a small area that Prince Charles had named “Plymouth”—soon to be settled by the Pilgrims. Stories about the various tribes and their members such as Squanto and Samoset have touched us, along with their willingness to help the Pilgrims survive by sharing their knowledge of farming and hunting.

I hope you enjoy the journey into this portion of America’s past. Without the prayerful thought and religious consideration of the Pilgrims in writing the Mayflower Compact, we probably would not enjoy the religious freedom that we have come to expect and appreciate. At our house, we choose to celebrate this holiday by showing our thanks for God’s providence and grace.

May you and your family enjoy this study as you turn back the pages of time with us, enjoying the learning and counting your blessings along the way! Happy Thanksgiving, and may God richly bless you and yours!

Blessings,
Amanda B.

Thanksgiving: Week Two

This week will be used to focus on the Pilgrims' voyage to the New World.

Learning Objectives:

- Learn why the Separatists decided to leave Holland.
- Find out how they obtained financial backing to make the trip and build a colony.
- Discover how they traveled to America, what their journey was like, and what the ship, the *Mayflower*, was like.
- Examine what some of the "Saints" and "Strangers" were like, what their roles were, and how they worked together.



Thanksgiving: Week Two – Day Two

Now that the Pilgrims have decided to venture to the New World, we will learn more about their journey.

LOWER LEVEL

Take Me There

Video: [Meet William Bradford](#)

Video: [Kids Aboard Mayflower II](#)

Today's Quote

Copy today's quote into your Thanksgiving Journal:



“Sixteen Twenty was the year, the *Mayflower* brought the Pilgrims here.”

Genevieve Foster, in *Year of the Pilgrims 1620*

Words of Wisdom (WOW Words)

Look up the following words in the dictionary and write the words and their definitions in your Thanksgiving Journal. **Website suggestions:** [Word Central](#) and [Webster's 1828 Dictionary](#)

boat
help
leak
obey

Interesting People and Places

Using books or the Internet sites shown below, look up **William Bradford**. Who was he, and why is he famous? Write or narrate a paragraph about William Bradford for your journal.

Website suggestions: [William Bradford](#) and [William Bradford](#)

Read and Discover

Using books or the Internet sites shown below, read the following questions and find the answers. Write your answers in your journal.

1. Who sailed on the *Mayflower*? Find the names of six passengers and list them in your journal. **Website suggestion:** [Mayflower Passengers](#)
2. The Separatists had to find a way to pay for their trip to the New World and for their new colony. They made an agreement to work for a company for a certain number of years, sending back furs and other goods from America to England. How many years did they agree to do this work? **Website suggestion:** [The New World](#)
3. Where on the *Mayflower* did the passengers live? Was there any cannon, and where were they kept on the ship? **Website suggestions:** [The Mayflower](#) and [Mayflower](#)



Thanksgiving: Week Two – Day Four

UPPER LEVEL

Take Me There

Video: [Miles Standish](#)

Video: [Man Overboard on the *Mayflower*](#)

Today's Quote

Copy today's quote into your Thanksgiving Journal:

**"A little faith will bring your soul to heaven,
but a lot of faith will bring heaven to your soul."**

Dwight L. Moody

Words of Wisdom (WOW Words)

Look up the following words in the dictionary and write the words and their definitions in your Thanksgiving Journal. **Website suggestions:** [Webster's 1828 Dictionary](#) and [Dictionary.com](#)

colony
charter
Virginia
daunting

Interesting People and Places

Using books or the Internet sites shown below, look up **Miles Standish**. Who was he, and what did he do to help the colony of Plymouth? Summarize your answer in a paragraph in your journal. **Website suggestions:** [Miles Standish](#) and [Myles Standish](#)

Read and Discover

Using books or the Internet sites shown below, find the answers to these questions and record your answers in your journal along with the source of your information (book, website, etc.).

1. From William Bradford's journal, speaking of the Pilgrims as they stepped onto land in the New World: "*What could not sustaine them but ye spirite of God & his grace? May not & ought not the children of these fathers rightly say: Our faithers were Englishmen which came over this great ocean, and were ready to perish in this willdernes; but they cried unto ye Lord, and he heard their voyce, and looked on their adversitie . . .*" What do you think he meant when he wrote this, and was his idea about the future generations accurate? **Website suggestion:** [Bradford's Journal](#)
2. During the voyage, the Pilgrims experienced many difficulties. In your own words, describe some of the problems that they faced while traveling to America and how they overcame them. How many people were born, and how many died while en route? **Website suggestion:** [The Voyage](#)

Internet Resources

Video: [Colonial Weaponry 101](#)

Video: [John Alden House Museum](#)

