

## Thanksgiving Holidays

Thanksgiving Day is a legal holiday in the US This holiday was first celebrated in early colonial times in New England in the mid Seventeenth century.

However, this holiday is patterned after the harvest festivals that are traditional in many parts of the world.

After the first harvest was completed by the Plymouth colonists in 1621, Governor William Bradford proclaimed a day of thanksgiving and prayer, shared by all the colonists and neighboring Indians. In 1623 a day of fasting and prayer during a period of drought was changed to one of thanksgiving because the rain came during the prayers. After a while, the custom of having thanksgiving celebrations caught on in New England, so they began celebrating thanksgiving after the harvest. During the American Revolution a yearly day of national thanksgiving was suggested by the Continental Congress.

In 1817 New York State adopted Thanksgiving Day as a yearly custom, and by the middle of the 19th century many other states had done the same. In 1863 President Abraham Lincoln appointed a day of thanksgiving, and since then each president has issued a Thanksgiving Day proclamation. This proclamation is a speech. In the speech, the president picks the day for the holiday, which is the fourth Thursday of November.

Thanksgiving is a government holiday in Canada, celebrated, since 1957, on

the second Monday in October. The Canadians first began to celebrate thanksgiving in 1879.

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### Objective 1:

In this selection, the word Holiday means --

- A A holy day.
- B A day for football.
- C A day for celebration.
- D A day with a hole in it.

### Prefixes/Suffixes.

In this passage, the word thanksgiving means --

- A Thankful giving.
- B Giving thanks.
- C Eating with your hands.
- D Inviting Indians over for dinner.

### Specialized/Technical Terms.

In this selection, President means --

- A A national leader.
- B The leader of the student council.
- C A person with cleaned and pressed clothes.
- D The brother of the king.

## Objective 2:

### Fact/Details.

How did the first thanksgiving start?

- A Indians came to dinner.
- B There was a good harvest, and the Pilgrims invited their Indian neighbors to a feast.
- C The President made a proclamation.
- D New York state started it.

When will the next Thanksgiving be in the US?

- A October 21, 1995
- B November 24, 1994
- C July 4, 1776
- D November 1, 1995

## Objective 3:

### Main Idea.

What is the main idea of this selection?

- A Thanksgiving is a legal holiday that started in New England.
- B Canada is a "Copycat" country.
- C New York is the biggest and best state for coming up with the idea first.
- D A harvest feast is an old fashioned idea.

## Best Summary.

Which of the following is the best summary of the passage?

- A Thanksgiving will never be a popular holiday.
- B No one wants to have a day of eating and giving thanks.
- C Thanksgiving is an old holiday that now is an American legal holiday.
- D Americans do not like holidays, and they don't like to get off from work.

## Objective 4:

### Predict Future Outcomes.

Which of the following is likely to happen?

- A People will celebrate Thanksgiving again this year.
- B The President will cancel Thanksgiving to save money.
- C People will invent a new holiday because they don't harvest things anymore.
- D Canada will steal another of our holidays.

## Objective 6:

### Distinguish between Fact and Nonfact.

Which of the following is a FACT found in this passage?

- A Thanksgiving is only an American holiday.
- B Thanksgiving in the US is illegal.
- C Thanksgiving is a legal holiday.
- D The president is needed before there can be any holiday in the US