

Name: _____

Thanksgiving: A Day of Thanks

by Kelly Hashway

What do parades, lots of family, and delicious meals of turkey and pumpkin pie add up to? One holiday you can really be thankful for.

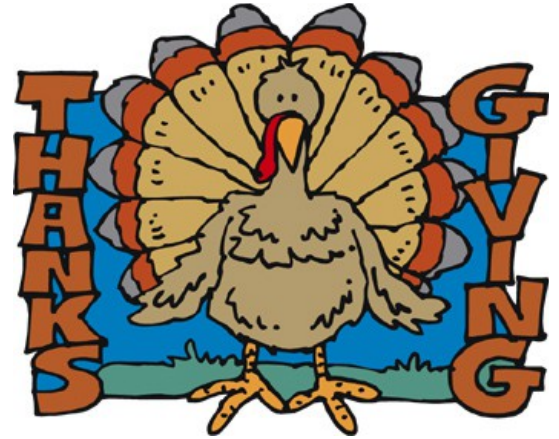
Thanksgiving originated in Europe as a way to celebrate the harvest and give thanks. When the tradition came to North America, it first took place in Canada. An explorer from England named Martin

Frobisher came to Newfoundland in 1578. He celebrated his safe arrival in the New World and began the tradition of Thanksgiving in North America. This was forty-three years before the pilgrims landed in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

In Canada, the celebration of this holiday was centered around the harvest, which meant the date changed each year, falling between late October and early November. In 1879, Thanksgiving was declared a national holiday, and November 6 was the date set to celebrate. But the date was changed again because the Canadian Parliament decided they didn't want Thanksgiving and Remembrance Day (November 11) to fall in the same week. So it was decided that Thanksgiving would be celebrated on the second Monday of October.

In the United States the holiday is celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November. Why is thanksgiving celebrated on different days in Canada and the United States? Well, geography might have something to do with it. Since Canada is farther north than the United States, the Canadian harvest season arrives earlier. And in Canada, Thanksgiving focuses on the harvest season, not on the arrival of pilgrims like Thanksgiving in the United States.

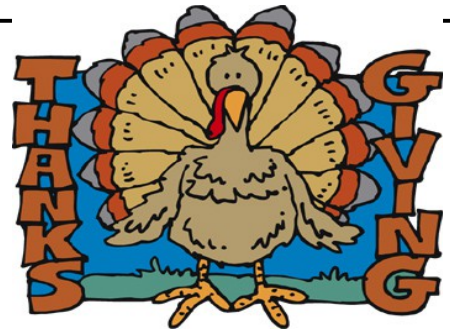
But whether you celebrate Thanksgiving in October or November, it's a time to give thanks and appreciate the harvest season. And what better way to celebrate than with parades, family, and good food?



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1. In what year was the first Thanksgiving celebrated in North America? Where did it take place?

2. When is Thanksgiving celebrated in the United States?
 - a. November 6
 - b. November 11
 - c. the second Monday of October
 - d. the fourth Thursday of November

3. When is Thanksgiving celebrated in Canada?
 - a. November 6
 - b. November 11
 - c. the second Monday of October
 - d. the fourth Thursday of November

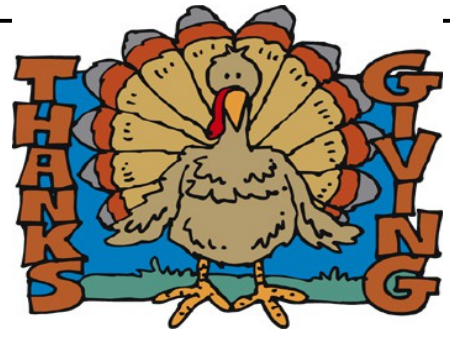
4. In Canada, the main focus of Thanksgiving is the harvest. According to the article, what is the main focus of Thanksgiving in the United States?
 - a. the harvest
 - b. the arrival of pilgrims
 - c. giving thanks
 - d. Martin Frobisher's first Thanksgiving

5. Why does the harvest season arrive earlier in Canada than the United States?

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Fill in the missing letters to create a vocabulary word from the story. Then write the full word on the line. Be sure you spell each word correctly.

1. ___ __ i g ___ __ a t ___ d

hint: started; began

2. ___ r a d ___ ___ ___ n s

hint: customs repeated by a person or group of people

3. ___ a ___ ___ e s ___

hint: time when crops are brought in

4. ___ ___ l g r ___ ___ s

hint: people who travel for religion

5. ___ ___ r l ___ ___ m e ___ ___

hint: group of people who make laws

6. ___ o ___ e ___ ___ e r

hint: eleventh month of the year

7. ___ p p ___ e ___ i ___ t ___

hint: to be grateful

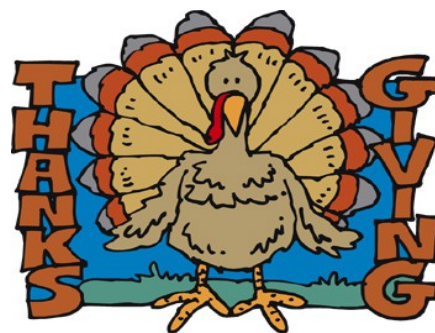
8. ___ ___ ___ i c ___ ___ u ___

hint: tasty

ANSWER KEY

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1. In what year was the first Thanksgiving celebrated in North America? Where did it take place?

The first Thanksgiving was celebrated in 1578 in Newfoundland.

2. When is Thanksgiving celebrated in the United States?

- a. November 6
b. November 11
c. the second Monday of October
d. **the fourth Thursday of November**

3. When is Thanksgiving celebrated in Canada?

- a. November 6
b. November 11
c. **the second Monday of October**
d. the fourth Thursday of November

4. In Canada, the main focus of Thanksgiving is the harvest. According to the article, what is the main focus of Thanksgiving in the United States? **b**

- a. the harvest
b. **the arrival of pilgrims**
c. giving thanks
d. Martin Frobisher's first Thanksgiving

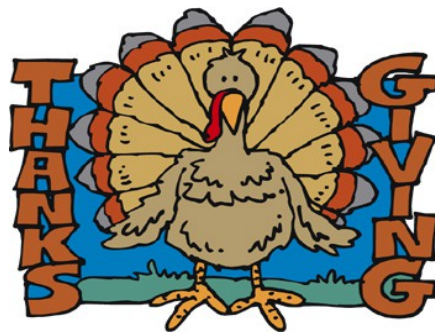
5. Why does the harvest season arrive earlier in Canada than the United States?

because Canada is further north than the United States

ANSWER KEY

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Fill in the missing letters to create a vocabulary word from the story. Then write the full word on the line. Be sure you spell each word correctly.

1. o r i g i n a t e d

hint: started; began

originated

2. t r a d i t i o n s

hint: customs repeated by a person or group of people

traditions

3. h a r v e s t

hint: time when crops are brought in

harvest

4. p i l g r i m s

hint: people who travel for religion

pilgrims

5. P a r l i a m e n t

hint: group of people who make laws

Parliament

6. N o v e m b e r

hint: eleventh month of the year

November

7. a p p r e c i a t e

hint: to be grateful

appreciate

8. d e l i c i o u s

hint: tasty

delicious