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## 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 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 further 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?
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$\qquad$
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. 


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. $\qquad$ i g $\qquad$ $a \dagger$ $\qquad$ d
hint: started; began
2. $\qquad$ rad $\qquad$ n s
hint: customs repeated by a person or group of people
3. $\qquad$ a $\qquad$
$\qquad$ es $\qquad$
hint: time when crops are brought in
4. $\qquad$ l gr $\qquad$ $s$
hint: people who travel for religion
5. 


hint: to be grateful
8. $\qquad$
$\qquad$ ic $\qquad$ u $\qquad$
hint: tasty

Name: $\qquad$

## Thanksgiving: A Day of Thanks

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In the article, "Thanksgiving: A Day of Thanks," you learned a little about the history of Thanksgiving in the United States and Canada.

Write a paragraph to describe some of your family's Thanksgiving traditions. Tell who you're with during Thanksgiving and what special things you do on that day.

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## ANSWER KEY

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1. In what year was the first Thanksqiving celebrated in North America? Where did it take
2. 
3. 


4.


Please log in or register to download the printable version of this worksheet.
5.

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## ANSWER KEY

## Thanksgiving: A Day of Thanks <br> \author{ by Kelly Hashway 

}Fill in the missing letters to create a vocabulary word from
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1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

7.

Please log in or register to download the printable version of this worksheet.
8.

