

MY FIRST THANKSGIVING

Americans celebrate Thanksgiving on the fourth Thursday of November. Children don't go to school and businesses close for four days. It is a special day for families, and people travel great distances just to be with their families for this vacation.

This tradition started with the "Pilgrim Fathers". They were the founders of a colony in North America. These people were Puritans, they were against the Church of England and they suffered religious persecution in England, so they wanted to start a new life. So, on the 6th September 1620, 102 men, women and children left Plymouth in a ship called *Mayflower*.

The voyage wasn't easy, but finally they arrived in America on the 11th December 1620. They landed on the north-west coast and they called this place Plymouth. But it was winter, and there wasn't much food. They immediately began to build small houses, but it was too late to grow crops.

The winter was long and half of them died. In the spring, native American called Squanto helped them how to grow corn and how to hunt. Soon, the pilgrims and the Wampanoag native Americans became friends. The pilgrims grew crops and that summer harvest was excellent. By November 1621, everyone had food and home. There was hope for the future. Then, the governor of the Pilgrim's colony decided to celebrate with a dinner this because he wanted to thank God. That was the first Thanksgiving dinner, and it continued for three days.

