

Your Name

Teacher Name

Keyboarding

16 November 20\_\_

### The History of Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving was not started as a big day of eating and watching football. The original day was not even called Thanksgiving nor did it last one day. The feast started in 1621 by the Plymouth colonists as a three day harvest celebration between September 21 and November 11. Wampanoag Indians had helped them establish sustainable crops. Without the aid of the Indians, they would have all perished.

They all enjoyed English harvest activities of dancing, singing, games, and food. This was a secular event at first. One of the pilgrims, Edward Winslow, described the difficult conditions in which the colonists were barely surviving. He exclaimed, “although it be not always so plentiful as it was at this time with us, yet **BY THE GOODNESS OF GOD WE ARE FAR FROM WANT.**”

By 1623, the colonists were experiencing a drought. Governor William Bradford proclaimed a day of thanksgiving and prayer for the colonists. After fasting and prayer, the rains came—miraculously during the prayer! Gradually, Thanksgiving was celebrated at the end of the harvest as a religious holiday.

Continental Congress suggested a national day of Thanksgiving during the American Revolution to help the morale of the country. President Abraham Lincoln was the first president to appoint the last Thursday in November as the official national Thanksgiving Day in 1863. This was permanently set by President Franklin Roosevelt and approved by Congress in 1941.