

Annexe 1

Texte enseignant

Histoire :

Le 16 septembre 1620, un bateau, le MAYFLOWER , quitte Plymouth en Angleterre avec à son bord une centaine de personnes désireuses de commencer une autre vie dans le Nouveau Monde. Ces hommes que l'on appelle aujourd'hui les Pères Pèlerins (Pilgrim Fathers) ont dû quitter le pays pour des raisons religieuses. Ils arrivent le jeudi 21 novembre 1620, c'est pourquoi on célèbre ce moment le quatrième jeudi de novembre chaque année.

Le premier hiver en Amérique fut particulièrement terrible : grand froid et neige, manque de nourriture, maladies... Environ la moitié d'entre eux mourut. Les survivants furent aidés par les indiens qui leur enseignèrent les techniques de culture (maïs, pommes de terre, citrouille, haricots...) et de chasse nécessaires à la survie dans ces conditions climatiques.

Un an après leur arrivée, en Novembre 1620, les émigrés fêtèrent durant trois jours leurs premières récoltes et la fondation de leur colonie en Amérique du Nord. Ils invitèrent les indiens à partager leur festin. Cette fête porte le nom de THANKSGIVING qui signifie « merci d'avoir donné ».

Aujourd'hui :

Pour célébrer THANKSGIVING, les américains se réunissent en famille, Thanksgiving day, (4 jours fériés) A cette occasion on décore la maison et on cuisine toute la journée pour préparer le repas traditionnel : dinde farcie (stuffed turkey), maïs (sweet corn), patates douces (sweet potatoes / yams), courges (squashes), sauce aux airelles (cranberry sauce), tarte à la citrouille (pumpkin pie).

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving est une fête américaine qui se fête le quatrième jeudi de novembre, mais nombreux sont les américains qui prennent un jour de congé le lendemain afin de disposer d'un long congé de quatre jours.

La fête remonte à 1621. Cette année-là, un hiver très rude vit mourir la moitié des colons britanniques (**the Pilgrims**) arrivés un an plus tôt dans le Massachusetts sur un navire appelé **Mayflower**. Ils se tournèrent alors vers les tribus indiennes voisines qui leur apprirent à cultiver le maïs, les pommes de terre, les potirons et d'autres plantes. A l'automne suivant, une récolte magnifique leur inspira l'idée d'exprimer leur reconnaissance en organisant une grande fête à laquelle ils invitèrent les indiens (**the Native Americans**). Cette fête continue d'être très importante pour les américains, plus encore que Noël.



Thanksgiving signifie « Merci d'avoir donné ».

De nos jours le dîner de Thanksgiving se compose toujours de quelques uns des plats servis lors de la première fête.

- * Dinde farcie (**stuffed turkey**),
sauce aux aïelles (**cranberry sauce**)
- * Patates douces (**sweet potatoes**), maïs (**sweet corn**)
- * Tarte à la citrouille (**pumpkin pie**)





THANKSGIVING DAY

FOURTH THURSDAY IN NOVEMBER

ALMOST EVERY CULTURE in the world has held celebrations of thanks for a **plentiful harvest**. In the United States, Thanksgiving is a time for **tradition** and sharing. People **gather** with family and friends on the fourth Thursday in November to enjoy a traditional meal and to give thanks for life's many blessings. Even if family members live far apart they will try to come together for a family **reunion** at Thanksgiving.

The American Thanksgiving holiday began as a **feast** of thanks in the early days of the British **colonies** in America, almost four hundred years ago. In 1620, a ship named the "Mayflower," filled with more than one hundred people, left England and sailed across the Atlantic Ocean to the **New World**. Most of the travelers were from a religious group called "Separatists." They had separated from the Church of England because they no longer agreed with its beliefs. Separatists groups were **outlawed** in England, so they **migrated** to the Netherlands where they could practice their religion freely. Later they received permission and **funds** from England to establish a new colony in the New World. They had **intended** to settle close to other colonists along the southern coast. But they sailed off their course and landed further north in what is now Cape Cod Bay, in the state of Massachusetts. On December 21, 1620

they arrived at a place on the bay where they found an abandoned Indian village. They settled there, and called the new home Plymouth.

Their first year in the new settlement was very difficult. Most of the **Pilgrims**, as they called themselves, had come from English towns, and did not know how

to live in the **wilderness**. Many were fearful of the forests. They were not skilled hunters because in England hunting was only for the **aristocracy**. Common people were **fined** or punished for shooting **game**. They had arrived too late to grow many crops, and their plants were not well **suited** to the climate. Their seeds of English wheat did not **germinate** in the new soil. In the first year, half the colony died from disease, and perhaps all would have **perished** if they had not received help and training from the native **inhabitants**, the Wampanoag Indians.

In March of 1621, a **delegation** of Wampanoag Indians, led by Massasoit, their military leader, arrived at the Pilgrims' settlement. Their purpose was to arrange an agreement with the settlers. The settlers would be allowed to stay on the Wampanoag land in exchange for protection against a **rival** Indian

group. Massasoit brought with him an Indian named Tisquantuman, who knew some English and translated at the meeting. "Squanto," as the settlers called him, stayed with the Pilgrims, and was very



PREVIOUS PAGE: On Thanksgiving Day, families gather for a traditional turkey dinner as they give thanks for life's many blessings.

ABOVE: Sarah Josepha Hale was a writer and women's rights advocate who persuaded President Abraham Lincoln to proclaim a national Thanksgiving Day in 1863.



important to their **survival**. He and other Indians taught the settlers how to grow corn, a new food for the colonists, and showed them crops that grew well in the **unfamiliar** soil. He taught them how to fish and dig for **clams**, and how to move quietly through the forest and hunt game.

Throughout the year, the Wampanoag held festivals to thank the earth for its many gifts. The Pilgrims were also familiar with festivals of thanks at harvest time in England. By the fall of 1621, the settlers were learning to survive in their new home, and they harvested **bountiful** crops of corn, **barley**, beans, and **pumpkins**. They had much to be thankful for, so they planned a feast of thanks and special day of prayer. They invited Massasoit who came with ninety others and, according to legend, brought turkeys and deer meat to roast with the other game offered by the colonists. There were also clams, fish, eels, corn bread, squash, nuts, cranberries, and other foods at the feast. From the Indians, the colonists had learned how to cook cranberries (small **tart** berries) and different kinds of corn and squash. To

this first Thanksgiving, the Indians are said to have even brought popcorn.

Until recently, school textbooks often presented the story of the Pilgrims as one in which the Pilgrims cooked the entire Thanksgiving feast, offering it to the “less **fortunate**” Indians. In fact, as we know now, the feast was planned **in part** to thank the Indians for teaching them how to live in the wilderness, and how to acquire and cook those foods. Without the Indians, the first settlers would not have survived.

The Making of a Holiday

Colonists continued to celebrate the autumn harvest with a feast to give thanks. After the United States declared independence in 1776, Congress recommended having one day of giving thanks for the whole nation. George Washington suggested the date November 26. Much later Thanksgiving became an official holiday, largely due to the efforts of Sarah Josepha Hale, a well-known editor of the mid-1800s.

She had **campaign**ed for many years to make Thanksgiving a national holiday. Finally in 1864, at

ABOVE: This traditional Thanksgiving dinner features a roasted turkey with herb dressing and gravy, mashed potatoes, cranberries, and green beans.

the end of the Civil War, she **persuaded** President Lincoln, and he declared the last Thursday in November an official Thanksgiving Day. In 1941, the fourth Thursday in November was **proclaimed** a federal legal holiday, giving most people a four-day vacation from work and school.

Thanksgiving falls on a different date each year. Therefore, the President must proclaim the date every year as the official holiday. In the proclamation, the President **pays tribute** to the historic observance and the significance of the first Thanksgiving at Plymouth in 1621.

In the Thanksgiving spirit of sharing, it is common today for civic groups and charitable organizations to offer traditional Thanksgiving meals to those in need, particularly the homeless. Communities take up **food drives** for needy families during the holiday.

In 1988, a Thanksgiving ceremony of a different kind took place at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York. More than four thousand people gathered there on Thanksgiving night. Among them were Native Americans representing **tribes** from all over the country, and **descendants** of people whose **ancestors** had migrated to America.

The ceremony was a public **acknowledgment** of the Indians' role in the first Thanksgiving 367 years before.

We celebrate Thanksgiving along with the rest of America, maybe in different ways and for different reasons. Despite everything that's happened to us since we fed the Pilgrims, we still have our language, our culture, our distinct social system. Even in a nuclear age, we still have a tribal people.

—Wilma Mankiller
principal chief of the Cherokee nation

Symbols of Thanksgiving

Turkey, corn, pumpkins, squash, nuts, and cranberry sauce are symbols that represent the first Thanks-

Thanksgiving Menu

*Roast turkey
stuffed with herb-flavored bread
Cranberry sauce or jelly
White mashed potatoes with gravy
or sweet potatoes
Corn
Pumpkin pie
Mincemeat pie*

giving. These symbols, as well as **depictions** of Pilgrims and the Mayflower, are found on holiday decorations and greeting cards. Autumn colors of orange, red, brown, and yellow are often used in table or door decorations, along with dried flowers, colorful gourds and “**Indian corn**.” All of these items represent the harvest and the fall season.

Cranberries, which grow in **bogs** and marshy areas in the New England states, are always on the Thanksgiving table today. The tart berry had many uses for the Indians. It was sweetened to make

a delicious sauce; it was used to fight infection; and the red juice was used as a dye for blankets and rugs. The Indians called it “ibimi” or “bitter berry.” The colonists called it “crane-berry” because the bent stalk reminded them of a crane, a bird with a long-neck.

Glossary

plentiful: *adj.* a very large amount; more than enough

harvest: *n.* the gathering of food crops

tradition: *n.* custom, belief, ritual, or practice, often from the past

gather: *v.* to join together; to meet

reunion: *n.* meeting of a family or group, often to celebrate

feast: *n.* great meal with a lot of good food, often for celebrations

colony(ies): *n.* a group of people living in a new territory with strong ties or links to their parent country; the link is usually at the level of the government

New World: *phrase.* name given by early explorers to the Western Hemisphere and specifically North America

outlaw(ed): *v.* to make illegal

migrate(d): *v.* to move, usually a far distance, to a new place of location

fund(s): *n.* money; financial support

intend(ed): *v.* to plan; to have as a purpose

Pilgrim(s): *n.* member of a religious group that founded a colony in North America

Over the River and Through the Woods

The musical score is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 2/4 time signature. The melody is simple and consists of eighth and quarter notes. Chords are indicated by letters C, F, D7, and G7 above the staff. The lyrics are written in a cursive script below the staff.

O-ver the riv-er and through the woods to
Grand-moth-er's house we go. The horse knows the way to
car-ry the sleigh through the white and drift-ed snow.—
O-ver the riv-er and through the woods, oh,
how the wind does blow! It stings the nose and
bites the toes as o-ver the ground we go.



wilderness: *n.* wild area; nature
aristocracy: *n.* royalty; nobility; upper class
fine(d): *v.* to charge a fee as punishment
game: *n.* wild animals hunted for food or sport
suit(ed): *adj.* matched; appropriate for
germinate: *v.* to sprout; to start to grow, such as a seed
perish(ed): *v.* to die
inhabitant(s): *n.* one who lives in a specific place or region
delegation: *n.* official group or representatives
rival: *adj.* competing; enemy
survival: *n.* ability to live
unfamiliar: *adj.* unknown; new
clam(s): *n.* type of shellfish found buried in the sand or mud
bountiful: *adj.* plentiful; producing a lot; abundant
barley: *n.* a type of cereal used in making some beverages and soups
pumpkin(s): *n.* large orange squash-like vegetable
tart: *adj.* sweet and sour taste combined
fortunate: *adj.* lucky; blessed; successful
in part: *prep. phrase.* partly
campaign(ed): *v.* to push or advance

a cause; to promote
persuade(d): *v.* to convince someone to do something
proclaim(ed): *v.* to declare; to announce publicly
pay(s) tribute: *v. phrase.* to honor with praise and respect
food drive(s): *phrase.* an activity to collect food for the poor and the home-bound, sick people
tribe(s): *n.* ethnic, genetic, or language group
descendant(s): *n.* a person proceeding from an ancestor; offspring of an ancestor
ancestor(s): *n.* relative who lived in the past, such as grandparent
acknowledgement: *n.* statement or gesture that shows appreciation
depiction(s): *n.* picture, drawing, or representation of something
gourd(s): *n.* squash-like plant; the dried hollow shell of the plant's fruit
Indian corn: *n. phrase.* dried corn with red, yellow, or blue kernels, often used as decoration
bog(s): *n.* wetland

ABOVE: A cornucopia of grapes, corn, and pumpkins is a symbol that represents the first Thanksgiving.

Annexe 2

In 1620, the **pilgrims** left **England** on a boat, the **Mayflower**, to go to **America**.
It was very **cold** and they were very **hungry**. Some died. The **Indians** helped them to survive and gave them food: **pumpkin, turkey, corn, potato**.
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The Pilgrims and America's First Thanksgiving

The Pilgrims, who celebrated the first thanksgiving in America, were fleeing religious persecution in their native England. In 1609 a group of Pilgrims left England for the religious freedom in Holland where they lived and prospered. After a few years their children were speaking Dutch and had become attached to the Dutch way of life. This worried the Pilgrims. They considered the Dutch frivolous and their ideas a threat to their children's education and morality.

So they decided to leave Holland and travel to the New World. Their trip was financed by a group of English investors, the Merchant Adventurers. It was agreed that the Pilgrims would be given passage and supplies in exchange for their working for their backers for 7 years.

On Sept. 6, 1620 the Pilgrims set sail for the New World on a ship called the Mayflower. They sailed from Plymouth, England and aboard were 44 Pilgrims, who called themselves the "Saints", and 66 others, whom the Pilgrims called the "Strangers."

The long trip was cold and damp and took 65 days. Since there was the danger of fire on the wooden ship, the food had to be eaten cold. Many passengers became sick and one person died by the time land was sighted on November 10th.

The long trip led to many disagreements between the "Saints" and the "Strangers". After land was sighted a meeting was held and an agreement was worked out, called the Mayflower Compact, which guaranteed equality and unified the two groups. They joined together and named themselves the "Pilgrims."

Although they had first sighted land off Cape Cod they did not settle until they arrived at Plymouth, which had been named by Captain John Smith in 1614. It was there that the Pilgrims decide to settle. Plymouth offered an excellent harbor. A large brook offered a resource for fish. The Pilgrims biggest concern was attack by the local Native American Indians. But the *Patuxets* were a peaceful group and did not prove to be a threat.

The first winter was devastating to the Pilgrims. The cold, snow and sleet was exceptionally heavy, interfering with the workers as they tried to construct their settlement. March brought warmer weather and the health of the Pilgrims improved, but many had died during the long winter. Of the 110 Pilgrims and crew who left England, less than 50 survived the first winter.

On March 16, 1621, what was to become an important event took place, an Indian brave walked into the Plymouth settlement. The Pilgrims were frightened until the Indian called out "Welcome" (in English!).

His name was *Samoset* and he was an Abnaki Indian. He had learned English from the captains of fishing boats that had sailed off the coast. After staying the night Samoset left the next day. He soon returned with another Indian named *Squanto* who spoke better English than Samoset. Squanto told the Pilgrims of his voyages across the ocean and his visits to England and Spain. It was in England

where he had learned English.

Squanto's importance to the Pilgrims was enormous and it can be said that they would not have survived without his help. It was Squanto who taught the Pilgrims how to tap the maple trees for sap. He taught them which plants were poisonous and which had medicinal powers. He taught them how to plant the Indian corn by heaping the earth into low mounds with several seeds and fish in each mound. The decaying fish fertilized the corn. He also taught them to plant other crops with the corn.

The harvest in October was very successful and the Pilgrims found themselves with enough food to put away for the winter. There was corn, fruits and vegetables, fish to be packed in salt, and meat to be cured over smoky fires.

The Pilgrims had much to celebrate, they had built homes in the wilderness, they had raised enough crops to keep them alive during the long coming winter, they were at peace with their Indian neighbors. They had beaten the odds and it was time to celebrate.

The Pilgrim Governor William Bradford proclaimed a day of thanksgiving to be shared by all the colonists and the neighboring Native Americans. They invited Squanto and the other Indians to join them in their celebration. Their chief, *Massasoit*, and 90 braves came to the celebration which lasted for 3 days. They played games, ran races, marched and played drums. The Indians demonstrated their skills with the bow and arrow and the Pilgrims demonstrated their musket skills. Exactly when the festival took place is uncertain, but it is believed the celebration took place in mid-October.

The following year the Pilgrims harvest was not as bountiful, as they were still unused to growing the corn. During the year they had also shared their stored food with newcomers and the Pilgrims ran short of food.

The 3rd year brought a spring and summer that was hot and dry with the crops dying in the fields. Governor Bradford ordered a day of fasting and prayer, and it was soon thereafter that the rain came. To celebrate - November 29th of that year was proclaimed a day of thanksgiving. This date is believed to be the real true beginning of the present day Thanksgiving Day.

The custom of an annually celebrated thanksgiving, held after the harvest, continued through the years. During the American Revolution (late 1770's) a day of national thanksgiving was suggested by the Continental Congress.

In 1817 New York State had adopted Thanksgiving Day as an annual custom. By the middle of the 19th century many other states also celebrated a Thanksgiving Day. In 1863 President Abraham Lincoln appointed a national day of thanksgiving. Since then each president has issued a Thanksgiving Day proclamation, usually designating the fourth Thursday of each November as the holiday.