

The first Thanksgiving

In 1620, a groupe of English Puritans (or Pilgrims) went to America on a ship* called the Mayflower. They wanted to found* a colony where they could practise their religion without persecution.



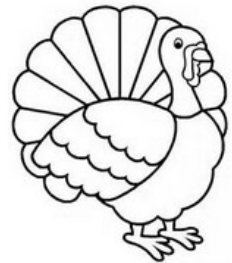
They arrived in Massachusetts (Plymouth) on December, 11th of 1620.
The first winter was hard*.



The colonist* would not have survived without the help of the Native Americans, who showed them how to plant corn*, to get syrup from the maple* trees, and what plants could be used for medicine.

Their first harvest* was good. The colonist had a three-day celebration, and invited the Native Americans.

They ate corn, pumpkin, fish, fruit and birds – probably including turkeys* !



Relations between the Native Americans and the colonists soon went bad.

The Native Americans lost their land*, some were sold as slaves* and many were killed*.

Today, to some Native Americans, Thanksgiving is not a happy holiday. They call it « The National Day of Mourning ».

