

A Thanksgiving

Almost every culture in the world has had celebrations of thanks for a good harvest¹.

In the USA *Thanksgiving* is the most important festival of the year.

Thanksgiving is a time for tradition and sharing. Family members gather for Thanksgiving dinner even if they live far apart.

All give thanks together for the good things that they have.

In the spirit of sharing, charitable organizations² offer a traditional meal to those in need, particularly the homeless.

Think about the positive aspects in your life and what you have to be thankful for?




¹harvest: *grøði, at heysta*

²charitable organization: *hjálpargelagsskapur*



What you have to write:

Answer 1 or 2.

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1. Comment on the old tradition of *Thanksgiving*.
What do you think it has meant to the Americans over the years?
Is it still relevant?
Then write about some of the things in your life that you can be thankful for.

Essay title: **Thanksgiving**

2. Write about the most important day of the year for you and your family?
Give reasons.

Make your own essay title.

For your information:

The American **Thanksgiving holiday** began almost four hundred years ago.

In 1620, a ship sailed from England across the Atlantic Ocean with more than one hundred people to settle in the New World.

The Pilgrims settled in what is now the state of Massachusetts.

Their first winter in the New World was difficult.

They had arrived too late to grow any crops; and without fresh food half the colony died from disease.

The following spring, Indians taught them how to grow corn (maize) and other crops and how to hunt and fish.

In the autumn of 1621, plentiful crops of corn, barley, beans and pumpkins were harvested.

The colonists had much to be thankful for, so a feast was planned.

They invited the local Indians who brought deer, which was roasted together with turkeys and other wild game offered by the colonists.

In the following years, many of the original colonists celebrated the autumn harvest with a feast of thanks.

After the United States became an independent country, *Congress* recommended one yearly day of thanksgiving for the whole nation to celebrate.

In 1864, at the end of the civil war, Abraham Lincoln decided that Thanksgiving Day was to be **the last Thursday in November.**