

THANKSGIVING DAY



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- **THANKSGIVING DAY IS A PUBLIC HOLIDAY IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA, CELEBRATED ON THE SECOND MONDAY OF OCTOBER IN CANADA [1] AND ON THE FOURTH THURSDAY OF NOVEMBER IN THE UNITED STATES. FROM THIS DAY BEGINS THE HOLIDAY SEASON, WHICH INCLUDES CHRISTMAS AND LASTS UNTIL THE NEW YEAR.**

HISTORY

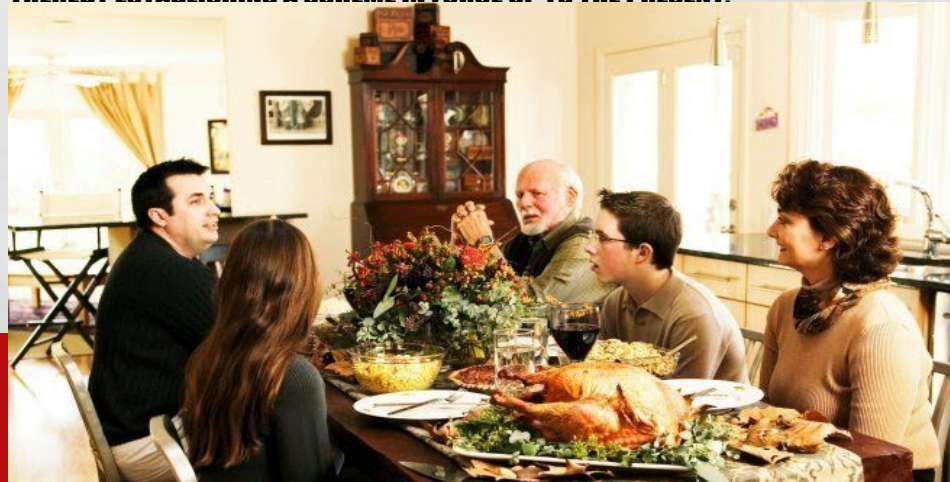
- **THANKSGIVING WAS ORIGINALLY A CELEBRATION OF EXPRESSING GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION TO GOD, AS WELL AS FAMILY AND FRIENDS FOR THEIR MATERIAL WELL-BEING AND GOOD ATTITUDE. IN THE TRADITIONAL SENSE (INHERENT IN AGRICULTURAL CROPS SINCE ANCIENT TIMES), SUCH A HOLIDAY AT THE END OF AUTUMN MEANT THANKSGIVING TO HEAVEN FOR A RICH HARVEST AND FOR AN ABUNDANCE OF FRUITS. SINCE THEN, IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA, THIS HOLIDAY HAS LARGELY LOST ITS RELIGIOUS ROOTS AND BECAME CIVIL, GENERALLY ACCEPTED AND NATIONWIDE.**



HISTORY

1. THIS HOLIDAY HAS ITS ROOTS IN THE DEPTHS OF AMERICAN HISTORY, TO THE VERY FIRST IMMIGRANTS FROM ENGLAND, WHO ARRIVED TO THE SHORES OF AMERICA IN 1620 ON THE NOW FAMOUS VESSEL "MAYFLOWER". THEY LANDED AFTER A HEAVY STORM IN THE CURRENT STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS ON A FROSTY NOVEMBER DAY AND FOUNDED THE PLYMOUTH COLONY. MORE THAN HALF OF THE APPROXIMATELY HUNDRED ARRIVALS COULD NOT SURVIVE THE HARSH WINTER AND DIED OF COLD, HUNGER AND DISEASE. THE SURVIVORS FOUNDED THE COLONY IN THE SPRING WITH THE HELP OF LOCAL INDIANS, PRIMARILY SKWANTO, WHO TAUGHT THEM WHAT CROPS TO GROW AND HOW TO GROW ON THIS INHOSPITABLE STONY SOIL, AND STARTED CULTIVATING THE LAND. SUDDENLY, A RICH HARVEST WAS REWARDED FOR THEIR EFFORTS. THE FIRST GOVERNOR OF THE COLONISTS, W. BRADFORD, OFFERED TO SPEND A DAY OF GIVING THANKS TO THE LORD. ON THE HOLIDAY IN THE FALL OF 1621, THE PILGRIM FATHERS INVITED THE LEADER AND ANOTHER 90 INDIANS OF THE TRIBE THAT HELPED THEM SURVIVE IN UNFAMILIAR CONDITIONS. THIS MEAL, SHARED WITH THE INDIANS, WAS THE FIRST CELEBRATION OF THANKSGIVING. SUBSEQUENTLY, THE COLONISTS CELEBRATED A GOOD HARVEST OCCASIONALLY THANKSGIVING FESTIVITIES.

- AFTER GAINING INDEPENDENCE AND THE EMERGENCE OF A SINGLE US STATE, THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE COUNTRY, J. WASHINGTON, SUGGESTED CELEBRATING THANKSGIVING DAY AS A NATIONAL HOLIDAY EVERY YEAR ON NOVEMBER 26. IN 1864, AT THE END OF THE CIVIL WAR, A. LINCOLN DECLARED THE LAST THURSDAY OF NOVEMBER OF EACH YEAR THANKSGIVING DAY. IN 1939, F. D. ROOSEVELT REPLACED THIS DATE ON THE PENULTIMATE THURSDAY OF NOVEMBER, BUT HIS DECLARATION WAS NOT BINDING. THIS CAUSED A SPLIT AMONG THE STATES: 23 STATES CELEBRATED THANKSGIVING ON THE PENULTIMATE THURSDAY, AND 22 - ON THE LAST. THE REMAINING STATES (FOR EXAMPLE, TEXAS) DECLARED BOTH DAYS AS HOLIDAY. IN 1941, THE US CONGRESS PASSED A BILL ACCORDING TO WHICH THANKSGIVING SHOULD BE CELEBRATED ON THE FOURTH THURSDAY OF NOVEMBER. ON DECEMBER 26, 1941, ROOSEVELT SIGNED THIS BILL, THEREBY ESTABLISHING A SCHEME IN FORCE UP TO THE PRESENT.**



CELEBRATION TRADITIONS



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- **ACCORDING TO THE OLD TRADITION, SEVERAL GENERATIONS OF THE SAME FAMILY GATHER IN THE HOUSE OF SENIORS FOR A HOLIDAY DINNER. EVERYONE SAYS THANKSGIVING FOR ALL THE GOOD THINGS THAT HAVE HAPPENED IN HIS LIFE. MODERN AMERICANS EAT ON THIS DAY THE SAME THING THAT THEIR ANCESTORS ATE IN 1621 AT THE FIRST THANKSGIVING DINNER.**



CELEBRATION TRADITIONS

- **MANY DISHES HAVE BECOME NOT ONLY A TRADITION, BUT ALSO A KIND OF HOLIDAY SYMBOLS: STUFFED TURKEY WITH CRANBERRY SYRUP AND A BIG SWEET PUMPKIN PIE. BRIGHT YOUNG PUMPKINS, COBS OF “INDIAN” CORN, APPLES, ORANGES, CHESTNUTS, NUTS, DRY LEAVES AND GRAPES HANGING FROM A DISH LIKE FROM A CORNUCOPIA, NOT ONLY SERVE AS A TRADITIONAL DECORATION OF THE TABLE, BUT ALSO PERSONIFY THE ABUNDANCE OF NATURE'S AUTUMN GIFTS. BOUQUETS OF GOLDEN, ORANGE AND RED-BROWN CHRYSANTHEMUMS, COMPLEMENTED BY TWIGS WITH BERRIES, COMPLETE THE FEELING OF ABUNDANCE AND GENEROSITY OF NATURE, A REAL CELEBRATION OF A RICH HARVEST.**



CELEBRATION TRADITIONS

- **ALSO TRADITIONAL ON THIS NOVEMBER FESTIVE DAY ARE COSTUME PARADES. SO, THE PARADE ORGANIZED BY MACY'S IN NEW YORK IS PARTICULARLY POPULAR. THIS GRAND PROCESSION RUNS FROM CENTRAL PARK TO 34TH STREET (MANHATTAN), WHERE THE FAMOUS MACY'S IS LOCATED, WHICH HAS LONG BEEN ONE OF THE CITY'S ATTRACTIONS. AT THE SAME TIME, PARADE PARTICIPANTS, AMONG WHOM THERE ARE USUALLY QUITE A FEW CELEBRITIES, CARRY HUGE INFLATABLE FIGURES OF CHARACTERS FROM POPULAR CARTOONS AND COMIC BOOK CHARACTERS. HUGE CROWDS OF LOCALS AND TOURISTS ALWAYS GATHER TO WATCH THIS ACTION.**

THANKSGIVING CANADA

- **LIKE THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES, CANADIANS BAKE A TURKEY ON THANKSGIVING TOO, ALSO ASKING GOD TO BESTOW WELFARE ON THEIR COUNTRY. IN ADDITION, CANADIANS ON THIS DAY ARE PREPARING APPLE PIE AND DUMPLINGS STUFFED WITH TURKEY.**



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- **PRESENTATION WAS MADE BY A STUDENT OF THE GROUP OD 1801 FEDOROV EGOR**