

# THANKSGIVING

Similar celebrations to Thanksgiving had been traditional in Europe, however, the tradition got more intense in the USA when the pilgrims and the Indians first met, beginning a culture acquiring process.

As the legend says, the first celebration of Thanksgiving happened in 1621. The English pilgrims, who came to the Americas through the Mayflower ship, founded the Plymouth colony, which, later on, became the state of Massachusetts, celebrated the date together with the Wampanoag tribe, who took food and gifts to the celebration. The Indians, besides taking part of the celebration tried, indeed, to help the new inhabitants to feed with corn, fish, pumpkin and turkey. It's possible that, without the Indians' help, the pilgrims wouldn't have survived.

Two years later, after a long period of drought, the pilgrims gathered, prayed and fasted to rain, the result of the lack of eating and the prayers was a blessing rain, which allowed a good harvest to happen, so the people gathered again to celebrate. This habit spread around to other regions and, as time passed by, the celebrations would not only happen to thank the good harvest.

In 1789, President George Washington proclaimed the Thanksgiving Day a national holiday; in 1863, Abraham Lincoln stated the official celebration would occur every last Thursdays of November. The date nevertheless was once again changed by another elected president, Roosevelt, due to Christmas. The salesmen wanted to have one more week to profit with the Christmas expenses. Nowadays, Thanksgiving Day is the most well known holiday in the US and the first shopping Christmas day.