

Questions for Thanksgiving History

Category: Origin - (5 questions)	
In what year was the first Thanksgiving feast?	1621
The first harvest meal that started the tradition of Thanksgiving was shared between what two groups of people?	The English colonists and Native Americans.
Why is Thanksgiving called 'Thanksgiving'?	At a site near the Charles River in December of 1619, a group of British settlers led by Captain John Woodlief knelt in prayer and pledged "Thanksgiving" to God for their healthy arrival after a long voyage across the Atlantic.
What is Thanksgiving a symbol for?	Cooperation and interaction between two different populations, and celebrating the harvest and giving thanks for a successful bounty of crops.
Native American groups throughout the Americas already had a long-standing tradition of celebrating bountiful crops. What were some ways they celebrated?	Pueblo, Cherokee, Creek and many others organized harvest festivals, ceremonial dances, and other celebrations of thanks for centuries before the arrival of Europeans in North America.
Category: Food Preparation - (3 questions)	
What are some of the spices pilgrims used to create the Thanksgiving meal?	Spices include cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg, pepper, and dried fruit, in sauces for meats.
What was the best way to cook food in the seventeenth century?	Roasting. Among the pilgrims, someone was assigned to sit for hours at a time and turn the spit to make sure the meat was evenly done.
How did the pilgrims and native americans preserve food since they did not have refrigeration?	They tended to dry a lot of their foods to preserve them. They dried Indian corn, hams, fish, and herbs
Category: On the Menu - (2 questions)	

<p>Today, we eat pumpkin pie and mashed potatoes among other foods on Thanksgiving. Did the pilgrims and native americans eat the same foods?</p>	<p>No. Historians are only 100% certain that the pilgrims ate venison and wild turkey. However, its possible that lobster and other meats were eaten as well.</p>
<p>Did the pilgrims eat pies and sweets like we do?</p>	<p>The pilgrims probably didn't have pies or anything sweet at the harvest feast. They had brought some sugar with them on the Mayflower but by the time of the feast, the supply had dwindled. Also, they didn't have an oven so pies and cakes and breads were not possible at all.</p>
<p>Category: Seventeenth Century Table Manners - (6 questions)</p>	
<p>The pilgrims didn't use forks! What did they eat with?</p>	<p>Spoons, knives and their fingers.</p>
<p>In the seventeenth century, a person's social standing determined what he or she ate. What does this mean?</p>	<p>The best food was placed next to the most important people. People didn't tend to sample everything that was on the table (as we do today), they just ate what was closest to them.</p>
<p>What was a difference in eating patterns between the native americans and the colonists?</p>	<p>While the colonists had set eating patterns-breakfast, dinner, and supper-the Wampanoags native americans tended to eat when they were hungry and to have pots cooking throughout the day.</p>
<p>Did pilgrims have salt and pepper on their table like we typically do today?</p>	<p>No. They only had salt on their tables. Pepper was used during cooking.</p>
<p>In a pilgrim household, who waited on the adults when they sat down to eat.</p>	<p>The children and servants.</p>
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