

THANKSGIVING MYTH-BUSTER WEB TREK

A. INTRODUCTION

What do we know for sure about the first Thanksgiving? It turns out we really have only two sources, one from Edward Winslow's "*Mourt's Relation*" in 1621, and one about 20 years later, written by William Bradford in "*Of Plymouth Plantation*". We have a lot of myths about Thanksgiving however, which you will learn about with this web trek. Answer the student questions below in complete sentences, and stay with the two resources listed.

B. ONLINE RESOURCES

Mayflower Myths:

<http://www.history.com/topics/mayflower-myths>

Thanksgiving:

<http://www.history.com/topics/thanksgiving>

Thanksgiving: Fact of Fiction?

<http://www.history.com/topics/thanksgiving-quiz>

C. STUDENT QUESTIONS

1. Was the 1st Thanksgiving celebrated in 1621? Explain your answer.
2. When did the feast we remember between the Pilgrims and the Natives actually take place? How long did it last?
3. We have a particular image of the clothing worn by Pilgrims. What is our image? How does it differ from what they probably would have worn?
4. Who set the date for the current celebration of Thanksgiving? When is it celebrated in the United States?
5. Where did the Pilgrims originally hope to settle in America? Why did they change their plans?
6. In Edward Winslow's journal from 1621, he described a feast expedition by then Governor William Bradford. How many men went, & what were they after? How many deer did the "Indians" kill and bring to the feast?
7. Another Thanksgiving has sometimes been acknowledged as the first European Thanksgiving in America. Where was this? When? Describe it.
8. Did the Pilgrims eat pies at their feast with the Wampanoag in 1621? Explain.
9. What kinds of spices were most likely used at the 1621 Thanksgiving feast, and why?
10. Is it a fact, or is it fiction? Did one of America's Founding Fathers think that the turkey should be the national bird of America?

