

Give Thanks!

Thanksgiving is a time for people to give thanks. Many people eat turkey on Thanksgiving. Long ago, the Pilgrims and Native Americans gave thanks.

Thanksgiving With a Native American



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Thanksgiving is about more than the food.

Joseph Bruchac (JB) is a Native American writer and storyteller. *Weekly Reader (WR)* asked him to share his thoughts about Thanksgiving.

WR: How do you celebrate Thanksgiving?

JB: My family gathers for a big meal. We say a few words in our **native language**¹ of Abenaki around the table to express our thanks.

¹ **native language:** language spoken by one's family and learned as a child

WR: What does Thanksgiving mean to Native Americans?

JB: Native people give thanks for all things. Different groups have many thanksgiving festivals during the year.

WR: What is the history of Thanksgiving?

JB: Native Americans were one of the first to have a fall harvest festival. Squanto and other Native Americans taught the Pilgrims how to survive in a new land. The Pilgrims shared their first harvest with the Native Americans.

The Pilgrims Shared a Harvest Feast

In 1620, the Pilgrims landed in what is now Massachusetts. Squanto showed the Pilgrims which crops to grow, such as corn, beans, and squash. He showed them which animals to hunt and where to fish.

The Pilgrims had a good fall **harvest**. A harvest is a gathering of food that has been grown. They shared their food at a feast with Squanto and other Native Americans.

Question Sheet

Name: _____

Date: _____

“Give Thanks” Questions

- _____ 1. The author wrote this passage to
- a. encourage people to be thankful.
 - b. inform the reader about Thanksgiving from a Native American perspective.
 - c. describe how to cook a turkey.
 - d. list the foods that were at the first Thanksgiving.
- _____ 2. The author interviews a Native American because
- a. Native Americans do not celebrate Thanksgiving.
 - b. he was at the first Thanksgiving.
 - c. the author wanted his perspective on Thanksgiving.
 - d. the author is eating Thanksgiving dinner with him.
- _____ 3. The author uses the abbreviations JB and WR
- a. to make the interview easy to read.
 - b. to stand for “Joseph Bruchac” and “Weekly Reader”.
 - c. to show who is talking during the interview.
 - d. all of the above.
- _____ 4. In the 1600s _____ grew corn, beans and squash.
- a. the Pilgrims
 - b. Squanto
 - c. both
 - d. neither
- _____ 5. What is “Abenaki”?
