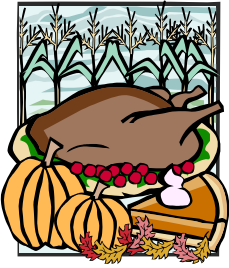


Thanksgiving

Most people celebrate Thanksgiving with a holiday dinner by gathering with family or friends. However, the Pilgrims and Native Americans were the first to celebrate Thanksgiving in colonial New England. The Pilgrims traveled to America from England on the *Mayflower* in 1620 so they could practice their religion freely. They landed in Cape Cod, Massachusetts. There they founded Plymouth Colony, the first permanent colony in New England.

The Pilgrims' first winter was difficult, and many of the colonists died. In the spring, Native Americans taught the settlers how to raise corn and catch fish. Also, the Pilgrims and Indians made a peace treaty in which each promised to live in peace and support the other if attacked. In the fall of 1621, the Pilgrims and the Native Americans shared a bountiful harvest of corn, beans, fish and game at the first American Thanksgiving.



Level 2

Thanksgiving

Most people celebrate Thanksgiving with a holiday dinner by gathering with family or friends. However, the first people to celebrate Thanksgiving in colonial New England were the Pilgrims and Native Americans. The Pilgrims traveled to America from England on the Mayflower in 1620 so they could practice their religion freely. They landed in Cape Cod, Massachusetts. There they founded Plymouth Colony, the first permanent colony in New England.

The Pilgrims' first winter was difficult, and many of the colonists died. In the spring, Native Americans taught the settlers how to raise corn and catch fish. The Pilgrims and Indians also made a peace treaty in which each promised to live in peace and support each other if attacked. In the fall of 1621, the Pilgrims and the Native Americans shared a bountiful harvest of corn, beans, fish and game, at the first American Thanksgiving. That is when the settlers in Plymouth, Massachusetts, gave thanks while guests at outdoor tables ate a lot of different types of food. About ninety Native Americans came and brought five deer to add to the feast. The festival lasted for three days.

Thanksgiving customs spread and expanded along with the rest of America. After the American Revolution, George Washington proclaimed that the first national Thanksgiving would be on November 26, 1789. In the decades that followed, all Americans began to celebrate. Finally, President Franklin D. Roosevelt wanted to lengthen the shopping period before Christmas to encourage gift-buyers and help businesses. So consequently, in 1941 Congress ruled that Thanksgiving would be an official federal holiday falling each year on the fourth Thursday of November.

Name _____

Date: _____

Teacher: _____

Grade: _____

Directions:

1. Identify the topic sentence (T.S.) and the concluding sentence (C.S.).
2. Number the detail sentences.
3. Underline key words and phrases.
4. Fill out a Quick Outline based on the paragraph. Remember you can chunk related information on one detail line.

The First Thanksgiving

In colonial New England, the Pilgrims and Native Americans were the first to celebrate Thanksgiving. The Pilgrims traveled to America from England on the Mayflower so they could practice their religion freely. The Pilgrims' first winter was difficult and many of the colonists died. In the spring, Native Americans taught the settlers how to raise corn and catch fish. Also, the Pilgrims and Indians made a peace treaty in which each promised to live in peace and support the other if attacked. In the fall of 1621, the Pilgrims and the Native Americans shared a bountiful harvest of corn, beans, fish and game at the first American Thanksgiving.

Name _____

Date: _____

Teacher: _____

Grade: _____



For all topic sentence detectives,
find the topic sentence.

Write **T.S.** before the topic sentence...

_____ We set the table on Thanksgiving.

_____ My sister and I play games after dinner.

_____ Thanksgiving is a busy family holiday.



_____ We serve turkey and all the trimmings.

_____ The desserts are the best part of the dinner.

_____ My family has a big meal on Thanksgiving.

Name _____

Date: _____

Teacher: _____

Grade: _____



Attention all topic sentence detectives!
Write the details under the correct topic sentence.

T.S. Many people enjoy Thanksgiving by gathering with family for a big holiday dinner with many delicious dishes.

- 1.....
- 2.....
- 3.....
- 4.....

ims and the Indians celebrated their first harvest together in Plymouth Colony with lots of food.

- 1.....
- 2.....
- 3.....
- 4.....

- canned cranberries
- maize (Indian corn)
- stuffing
- venison (deer meat)
- clams and eels
- Butterball Turkey
- roast wild fowl
- pumpkin pie w/ice cream

Name _____

Date: _____

Teacher: _____

Grade: _____



Write the details under the correct topic sentence. Cross out the details that do not belong on either outline.

T.S. Many people enjoy Thanksgiving by gathering with family for a big holiday dinner with many delicious dishes.

1.

2.

3.

4.

T.S. The Pilgrims and the Indians celebrated their first harvest together in Plymouth Colony with logs of food.

1.

2.

3.

4.

canned cranberries
maize (Indian corn)
stuffing
pizza

venison (deer meat)
clams and eels
Butterball Turkey
watermelon

roast wild fowl
pumpkin pie w/ice cream

Name _____

Date: _____

Teacher: _____

Grade: _____

Answer the question words in the sentence below.

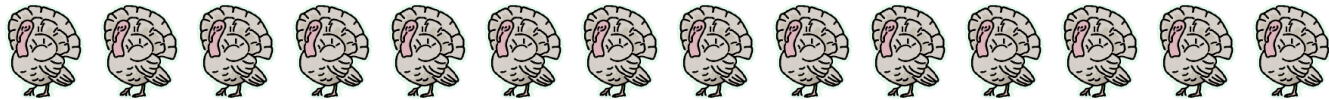
The Pilgrims and Native Americans first celebrated Thanksgiving in 1621 after the harvest in the Plymouth settlement.

who?.....

what?.....

when?.....

where?.....



Expand the following sentence using the question words. Remember to use only key words and phrases.

The Indians taught them.

who?.....

what?.....

why.....

sentence:

Name _____

Date: _____

Teacher: _____

Grade: _____



Complete the following sentences.

The Pilgrims needed help because _____

The Pilgrims needed help after _____

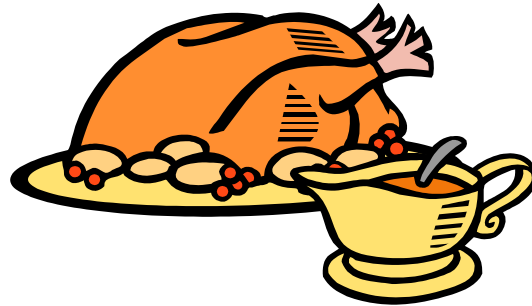
The Pilgrims needed help so _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Teacher: _____ Grade: _____

J50

Directions: Complete the following sentences.



1. Turkey is delicious *but*

2. Turkey is delicious *because*

3. Turkey is delicious *so*

Name: _____ Date: _____

Teacher: _____ Grade: _____

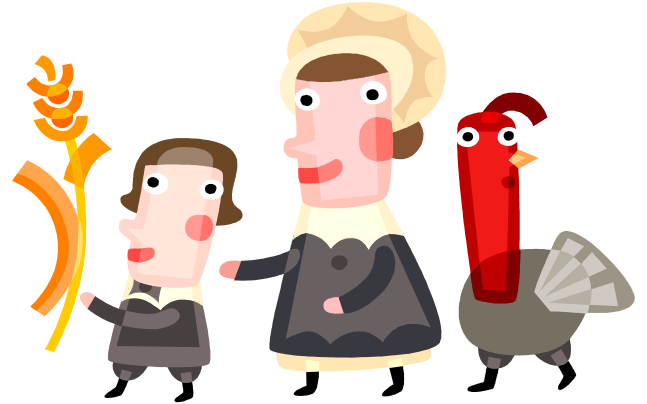
J50

Directions: Expand the following sentence.

They celebrated the harvest.

Who?

When?



Write the expanded sentence below.

Name _____

Date: _____

Teacher: _____

Grade: _____

Revise a boring paragraph by following the directions below.

Improve the topic & concluding sentences.

Expand sentences by answering the questions words; who, what, where, when why.

Use the transitions: To conclude, For example, and Specifically.

Vary sentence starters.

Thanksgiving is a fun holiday. We think about the first Thanksgiving. We eat lots of food. We get to see our family. We are thankful for things. We always watch the football games and parades on TV.

Thanksgiving is a lot of fun.

Name _____ Date _____

Directions: Use the following illustration transitions to give good examples. (Make sure that you write complete sentences!)

1. My Thanksgiving holiday meal was just wonderful. For example, _____

2. It was great to see all of my relatives. Specifically, _____

3. After our meal we told funny stories. As an illustration, _____

4. Each Thanksgiving our family follows certain traditions such as _____

5. It wasn't easy traveling during the vacation. For instance, _____

Directions: Choose one of the illustration transitions from above and write your own follow-up sentence.

1. My favorite time during the holiday is when I got to play. _____

2. Seeing my relatives made me very happy. _____

3. My favorite part of the meal was dessert. _____



TEACHING BASIC WRITING SKILLS Quick Outline

Name: _____ Date: _____

T.S. _____

Please convert the following Quick Outline into a paragraph.

History

1. Pilgrims / Indians helped w/feast

Food

2. turkey/ potatoes & corn / desserts

Traditions

3. TV → football & parade/ time w/family

Thankful

4. friends & family / food / peace

C.S. _____

Template F