

# Discover America

## Course 2 - Teacher Guide



### **COURSE 2: PILGRIM LIFE AND THANKSGIVING**

# Table of **Contents**

3	<b>Themes + Values</b>
4	<b>Learning Objectives</b>
5	<b>Key Terms</b>
6	<b>Introduction</b>
8	<b>Lesson</b>
10	<b>Flash Cards</b>
13	<b>Timeline Activity</b>
15	<b>Assessment + Key</b>
17	<b>Resources</b>
18	<b>Notes</b>

5th Grade

# Teacher Guide



## Key Themes

- Discovery
- Respect
- Tradition

## Core Values

- Faith
- Liberty
- Community
- Life

# Learning Objectives

## Students will be able to:

- Summarize the events that led to the first Thanksgiving.
- Explain why Thanksgiving became a national holiday in America.
- Tell what date Thanksgiving became recognized as a national holiday in America.



# Pilgrim Life and Thanksgiving - 5th Grade

# Key Terms

- 01 **Mayflower** - the ship the Pilgrims boarded for their historic voyage across the Atlantic Ocean.
- 02 **New World** - early America.
- 03 **Native American** - the first people to live in North and South America before Europeans arrived.
- 04 **Pilgrims** - early settlers who traveled from Europe to North America on a ship called the Mayflower.
- 05 **proclamation** - an official public announcement.
- 06 **Samoset** - the first Native American to make contact with the Pilgrims.
- 07 **Squanto** - a Native American who became an early friend to the Pilgrims.
- 08 **Thanksgiving** - a national holiday in November to give thanks for blessings and harvest.
- 09 **voyage** - a long journey.

# Pilgrim Life and Thanksgiving - 5th Grade

# Introduction



## **ASK** Students

What is your favorite holiday? Why?

What are some things you enjoy doing on your favorite holiday?

(allow students to respond)

## **TELL** Students

The holiday we are exploring in this course is Thanksgiving. What do you remember about the first Thanksgiving? How did Thanksgiving become a national holiday in America? Let's review a few things. In 1620, the Pilgrims boarded the Mayflower and set off for the New World. They left England because they were not allowed to practice their faith freely. Their voyage to early America would last more than two months and would be very difficult. When they finally landed, the Pilgrims realized they were not alone in their new home. There were many different Native American communities in the New World—some of whom had been there for thousands of years.

# Pilgrim Life and Thanksgiving - 5th Grade

# Introduction

## TELL Students

The first Thanksgiving would not have been possible without a native man named Squanto. As the Pilgrims struggled to build a community and prepare for winter, Squanto was introduced to them by another Native American named Samoset. Both Squanto and Samoset spoke English, and Squanto was tasked by the Wampanoag tribe with helping the Pilgrims. Squanto showed the Pilgrims how to plant crops, such as corn, where the best fishing spots were, and showed them where to hunt beaver.

In the fall of 1621, the Pilgrims engaged in a feast to give thanks, which today we remember as the first Thanksgiving. The Pilgrims who gathered together to celebrate had a lot to be grateful for. At this time, America had just won independence from England after a long, hard war. Washington designated a day to express gratitude to God for the blessings bestowed upon the colonists. Washington believed God protected the colonists, helped America win the war and guided the establishment of a new government.

### WATCH

Learn More with Liberty



Scan Me!

# Pilgrim Life and Thanksgiving - 5th Grade

# Lesson

## Thanksgiving Today

### **TELL** Students

The first Thanksgiving was an important event for all in attendance and for our nation's history. Even though it was not until 1941 that Congress established Thanksgiving as the last Thursday of November, feasts of giving thanks have taken place in America for hundreds of years.

In 1789, America's first president, President George Washington, issued a proclamation that called for a national day of thanks. At this time, America had just won independence from England after a long and hard war. Washington set aside a day to thank God for the blessings He had bestowed upon the colonists because he believed it was God who protected the colonists, helped America win the war, and guided the creation of a new government.

In 1863, when Americans were divided and fighting against each other during the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln issued another proclamation. President Lincoln realized that even though America was gripped by violence, hatred, and evil, the unity of our country was worth saving. Joining together in gratitude is a unifying experience that bridges people with diverse beliefs, appearances, and ideas. The Pilgrims and the Native Americans exemplified this during the first Thanksgiving.

# Pilgrim Life and Thanksgiving - 5th Grade

# Lesson

## Thanksgiving Today

### **TELL** Students

So next time you gather around the Thanksgiving table with your family, friends, and loved ones, take a moment to remember the historical significance of this holiday. It is a day that brings us together by setting aside a special time to gather and be grateful for all of the blessings that we have as Americans.

### **REFLECTIONS**

How does celebrating Thanksgiving impact your life?

# Pilgrim Life and Thanksgiving - 5th Grade

# Flash Cards



**THANKSGIVING**

a national holiday in November to give thanks for blessings and harvest

**PILGRIMS**

early settlers who traveled from Europe to North America on a ship called the Mayflower

**NEW WORLD**

early America



**MAYFLOWER**

the ship the Pilgrims boarded for their historic voyage across the Atlantic Ocean

**SQUANTO**

a Native American who became an early friend to the Pilgrims

**SAMOSET**

the first Native American to make contact with the Pilgrims

**VOYAGE**

a long journey

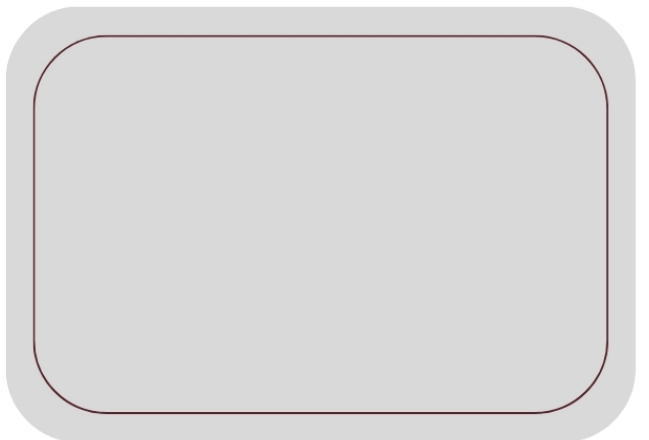
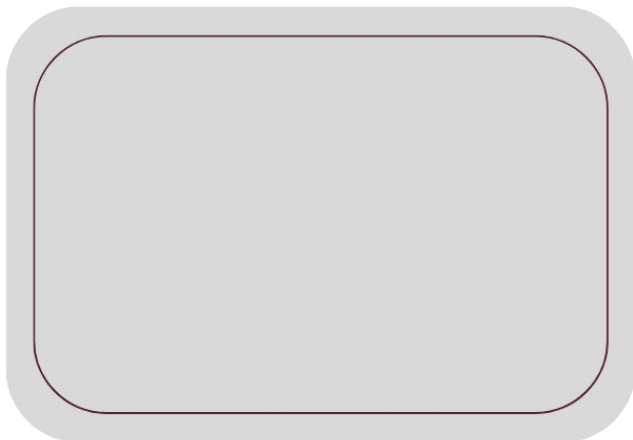
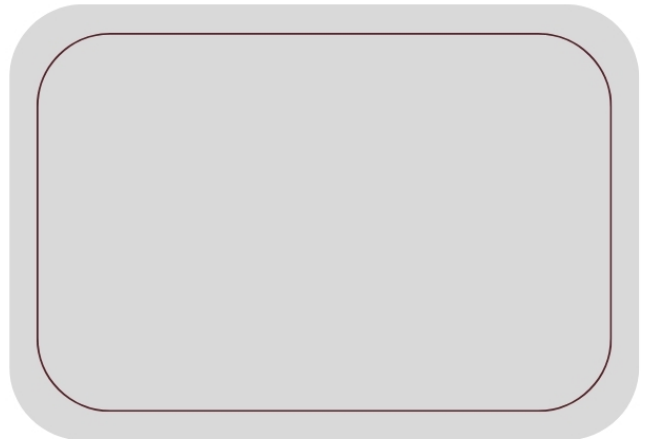
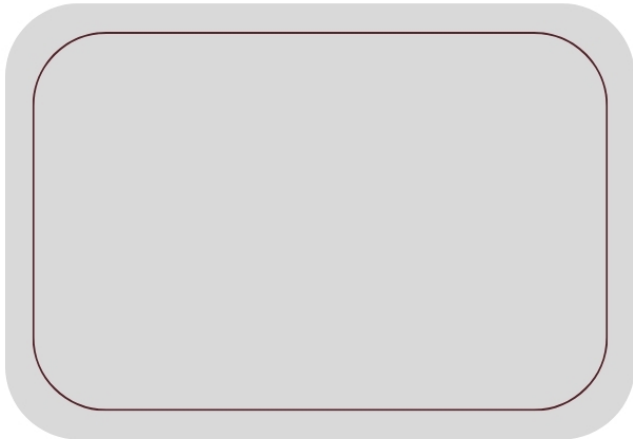


**NATIVE  
AMERICAN**

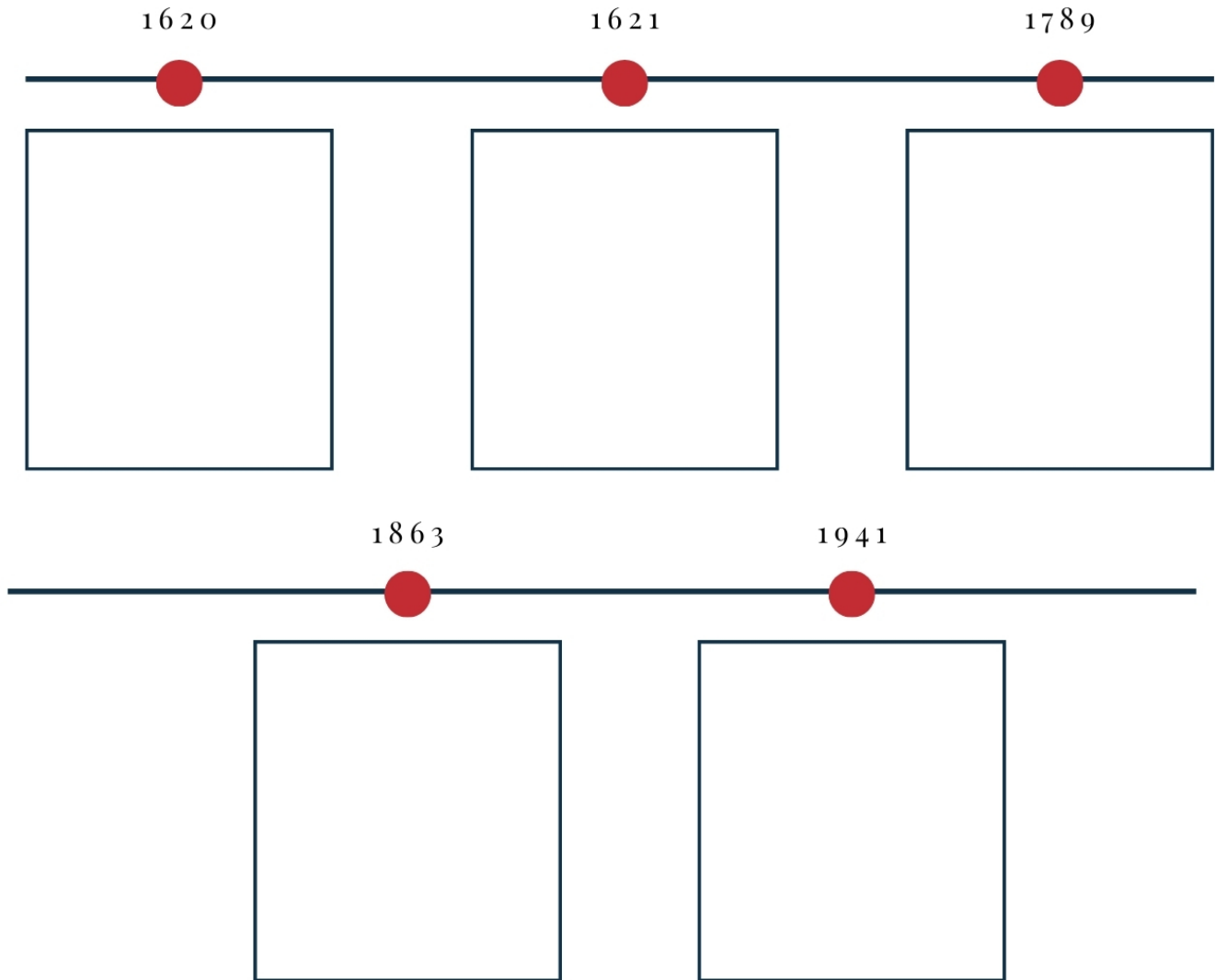
the first people to live  
in North and South  
America before  
Europeans arrived

**PROCLAMATION**

an official public  
announcement



# Thanksgiving Timeline



**Using the blank timeline, fill in the following events in the order in which they occurred:**

- Congress established Thanksgiving as the last Thursday of November.
- President George Washington, issued a proclamation that called for a national day of thanks.
- The Pilgrims engaged in a feast to give thanks, which today we remember as the first Thanksgiving.
- Americans were divided during the Civil War and President Abraham Lincoln fought for unity.
- The Pilgrims boarded the Mayflower and set off for the New World.

# Thanksgiving Timeline

1620

The Pilgrims boarded the Mayflower and set off for the New World.

1621

The Pilgrims engaged in a feast to give thanks, which today we remember as the first Thanksgiving.

1789

President George Washington, issued a proclamation that called for a national day of thanks.

1863

Americans were divided during the Civil War and President Abraham Lincoln fought for unity.

1941

Congress established Thanksgiving as the last Thursday of November.

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- The Pilgrims engaged in a feast to give thanks, which today we remember as the first Thanksgiving.
- Americans were divided during the Civil War and President Abraham Lincoln fought for unity.
- The Pilgrims boarded the Mayflower and set off for the New World.

# Pilgrim Life and Thanksgiving - 5th Grade

# Assessment

1. Who issued a proclamation in 1789 calling for a national day of thanks?

- a. Squanto
- b. Abraham Lincoln
- c. Samoset
- d. George Washington

2. Who issued a proclamation in 1863 calling for unity in America amidst violence and division?

- a. Squanto
- b. Abraham Lincoln
- c. Samoset
- d. George Washington

3. Who partnered with the Pilgrims in the 1600s to make the first Thanksgiving possible?

- a. Squanto
- b. Abraham Lincoln
- c. Samoset
- d. Both A and C

4. The Pilgrims left England because they were not allowed to:

- a. Practice their faith freely
- b. Go to church
- c. Buy their own home
- d. None of the above

5. Which national holiday encourages Americans to give thanks for blessings and harvest?

- a. Christmas
- b. Thanksgiving
- c. Easter
- d. Independence Day

# Pilgrim Life and Thanksgiving - 5th Grade

# Assessment Key

1. Who issued a proclamation in 1789 calling for a national day of thanks?

- a. Squanto  
b. Abraham Lincoln  
c. Samoset  
**d. George Washington**

2. Who issued a proclamation in 1863 calling for unity in America amidst violence and division?

- a. Squanto  
b. **Abraham Lincoln**  
c. Samoset  
d. George Washington

3. Who partnered with the Pilgrims in the 1600s to make the first Thanksgiving possible?

- a. Squanto  
b. Abraham Lincoln  
c. Samoset  
**d. Both A and C**

4. The Pilgrims left England because they were not allowed to:

- a. Practice their faith freely**  
b. Go to church  
c. Buy their own home  
d. None of the above

5. Which national holiday encourages Americans to give thanks for blessings and harvest?

- a. Christmas  
b. **Thanksgiving**  
c. Easter  
d. Independence Day

# Pilgrim Life and Thanksgiving Resource List

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