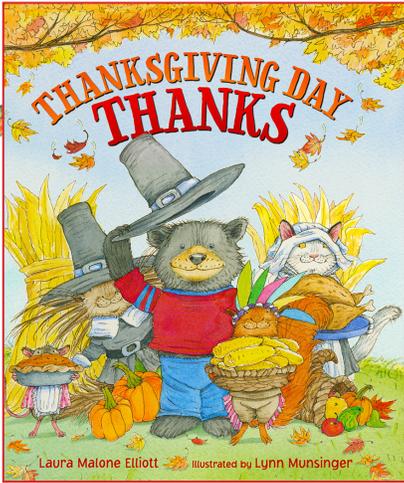


# Fun facts with THANKSGIVING DAY THANKS



We celebrate Thanksgiving as a day to feast and give thanks for what we have. But do you know these other facts about Thanksgiving?



- In 1621, the first Thanksgiving in America was celebrated between the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag Native American tribe. The feast was meant to thank the Native Americans for teaching the Pilgrims to grow corn, beans, and squash and to celebrate the harvest.
- The first Thanksgiving feast was very different from what we eat today. Although wild turkey was probably on the menu, pumpkin pies, cranberry sauce, and sweet potatoes were not. The Pilgrims might have enjoyed succotash (a stew of corn and lima beans) or pemmican (crushed cranberries and deer meat).
- President Abraham Lincoln called for a national day of thanksgiving in October 1863 during the Civil War, but Congress did not make it an official national holiday until 1941.
- Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade started in 1924. Children's book illustrator Tony Sarg created its first hot-air balloon. Snoopy has been in the parade more than any other balloon character.
- The tradition of playing football games on Thanksgiving started with college championship matches in the 1890s.
- The idea that Thanksgiving weekend should be the kickoff for the Christmas shopping season was started by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to help shopkeepers during the Depression.
- One of the largest pumpkin pies ever made weighed 2,020 pounds and had 1,860 eggs and 300 pounds of sugar in it.
- Minnesota is the top turkey-producing state.
- A ripe cranberry can bounce.

