

The First Thanksgiving
adapted from *Of Plymouth Plantation*
by William Bradford

Edward Winslow's letter on December 11, 1621, to a friend in England describing this "first Thanksgiving":

We finished bringing in our harvest. Then our governor sent four men to hunt. He wanted to have a special time of celebration since we finished gathering our food. The four men killed enough fowl in one day that fed everyone almost a week. We did add other things to the meal besides meat. We had some fun activities, and many of the Indians joined us. Their greatest king, Massasoit and about ninety men came. For three days we had fun with them and ate together. The Indians killed five deer and brought them to the plantation. They gave them to our governor, the captain and others.

1. How many years ago was this letter written?
2. Why did the governor plan a celebration?
3. What does the word *fowl* mean?
4. How much meat did the Pilgrim hunters bring?
5. To whom did the Indians give their deer?
6. How long did the first thanksgiving last?