

- 1 Read the story. Then look at the clues and do the crossword.

The story of Thanksgiving



On 6th September, 1620, the Pilgrims, a group of 102 hopeful colonists from Plymouth, England, set sail for North America in order to begin a new life. After 66 long days at sea on their ship, *The Mayflower*, they eventually saw land at Cape Cod on 9th November. This was north of their original destination, but they were happy to have reached the end of an extremely difficult and dangerous journey across the Atlantic Ocean. On 16th December, they reached Plymouth Rock. They decided to create a new town there, which they named Plymouth.

At first, the Pilgrims were happy to have finally arrived. However, they soon found that life was far from easy. They struggled to survive the winter of 1620 as it was extremely cold and they knew little about the place. Luckily, in early 1621 they met some Native Americans, including an English-speaking man named Squanto. Over time, the Native Americans taught the Pilgrims how to hunt, farm and build homes.

Thanks to the Native Americans, the Pilgrims produced plenty of food during the autumn harvest of 1621. To thank the people who had helped them survive their first year, the Pilgrims prepared a feast that lasted 3 days. They ate foods like corn, pumpkin, lobster, deer meat and goose. Though the first Thanksgiving celebration on record happened in 1623, this first harvest feast is considered the true beginning of the famous Thanksgiving tradition.

Across

- 1 A large fruit which is harvested during autumn.
- 3 The town established by English settlers in 1620.
- 8 A large water bird that usually has white or grey feathers.
- 10 The first people the colonists met after their long journey.
- 11 A large meal prepared for a celebration.
- 12 A type of shellfish with claws on its two front legs.

Down

- 2 The ship on which the colonists travelled in 1620.
- 3 The colonists who left England to start a new life overseas.
- 4 To chase and catch an animal for food.
- 5 The process of gathering crops at the end of autumn.
- 6 The ocean between Europe and America.
- 7 The English-speaking tribe member who helped the settlers.
- 9 This season was difficult for the colonists to endure.



- 2 Imagine you are one of the Pilgrims at the first Thanksgiving feast. Give a speech. Talk about: *your journey, the first year in the new land and your feelings.*