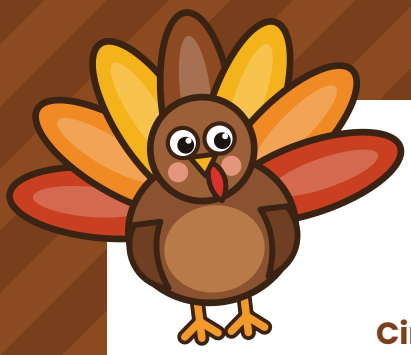

THANKSGIVING HISTORY TRIVIA



Circle the right answer! • Real history from 1621 to 1801

Name or team: _____

THE 1621 HARVEST

1. **Edward Winslow wrote that the governor sent four men out to hunt what?**
   (A) Bears (B) Wild birds (C) Rabbits (D) Fish
2. **Which eating utensil did the colonists NOT use at the 1621 harvest?**
   (A) Spoons (B) Knives (C) Forks (D) Their fingers
3. **Winslow wrote that everyone enjoyed "recreations." Which one did he mention?**
   (A) A football game (B) Ice skating (C) A parade (D) Musket drills
4. **Which Plymouth governor wrote one of only two eyewitness accounts?**
   (A) William Bradford (B) John Smith (C) Myles Standish (D) John Alden
5. **How many Mayflower passengers survived their first winter?**
   (A) All of them (B) Three-quarters (C) About half (D) Only five
6. **Massasoit's 1621 peace agreement with the colonists lasted about how long?**
   (A) One year (B) About 10 years (C) Until winter (D) Over 50 years
7. **The Aquinnah Wampanoag's October harvest day is named for which berry?**
   (A) Cranberry (B) Strawberry (C) Blueberry (D) Raspberry

MYTH-BUSTERS

8. **When was Plymouth Rock first named as the place where the Pilgrims landed?**
   (A) The day they landed (B) About 10 years later
   (C) More than 120 years later (D) In 1921
9. **When was the 1621 harvest first called "the First Thanksgiving" in print?**
   (A) 1621 (B) 1700 (C) 1776 (D) 1841

EARLY AMERICAN THANKSGIVINGS

10. **In 1777, Congress declared a day of thanksgiving after a victory at which battle?**
    (A) Gettysburg (B) Saratoga (C) Yorktown (D) Bunker Hill
11. **George Washington's 1789 national day of thanksgiving gave thanks for:**
    (A) The new U.S. Constitution (B) The discovery of gold
    (C) The first railroad (D) The end of the Civil War
12. **Which early president refused to declare any days of thanksgiving?**
    (A) George Washington (B) Thomas Jefferson
    (C) John Adams (D) James Madison



HISTORY TRIVIA ANSWER KEY



No peeking until you've played!

1. **B** **Wild birds.** Winslow's letter says the four men brought back enough birds to feed the colony for almost a week.
2. **C** **Forks.** Forks weren't common in England yet, so everyone ate with spoons, knives and fingers — and used big linen napkins.
3. **D** **Musket drills.** Winslow wrote that they "exercised our arms" — the colonists showed off their marching and musket drills.
4. **A** **William Bradford.** Bradford's history and Winslow's letter are the only firsthand accounts. John Smith led Jamestown in Virginia.
5. **C** **About half.** Illness and hunger took about half the passengers that first winter, which made the 1621 harvest especially meaningful.
6. **D** **Over 50 years.** The alliance between the Wampanoag and the colonists held for more than 50 years, until war broke out in 1675.
7. **A** **Cranberry.** On Cranberry Day, the second Tuesday of October, tribal members gather wild cranberries and give thanks for the harvest.
8. **C** **More than 120 years later.** A 94-year-old church elder named it in 1741 — neither eyewitness account mentions a rock at all!
9. **D** **1841.** The label first appeared in 1841. Historians at Plimoth Patuxet call it "the harvest celebration of 1621."
10. **B** **Saratoga.** Congress called for a day of thanksgiving after the American victory at Saratoga during the Revolutionary War.
11. **A** **The new U.S. Constitution.** Washington set aside Thursday, November 26, 1789, to give thanks for the new nation and its Constitution.
12. **B** **Thomas Jefferson.** Jefferson declined in 1801, believing a president shouldn't direct religious observances.