

The story of Thanksgiving says that the Indians met and helped the colonists in April, 1621. They gave the colonists food and taught them how to plant corn and catch fish. Slowly, life became better for the colonists. During the summer, they built houses and grew food to eat in the winter. They knew how to hunt and fish. The colonists were very thankful, and invited the Wampanoag to a celebration in the fall. Now, every year in the United States, many people celebrate this day as Thanksgiving.



Most historians agree that 50 Pilgrims came together for a 3-day harvest celebration and feast in 1621. They probably ate vegetables, seafood and maybe a duck or goose. We don't know if the Indians were actually invited to the feast.

The arrival of Europeans on this continent brought many hardships to Native Americans. At first, many native people welcomed the colonists. But over time, the native people suffered a lot. They lost their land, some became slaves, and millions died from European diseases.

For this reason, some native people don't celebrate Thanksgiving. Sharing and giving thanks are an important part of native culture and ceremonies of thanksgiving happen many times during the year. It isn't surprising that some Native Americans choose not to give thanks on a holiday that represents sadness and loss.



The Anishinaabeg (Ojibwe) gives thanks for the harvest of wild rice.