

Fact
or
Fiction?



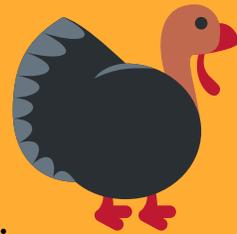
Thanksgiving has
always
been on the 4th
Thursday
of November.

Fact
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Fiction?



Eating turkey
makes you
sleepy.

FACT



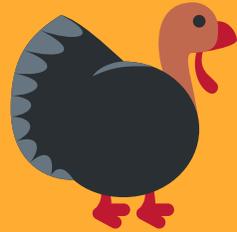
Turkey contains tryptophan, which does make you feel tired. But - lots of foods contain tryptophan, so your food coma probably has less to do with the turkey and more to do with how much you ate!

FICTION



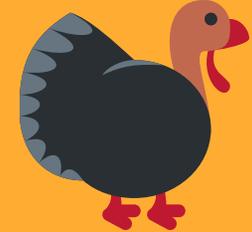
Pres. Lincoln established the last Thursday in November as a day of Thanksgiving. In 1939, Pres. Roosevelt decided to move it to the 4th Thursday, making the holiday shopping season a week longer.

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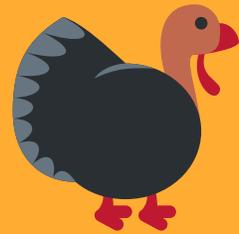


Mashed potatoes were eaten at the first Thanksgiving feast in 1621.

Fact
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Cranberries were eaten at the first Thanksgiving feast in 1621.



FACT

Wild cranberries were a staple for Native American groups in New England, so the Pilgrims would have known about them and eaten them.



FICTION

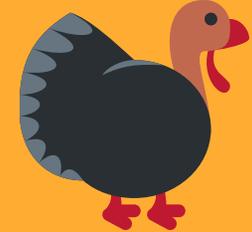
Mashed potatoes would not be widely eaten in North America until almost 100 years later. Potatoes weren't grown in North America until 1719, but in Peru people have been growing them since 8000 BC!

Fact
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Macy's was the first store to host a Thanksgiving Parade.

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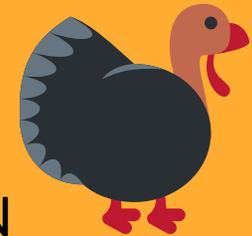


The harvest feast in Plymouth in 1621 was the first Thanksgiving.



FACT

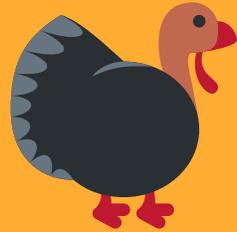
Both the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag already held harvest celebrations. This feast was longer than one day, and included both spiritual and community celebration.



FICTION

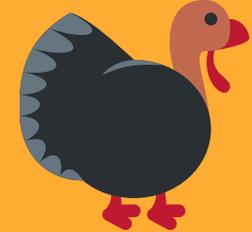
A competitor, Gimbel's, started hosting a parade in 1920. In 1924, Macy's launched its own parade. Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade ultimately became more popular, especially in 1947 when Miracle on 34th Street was made.

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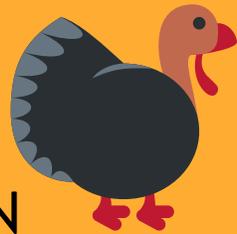


A Native man
named Squanto
made contact
with the Pilgrims.

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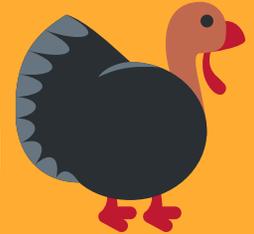


Today, Thanksgiving
is celebrated the
same way the first
Thanksgiving feast
was.



FICTION

Thanksgiving as we know it with turkey, mashed potatoes, and pumpkin pie, wouldn't exist without novelist Sarah Joespha Hale. She felt that the U.S. needed to consistently celebrate a day of thanksgiving. She wrote to Pres. Lincoln in 1863, and to members of Congress, encouraging them to make a national holiday.



FICTION

...mostly.

Squanto's real name is Tisquantum, and was from the Patuxet group of the Wampanoag Nation. Several years before the famous 1621 feast, Tisquantum had been enslaved by Europeans, and labored in Europe where he learned English. Once back in North America, he helped the Mashpee group of the Wampanoag reach out to the Europeans at Plymouth.