

## Give Thanks!

Thanksgiving is a time for people to give thanks. Many people eat turkey on Thanksgiving. Long ago, the Pilgrims and Native Americans gave thanks.

## Thanksgiving With a Native American



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*Thanksgiving is about more than the food.*

Joseph Bruchac (JB) is a Native American writer and storyteller. *Weekly Reader (WR)* asked him to share his thoughts about Thanksgiving.

**WR: How do you celebrate Thanksgiving?**

**JB:** My family gathers for a big meal. We say a few words in our native language of Abenaki around the table to express our thanks.

**WR: What does Thanksgiving mean to Native Americans?**

**JB:** Native people give thanks for all things. Different groups have many thanksgiving festivals during the year.

**WR: What is the history of Thanksgiving?**

**JB:** Native Americans were one of the first to have a fall harvest festival. Squanto and other Native Americans taught the Pilgrims how to survive in a

new land. The Pilgrims shared their first harvest with the Native Americans.

## The Pilgrims Shared a Harvest Feast

In 1620, the Pilgrims landed in what is now Massachusetts. Squanto showed the Pilgrims which crops to grow, such as corn, beans, and squash. He showed them which animals to hunt and where to fish.

The Pilgrims had a good fall harvest. A harvest is a gathering of food that has been grown. They shared their food at a feast with Squanto and other Native Americans.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. How do Joseph Bruchac and his family celebrate Thanksgiving?
2. How did Squanto help the Pilgrims?
3. After their harvest, what did the Pilgrims do to show their thanks?
4. What is the main idea the author is trying to communicate in this passage?
5. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

The Pilgrims were able to survive in a new land \_\_\_\_\_ Squanto and the Native Americans helped them.

- A. because
- B. so
- C. but

6. Do you think the pilgrims could have survived without help from Squanto? Why or why not?