



What Was the First Thanksgiving?

Joan Holub

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The history of the feast! After their first harvest in 1621, the Pilgrims at Plymouth shared a three-day feast with their Native American neighbors. Of course, the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag didn't know it at the time, but they were making history, celebrating what would become a national holiday.

What Was the First Thanksgiving? Details

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From Reader Review What Was the First Thanksgiving? for online ebook

Karly says

2.5 Stars, but I'm feeling generous today. I think I prefer the "Who was..." books in this series as opposed to "What was..." but this was still very informative.

Susan says

It was great! I learned a lot and my daughter did also! I love she was engaged in asking questions (she's 5) and I feel she learned a bunch! Great read.

Gabriel alexander Arras says

I think that this book is a great one because it shows how the first thanksgiving took place and it tells you about the making of it. It's very detailed and it is very satisfying. I recommend this book to anyone who likes history, holidays, and biographies.

Mary Larkin says

To My Countrywomen: The Life of Sarah Hosepha Hale By Muriel Dubois, 2006

I chose this twin text because it ties in very nicely with my non-fiction text. This story enhances my other text by giving the background of Sarah Hale who is mentioned for her passion for creating Thanksgiving as a national holiday. I thought it would be great for my students to hear more about a person who was influential in how we celebrate Thanksgiving today.

The structure of the non-fiction book is description but written in chronological order. This chapter book focuses on the main aspects of Thanksgiving as a holiday and how it came about with the Puritans and Native Americans. There is a timeline in the back of the book that helps to encompass everything the book has covered.

(September 15, 2006). Booklist.
<http://www.booksinprint.com.leo.lib.u...#>

Elaina says

This book was good. I liked this book because it was educational and i learned new things about

thanksgiving.

Brian says

Quick read. Good for intermediate grades.

Lukyan's Library says

Very informational!!!!!!!

M.M. Hudson says

History has often been confused or muddied depending on who was in power or who was writing the history. The first Thanksgiving story is a little like that too. Before you even get into the first chapters of this book, the reader is told that "no one is sure if the Pilgrims actually invited the Native Americans to their Thanksgiving feast. Perhaps the natives heard the Pilgrims shooting their muskets and went to investigate..."

I think this is a pretty accurate statement and one that should be noted before reading this book on Thanksgiving or for that matter any book on the subject. Historians often have to piece things together to get a clear picture of things. Sometimes they get it wrong too.

In any case, and having said that, this book does give factual information that can be traced back to a resource. She does a good job of including a complete bibliography and timeline in the back of the book.

Did you know that it was the native people brought the turkey and deer meat?

Did you know that pumpkin pie was not served?

Did you know that probably most of those in attendance stood or sat on the ground to eat?

Did you know that the Pilgrims did not wear black all the time?

All of these fascinating facts and quite more are in this book. I enjoyed the side pages that compared the Pilgrims with their Native American guest. All of these things I think help to depict the accuracy of Thanksgiving and its historical significance for the United States.

The only thing that I did not like about the book was the initial cover and back cover. I felt they were too cartoon-ish for this book but the illustrations inside were great! They included historical figure heads, maps, and even a drawing of the Mayflower.

Overall, this book gets 5 stars and a Happy Thanksgiving from me.

Disclosure: I received a copy of this book for my open and honest opinion. The views expressed here are 100% my own and may differ with yours. ~Naila Moon

Masao Koda says

1. Penguin No level, I'm not sure this book has level.
2. 05/26=120min
3. Thanksgiving, origin, Pilgrims, Wampanoag, war, Hale, Holiday
4.(a)Hale told him that a national Thanksgiving Day was more important than ever. It might not stop the war. But it would bring people together. It would remind them that the United States was one big family.
(b)I like this passage. This request was to make Thanksgiving a national holiday in the U.S. There was the Civil war between northern and Southern American. But Hale tried to make all the American people to unite by celebrating Thanksgiving. I was very impressed by her effort.
5.The reson why I chose this book was because I really wanted to know some American culture. And then, Sophie told me about historical celebrity's book in library. So, I decided to read some of them. This book is kind of the historic celebrity's books.
What I felt after reading this book is immigration is not good for both native people and immigrants. Actually, many native American were killed or exiled from their land by pilgrims. At first, they had a good terms each other. However, after many pilgrims came to the land. The war was happen. I was so sad about that. So I may not have fun celebrating Thanksgiving thinking about native American died.

Aliya A says

What was the first Thanksgiving was a biography/Autobiography I would recommend this book to people who like to learn about new things and people who like Thanksgiving day.

Mosiah.p says

it was a good book about how thank giving was start it show you how it got people together

Jenna says

I would recommend if you are doing an essay or something on Thanksgiving. It is a very fun book and it gives you so much information.

Ericka Clouther says

I'm not an expert on the history of Thanksgiving so I don't know how precisely accurate this was, but it was a more balanced account of the event than I received when I was growing up. It definitely mentioned injustices to the Native Americans, though it wasn't fully focused on that. I read this to both of my kids and we all learned some new things, and we discussed further what it said about Native Americans.

C. says

I know it's for young readers, but I still expected better. This book gave the generic glossed over perception of Thanksgiving with a few nods to "we can't be sure what happened." It also had some factual errors and some presumptive rhetoric, and I found the prose to be poorly written, especially relative to many other titles in this series. Overall, I have found the bios in this line to be far superior to the events.

Valleri says

Labeling this book "historical" was difficult. I was interested in this story, and thought maybe I could pass it along to my daughter so that she would have more cultural context about what really happened during the first Thanksgiving, but no. I was sorely disappointed that this narrative glossed over the fact that European settlers would massacre entire tribes of Native Americans only to hold a feast of "thanksgiving" to their god for "victory" in their battles. It became to costly to hold so many feasts (because there were so many battles waged against Natives for their land and resources) so European settlers settled on one giant feast which supposedly was meant to honor Squanto for his teaching the settlers how to grow their own food. The page in question where I stopped reading specifically states "a day of prayer and thanksgiving would be announced whenever something special happened. It might be to celebrate winning a battle or surviving a bad winter" (Holub 54). A fine example of how history in America is twisted to downplay how vile parts of our history actually are: how repugnantly we treated people not of European descent or Puritan faith. As my children are taught an Anglo-revised version of history in their schools, we will definitely be discussing the actuality of events which have caused our nation to be where currently are and what we can do to make sure that changes. We are all human. We all deserves the same rights and responsibilities to each other.
