

A hálaadás (angolul Thanksgiving) észak-amerikai ünnep. A hagyományok szerint az őszi betakarítások után adnak hálát a termésért Istennek. Az Amerikai Egyesült Államokban, ahol ez az egyik legfontosabb ünnepnek számít, november negyedik csütörtökjén, Kanadában pedig október második hétfőjén tartják. Az első hálaadást a hagyományok szerint 1621-ben ünnepelték azok a telepesek, akik az előző évben Plymouth-hoz, az Újvilágba érkeztek az európai vallásüldözések elől. A menekültek mintegy fele a hideg, az éhezés és az idegen, mostoha környezet áldozata lett az első télen. A telepeseket a vampanoag nevű indián törzs segítette ezekben a nehéz időkben, megtanítva nekik többek közt a helyi halászatot, vadászatot, a kukoricatermesztést és a juharszirup kinyerésének titkát. A történet szerint az őszi bőséges termés után az életben maradt 51 telepes vezetője, William Bradford nagy ünnepséget rendezett, ahová az indiánokat is meghívta.

Olvasd el, és hallgasd is meg történelmi áttekintésünket angolul is!

Pilgrims

by Claire Powell and Dave Collett

Who were the pilgrims

There are many legends surrounding the pilgrims. In fact they were real people: English men and women who wanted to escape the religious controversies and economic problems of their time by emigrating to America.

The pilgrim story begins in England in the 16th century. A **congregation** of religious **dissidents** in Nottinghamshire believed the Church of England did not **act in**

accordance with the teachings of the Bible, so they established a church of their own in 1606. At that time the church and state were one, so being a separatist was considered an act of treason. The congregation had no choice but to leave their motherland. They fled to the city of Leiden in Holland where they could worship as they liked. Unfortunately life was hard there, so they decided to emigrate to the English colonies in North America, then known as 'Virginia'. Other pilgrims also came for the economic opportunity, although they remained loyal to their national church.

Finance

The **voyage** and **settlement** was financed by a group of English **investors** known as the '**merchant** adventurers'. They formed

a partnership with the colonists whereby the merchants agreed to risk their money, and the settlers to invest their labour, for seven years. Land and livestock were jointly owned and the company would dissolve and divide its assets after the seven years.

Departure to New England

On September 6, 1620, aboard a ship called the Mayflower, 102 passengers set sail across the Atlantic. The crossing was smooth at first, but then came many storms, which damaged the ship. Two people died on board and one baby, named Oceanus, was born. Eventually, after 66 days of travelling, the emigrants arrived in Cape Cod



in southeastern Massachusetts. The pilgrims chose to stay here as it was too late to go to the northern part of Virginia.

The first winter

The pilgrims went **ashore** to explore the **wilderness**. They had carried a small boat in sections below **decks** on the Mayflower, and this had to be **assembled** before groups could go and explore the **coastline**. Exploration began with a small group of 16 men. They discovered a buried **cache**

of corn and a kettle, signs that the native Americans had a camp there. Later on, in December, the pilgrims discovered a sheltered bay, called Plymouth Harbour, a place which was protected and good for them to live permanently. Their first winter was much colder than the English winters they had experienced before, but all the same, the pilgrims continued exploring. They found a native American burial ground and unoccupied homes. After a cold night camping, the pilgrims came face to face with the native Americans at dawn. The pilgrims fled back to their boat and sailed

home to Plymouth Harbour. The pilgrims began building houses, but the weather conditions were terrible, meaning that the building took longer to complete. Some of the thatched houses caught fire as a result of pilgrims cooking and trying to keep warm. The pilgrims sheltered from the snowstorms in the Mayflower ship. About half the group died from the bitter cold and from malnutrition, although happily, a baby, Peregrine, was also born. The pilgrims persevered and finally finished their village in February. The native Americans met the pilgrims on March 16th. A native American, Samoset, from present-day Maine, welcomed the pilgrims in English. Samoset had learnt English from fishermen. He explained how previous explorers had kidnapped some native Americans, and said he hoped they would be able to live peacefully together. Massasoit, the regional leader of the Wampanoag also visited the pilgrims and they exchanged gifts. They signed a peace treaty, which would last for over 50 years. The first Thanksgiving festival was held in the autumn of 1621, and Massasoit was invited. Together, they celebrated the harvest and the success of their peace with feasting and dancing. This festival is now a public holiday in the USA.

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haszonállatok közösen birtokolt szétoszlik, feloszlik eloszt, feloszt előny, nyereség parton, partra pusztaság, vadon fedélzet összegyűjtött partvonal elreitett kukorica védett öböl folvamatosan szabad, nem elfoglalt hajnalban nádtetős házak alultápláltság megőriz

elrabol (embert)

békeszerződés