

BORING NO MORE!

A Thanksgiving quiz that reaches beyond the edges of myth

THERE WERE NO CHILDREN AT THE FIRST THANKSGIVING

- **False!** There were two infants and four children ages 2 to 6 years old.

THERE WERE NO PILGRIMS AT THE FIRST THANKSGIVING

- **True!** If you called the original passengers on the Mayflower pilgrims, they wouldn't know who you were talking about. The term pilgrim didn't come into use until the early 1800's.
- See our slide show "What's in a Name" for more information.

THERE WERE MORE INDIANS THAN PILGRIMS AT THE FIRST THANKSGIVING

- **True!** There were 90 or more Wampanoag and only about 50 pilgrims.

AT THE FIRST THANKSGIVING PILGRIMS AND INDIANS ATE EELS.

- **True!** They ate a lot of seafood because they lived by the sea. Eels were particularly popular among the Wampanoag and the pilgrims who ate them in England.

THE PILGRIMS WORE COLORFUL CLOTHING

- **True!** The pilgrims wore blue, green purple and brownish clothing. Black dye was expensive and the pilgrims could make their own dyes from vegetables and other plants. Those who had black clothes reserved them for wearing on the Sabbath.
- **Note:** It was the Puritans who came to the area later that wore the stereotypical black somber clothing.

PLYMOUTH COLONY HAD ANTI-SMOKING LAWS

- **True!** In 1637 Plymouth Colony enacted the first anti-smoking law. There was a 12 pence fine for smoking in any barn, outhouse or street and for smoking anywhere further than 1 mile from your house.

EVERYONE ON THE MAYFLOWER WAS A PILGRIM

- **False!** Only about half of the 102 people on the Mayflower were what William Bradford later called Pilgrims. The others were called “strangers”.
- For more information see our slide show “What’s in a Name”

THERE WERE LOTS OF PUMPKINS AT THE FIRST THANKSGIVING

- **True!** Even though pumpkin pie wasn't served there were many other dishes made of pumpkin.
- **According to an old pilgrim ballad:** "We have pumpkin at morning and pumpkin at noon; if it were not for pumpkin, we should soon be undoon[sic]."

PUMPKIN IS A VEGETABLE

- **False - Pumpkin is a fruit.** A fruit is defined as being the part of the plant which contains seeds. The average pumpkin contains about a cup of seeds, so they are most definitely a fruit.

PILGRIM MEN WORE BLACK HATS WITH SILVER BUCKLES

- **False!** It was the Puritans that wore buckles on black hats. Many times Pilgrims are confused with Puritans, but they were very different.
- See our slide show “What’s in a Name” for more on this subject.

WHAT FAMOUS PILGRIM WAS KNOWN AS “CAPTAIN SHRIMP”?

- Miles Standish earned the nickname “Captain Shrimp” because he was short and stocky, with red hair and a red beard. When he lost his temper, which he did often, his face turned red too.

HOW LONG DID THE FIRST THANKSGIVING LAST?

- Three days
- It's interesting to note that there were only four women and five teenage girls who did all the cooking and cleaning for over a hundred people for three full days. Plus they had to take care of the infants and children. (And you thought you were tired after thanksgiving!)
- See our slide show "Chaos - the women's side of the story" for more information.

THE PILGRIMS BROUGHT GUNS TO CHURCH SERVICES

- **True!** The pilgrims had a formal ceremony of marching to church services. Each man carried a musket.
- In fact it was a law if you were a member of the militia you would be fined twelve pence if you didn't bring your loaded gun to church.

PLYMOUTH COLONY ENACTED THE FIRST WILDLIFE CONSERVATION LAWS

- **True!** It was illegal to catch fish before they had spawned.

THREE SETTLERS WERE EXECUTED FOR THE MURDER OF AN INDIAN

- **True!** The case is known as the trial of the "Peach Gang". Arthur Peach, Thomas Jackson, Richard Stinnings and Daniel Cross were convicted of murdering an Indian named Penowanyanquis in 1638. The motive was robbery. Daniel Cross escaped custody, but the others were executed by hanging.

THANK YOU!

- Please visit our website for more interesting information about Thanksgiving. <http://www.ManyHoops.com>