



# Topical Tidbits

October– December 2020

Volume 9 Issue 4

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## Thanksgiving

The United States is not the only country to celebrate Thanksgiving. Although reasons vary from country to country, it's an opportunity to get together with family and friends and celebrate what's most important in life no matter where you live.

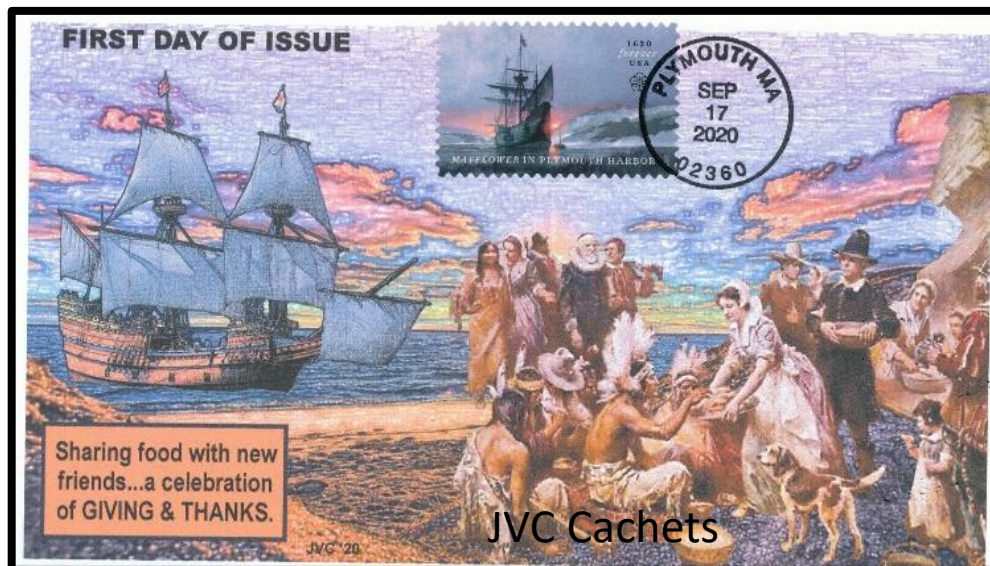
Americans have the Pilgrims to thank for our Thanksgiving celebration. The Pilgrims fled England seeking religious freedom in 1608. They first went to Holland where they were accepted by the Dutch people. After several years, though, the Pilgrims became concerned about how "Dutch" their children were becoming. They decided it was time to move to a place where English was the dominant language and where English customs were observed. The place they settled on was America. There they could have their own church and community.

The Pilgrims sailed across the Atlantic in September of 1620 on the *Mayflower*. The crossing took sixty-six days. After landing, they soon made friends with the Indians who taught them many things such as how to plant corn. When fall arrived, the Pilgrims were so grateful for having a good harvest they invited their neighbors from the Wampanoag tribe to a feast that lasted three days.

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln declared the fourth Thursday of November as Thanksgiving. Enjoy the activities in this issue and maybe you can share something you've learned with your family over your own Thanksgiving feast.

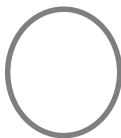


This commemorative stamp from the USPS marks the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of the Pilgrims in 1820. The colorful cachet to the right is from JVC Cachets.



# Pilgrims' Progress

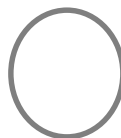
This beautiful set of stamps was issued by the Isle of Man in honor of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sailing of the *Mayflower*. Read the descriptions and put the events in the order they happened.



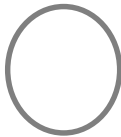
On December 1, 1620, the Pilgrims stepped ashore in the New World at Plymouth Rock. The *Mayflower* can be seen anchored in the background. This pivotal moment marked the start of a new period of civilization in North America.



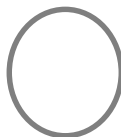
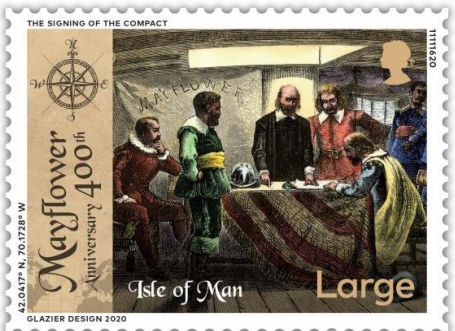
The Pilgrims and Wamponaog tribe chief Massasoit signed a peace treaty on April 1, 1621. It marked the beginning of a peaceful relationship. The Wamponaog taught the Pilgrims how to farm the land. Likewise, the Pilgrims provided healthcare and nursed Massasoit back to health when he became ill.



On February 17, 1621, the Plymouth Colony militia elected Myles Standish as its first commander and continued to re-elect him to that position for the remainder of his life. He served as an agent of Plymouth Colony in England, as assistant governor, and as treasurer of the Colony.



The *Mayflower* set sail from England in July 1620, but it had to turn back twice because the *Speedwell*, the ship it was traveling with, leaked. After deciding to leave the leaky *Speedwell* behind, the *Mayflower* finally got underway on September 6, 1620.

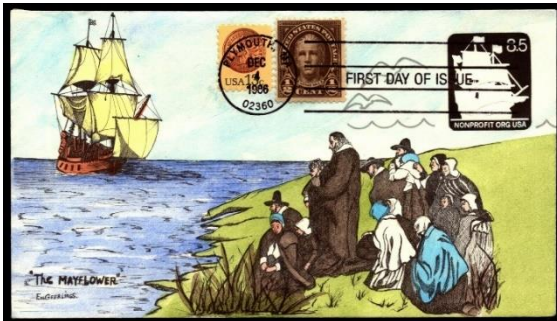
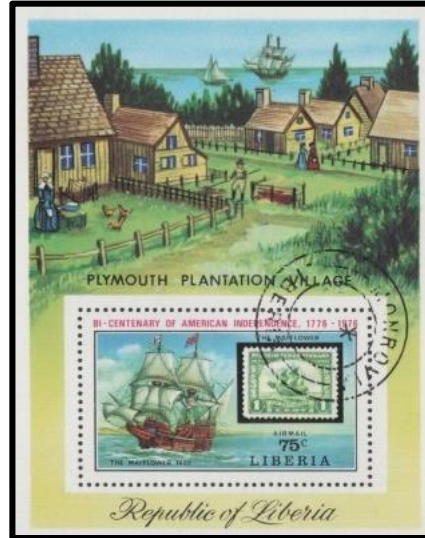
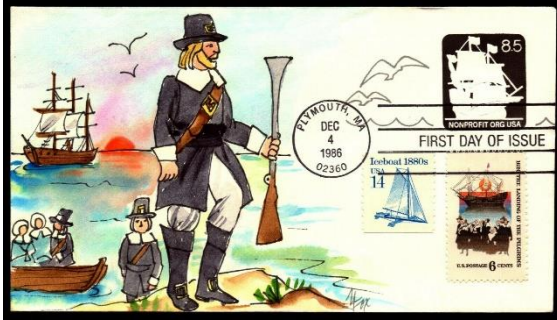


The Pilgrims signed the Mayflower Compact aboard the ship on November 11, 1620. The compact symbolized the establishment of an independent democratic government that still affirmed allegiance to the Crown of England.



# Mayflower Madness

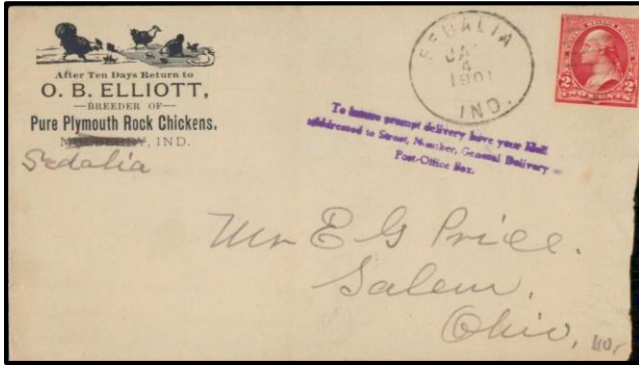
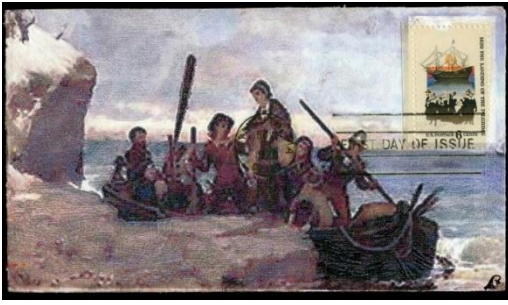
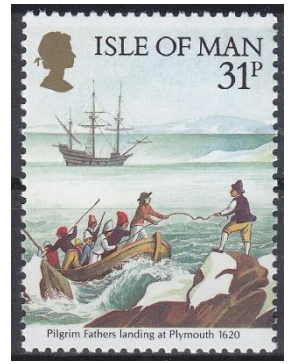
There are many philatelic items honoring the *Mayflower*, the boat that brought the Pilgrims to the New World. You should think about creating your own with the new *Mayflower* stamp issued by the USPS. Below are some statements about the famous vessel. Decide which are true and which are false.



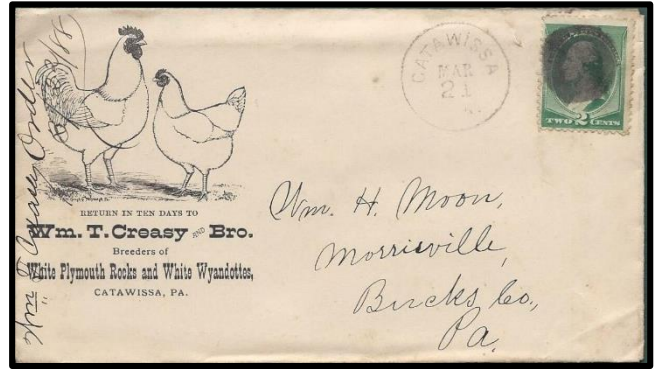
1. \_\_\_\_\_ The *Mayflower* was a cargo ship built to carry things like salt, hemp, and hops. She was not really designed to carry people.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ The ship was about ninety feet long, about as long as two trailer trucks.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ The *Mayflower* smelled pretty good because she had carried wine for twelve years. Over time, wine leaked out of the barrels and soaked into the ship's boards.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ A baby boy was born while the *Mayflower* sailed across the Atlantic. His parents named him *Oceanus*.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ The sailors made fun of the passengers who got sick on the voyage. They called them "glib-gabbety puke stockings."
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Everyone, including children, had to drink beer towards the end of the trip because the water was not safe to drink.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ There were no bathrooms on the *Mayflower*.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ The *Mayflower* had three levels including the cargo hold, the gun deck, and the main deck.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ The *Mayflower* was taken apart and sold for scrap, in England in 1624.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ It is estimated that approximately 35 million Americans are descendants of the original passengers who came to America aboard the *Mayflower*.

# Plymouth Rock

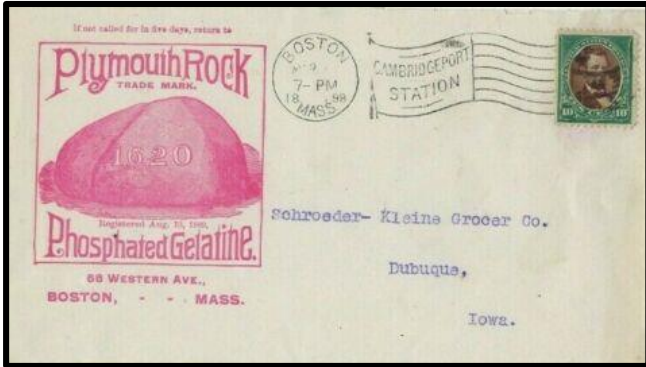
No historical evidence exists that can confirm if Plymouth Rock was really the landing place of the Pilgrims when they reached the New World. However, the story has become cemented in the minds and hearts of Americans. The rock has become a symbol of freedom and is viewed by more than one million visitors each year. Many items and products over the years have been named after America's most famous boulder.



This cover, dated 1901, is advertising "Pure Plymouth Rock Chickens."



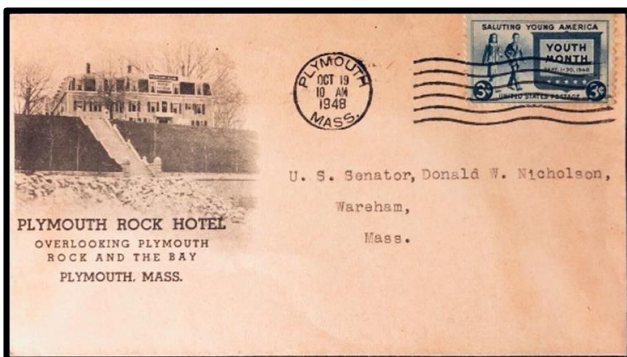
Another chicken cover- this one is advertising White Plymouth Rocks.



An 1898 cover promoting "Plymouth Rock Phosphated Gelatine."



In 1891 there was a Plymouth Rock Pants Company.



This 1948 cover is from Plymouth Rock Hotel which overlooked the famous rock.



This cover was cancelled on board the Navy's U.S.S. Plymouth Rock.



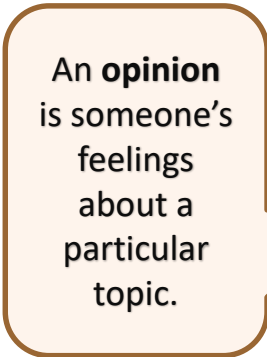
# Let's Talk Turkey

Turkey is such a big part of Thanksgiving in the United States that some jokingly refer to the holiday as "Turkey Day." **Directions:** Read the statements below.

Write **F** on the line if it is a fact and **O** if it is an opinion.

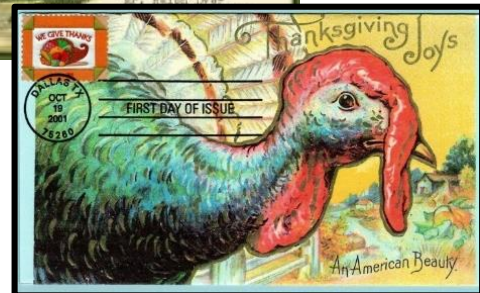
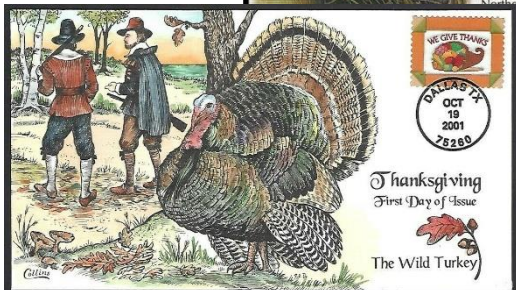
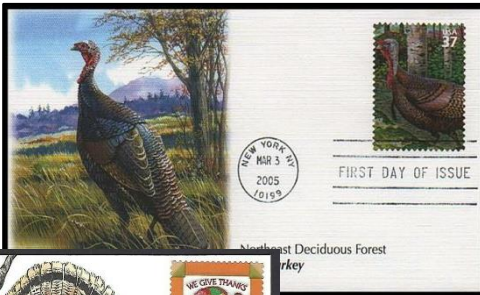


A **fact** is something that can be proven true.



An **opinion** is someone's feelings about a particular topic.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Baby turkeys are called *poults*.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Turkeys can run at speeds of up to 25 miles per hour and fly as fast as 55 miles per hour.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Turkeys have beautiful tail feathers.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Female turkeys are called *hens* and males are called *toms*.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Turkey gobbling is such a cute sound.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Wild turkeys sleep in trees to keep away from predators like coyotes and foxes.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Turkeys are native to North America.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Turkeys should only live on farms, not out in the wild.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Turkeys are strange looking creatures.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ The wattle, the flap of skin under the turkey's chin, turns bright red when the turkey is upset or during courtship.



Answers:  
 Facts- 1,2,4,6,7,10. Opinions- 3,5,8,9

# Thanksgiving Dinner



In 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt addressed Congress and envisioned a future based upon four freedoms: freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from fear, and freedom from want. When the United States became involved in World War II later that year, Norman Rockwell created four paintings to illustrate the freedoms mentioned in the president's speech. The finished paintings toured the country to promote war-bonds and raised over \$130 million for the cause. The stamp pictured here is the illustration for "Freedom From Want." Why do you think Mr. Rockwell chose a Thanksgiving Day meal for this painting?

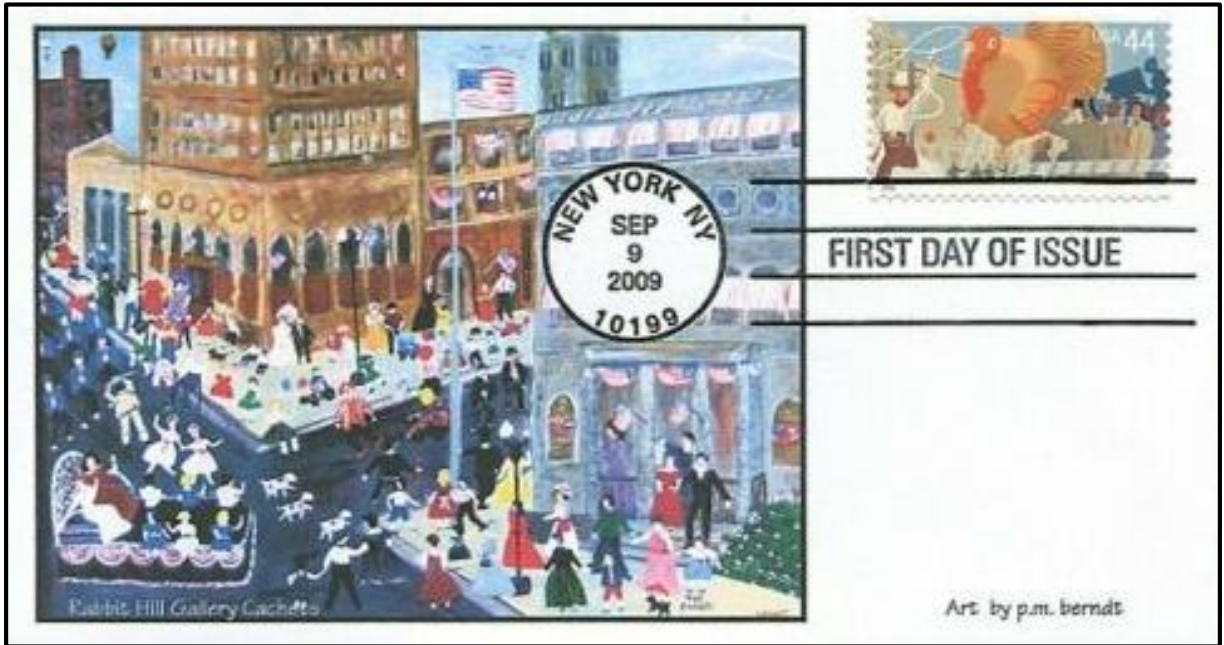
**Directions:** Pretend that you're in charge of planning and shopping for your family's Thanksgiving meal. Use online grocery store ads or ones from the newspaper to figure out the cost of the meal. Be sure to include meat, vegetables, bread, dessert, and drinks.

**FOOD ITEM**

**COST**

FOOD ITEM	COST
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
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_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
<b>TOTAL:</b>	\$ _____

# Thanksgiving Parade



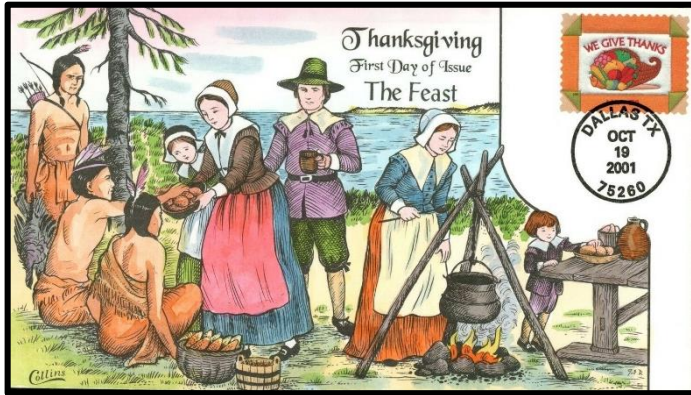
About 50 million people tune in each year to watch Macy's Thanksgiving day parade on TV. Another 3 million view the parade live in New York City. Pretend that you are in charge of the floats this year for your town's parade. You need to get the floats lined up in alphabetical order. Number the float entries from 1-10.

- A. \_\_\_\_\_ Turkey Trotters
- B. \_\_\_\_\_ Feeling Thankful
- C. \_\_\_\_\_ Happy Harvesters
- D. \_\_\_\_\_ Mayflower Mayhem
- E. \_\_\_\_\_ Cranberry Crafters
- F. \_\_\_\_\_ Plymouth Rockers
- G. \_\_\_\_\_ Cornucopia Club
- H. \_\_\_\_\_ Gravy Boat Regatta
- I. \_\_\_\_\_ Wishbone Walking Club
- J. \_\_\_\_\_ Pumpkin Pie Promoters





# Thanksgiving Then & Now



Many things have changed since the time of the first Thanksgiving in 1621, as illustrated in these two covers from Fred Collins. Next to each of the following activities, write **THEN** if the Pilgrims did it or **NOW** if it's something we do today.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ wear a smart watch
2. \_\_\_\_\_ use clam shells to eat your food
3. \_\_\_\_\_ shop online for your cousin's birthday present
4. \_\_\_\_\_ turn the handle of the spit to cook the turkey
5. \_\_\_\_\_ use pine needles or corn husks to make a mattress
6. \_\_\_\_\_ gather special grasses to make thatch for the roof
7. \_\_\_\_\_ heat a frozen dinner in the microwave
8. \_\_\_\_\_ saw pine logs to make planks to build your house
9. \_\_\_\_\_ send your friend a text message
10. \_\_\_\_\_ order a pizza and have it delivered to your house
11. \_\_\_\_\_ find plants to make dye for cloth
12. \_\_\_\_\_ have windows covered with paper or cloth
13. \_\_\_\_\_ sleep on the *Mayflower* until your house was built
14. \_\_\_\_\_ can't talk at the table unless spoken to first
15. \_\_\_\_\_ share a trencher, a wooden plate, with a sibling
16. \_\_\_\_\_ mom and dad might smoke a pipe after dinner
17. \_\_\_\_\_ use paper towels to wipe up a mess
18. \_\_\_\_\_ watch a program on TV
19. \_\_\_\_\_ plant corn with fish so that it would grow better
20. \_\_\_\_\_ play videogames with your friends



# Thanksgiving



# Turkeys





# The Pilgrims

