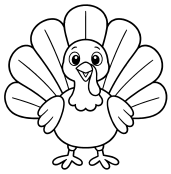
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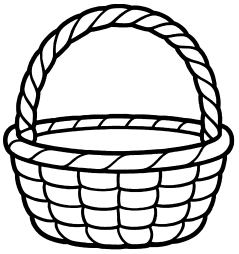


How Thanksgiving Began

Read about the first days of thanks. Then answer the questions.

Days of Thanks

Long ago, people gave thanks when the harvest was good. Many Native nations have long held harvest feasts, and many still do. In 1621, the Wampanoag and the English at Plymouth shared a feast that lasted three days.



In 1789, President **George Washington** asked Americans to give thanks on Thursday, November 26. But it was not a holiday every year. Each state picked its own day of thanks. Some states did not have one at all.

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1. In 1789, who asked Americans to give thanks?

Sarah Josepha Hale Abraham Lincoln George Washington

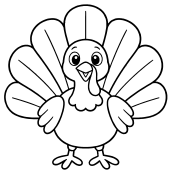
2. After 1789, every state gave thanks on the same day each year. **true** **false**

3. Washington's day of thanks was on a ___. **Monday** **Thursday** **Sunday**

4. Why do you think people gave thanks after a harvest?

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Name _____ Date _____

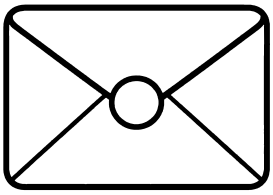


How Thanksgiving Began

Read about Sarah Josepha Hale. Then answer the questions.

A Writer Who Would Not Give Up

Sarah Josepha Hale was a writer. She was in charge of a magazine that many people read. She first published the poem "Mary Had a Little Lamb." Hale wanted the whole country to give thanks on the same day each year.



For about 17 years, she sent letters to leaders and presidents. She wrote about it in her magazine too. The presidents before Lincoln did not do what she asked. Hale kept writing.

In 1863, during the Civil War, she wrote to President **Abraham Lincoln**. A few days later, Lincoln asked Americans to give thanks on the last Thursday of November. After that, a president named a Thanksgiving Day every year.

---

1. Sarah Josepha Hale kept writing for many years. **true** **false**

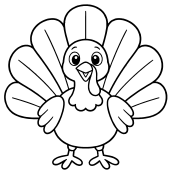
2. For about how many years did Hale send letters about Thanksgiving? **17** **2** **50**

3. Lincoln chose the ___ Thursday of November. **last** **first**

4. What can you learn from Sarah Josepha Hale?

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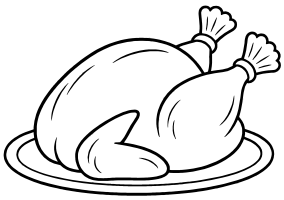
Name _____ Date _____



How Thanksgiving Began

Read how the day moved. Then answer the questions.

Moving the Day



In 1939, the last Thursday of November came very late in the month. Stores wanted more shopping days before Christmas. So President **Franklin D. Roosevelt** moved Thanksgiving one week earlier.

Many people were upset. Some states kept the old day. For three years, some states had Thanksgiving on one Thursday and some on another. Some people made fun of the new day by calling it "Franksgiving."

In 1941, Congress passed a law. From 1942 on, Thanksgiving would be on the **fourth Thursday** of November every year. It still is today.

---

1. Why did Roosevelt move Thanksgiving?

to give more shopping days before Christmas

to make the day longer

because of a snowstorm

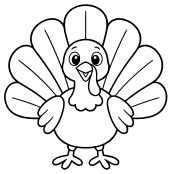
2. Every state agreed with the change. **true** **false**

3. The law of 1941 put Thanksgiving on the ___ Thursday. **fourth** **last**

4. Do you think Roosevelt was right to move the day? Why?

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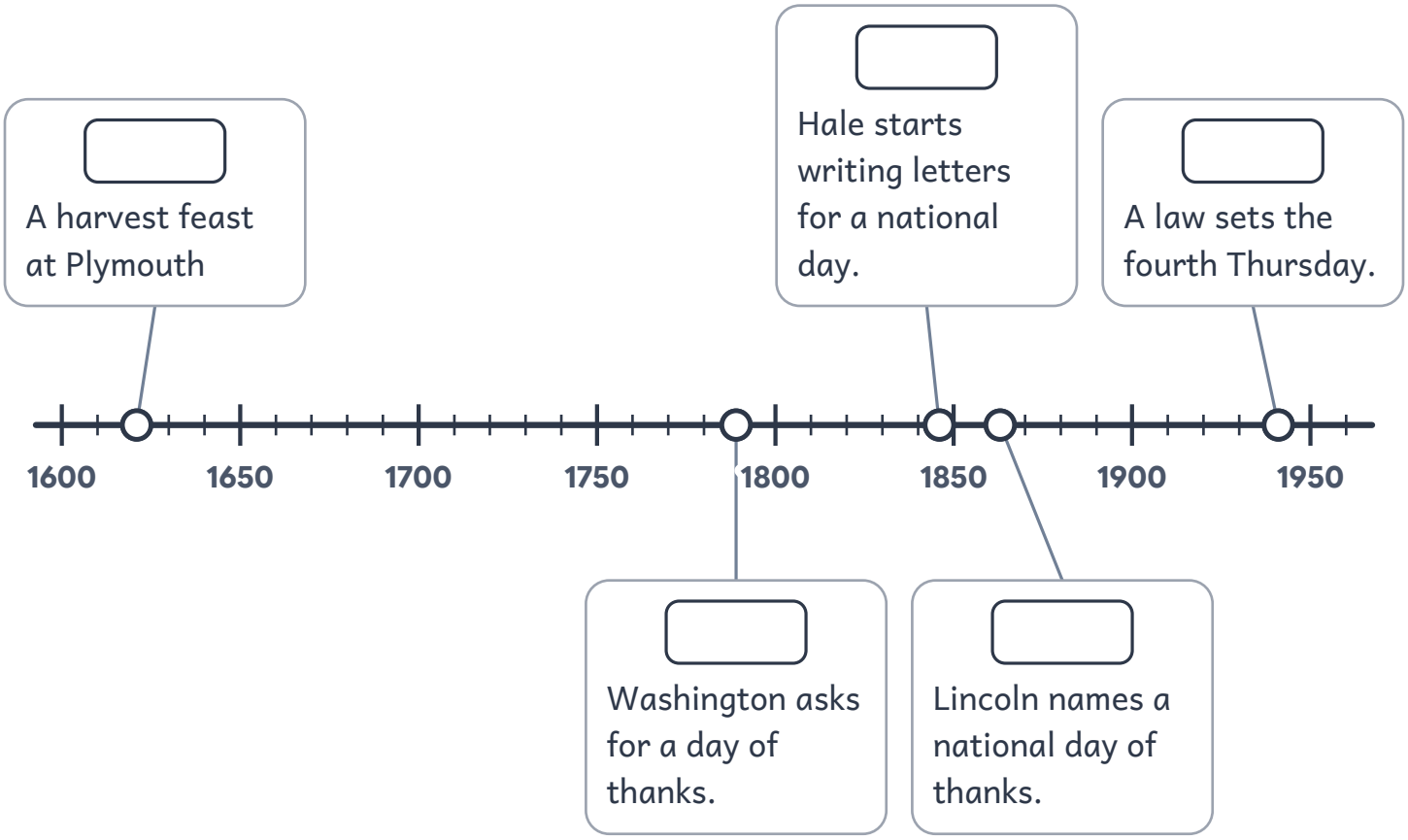
Name _____ Date _____



How Thanksgiving Began

Write the year of each event. Then answer the questions.

Years: **1621** **1789** **1846** **1863** **1941**



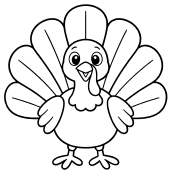
1. How many years after Washington's day of thanks did Lincoln name his? _____ years

2. How many years did Hale write before Lincoln agreed? _____ years

3. How many years after Lincoln's day of thanks did the law come? _____ years

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Name _____ Date _____



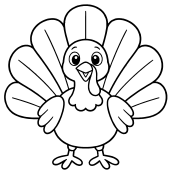
How Thanksgiving Began

Draw a line from each cause to its effect.

Cause		Effect
Before 1863, each state chose its own day of thanks.	●	● Congress set one Thursday for everyone by law.
Hale wrote to Lincoln in 1863.	●	● Roosevelt moved Thanksgiving one week earlier.
Stores wanted more shopping days before Christmas.	●	● Hale asked for one day for the whole country.
From 1939 to 1941, states gave thanks on two different Thursdays.	●	● Lincoln named a national day of thanks.

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Name _____ Date _____



How Thanksgiving Began

Plan a letter, as Sarah Josepha Hale did.

Hale wrote letters to make Thanksgiving a holiday for the whole country. What new holiday would you start? Plan a letter to persuade a leader.

Words to use: I believe because also for example please

My holiday its name and its date

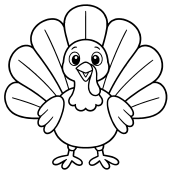
Reason 1 One reason is

Reason 2 Also,

Ending Please

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Name _____ Date _____



A Letter to Persuade

Write your letter to a leader. Use your plan.

date

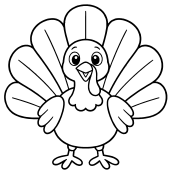
greeting

body

closing

your name

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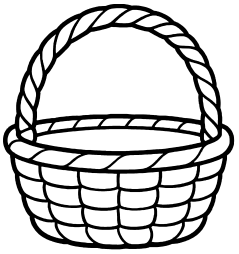


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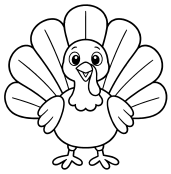
2. After 1789, every state gave thanks on the same day each year. **true** **false**

3. Washington's day of thanks was on a ___ **Monday** **Thursday** **Sunday**

4. Why do you think people gave thanks after a harvest?

They were glad to have enough food for the winter.

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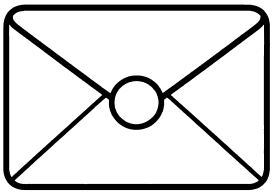


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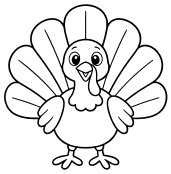
2. For about how many years did Hale send letters about Thanksgiving? (**17**) **2** **50**

3. Lincoln chose the ____ Thursday of November. (**last**) **first**

4. What can you learn from Sarah Josepha Hale?

If something matters, keep trying and do not give up.

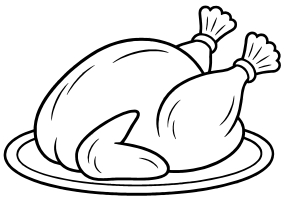
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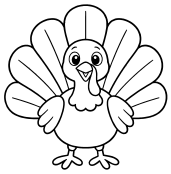
2. Every state agreed with the change. **true** **false**

3. The law of 1941 put Thanksgiving on the ___ Thursday. **fourth** **last**

4. Do you think Roosevelt was right to move the day? Why?

No, because people liked the old day, and the country had two Thanksgivings.

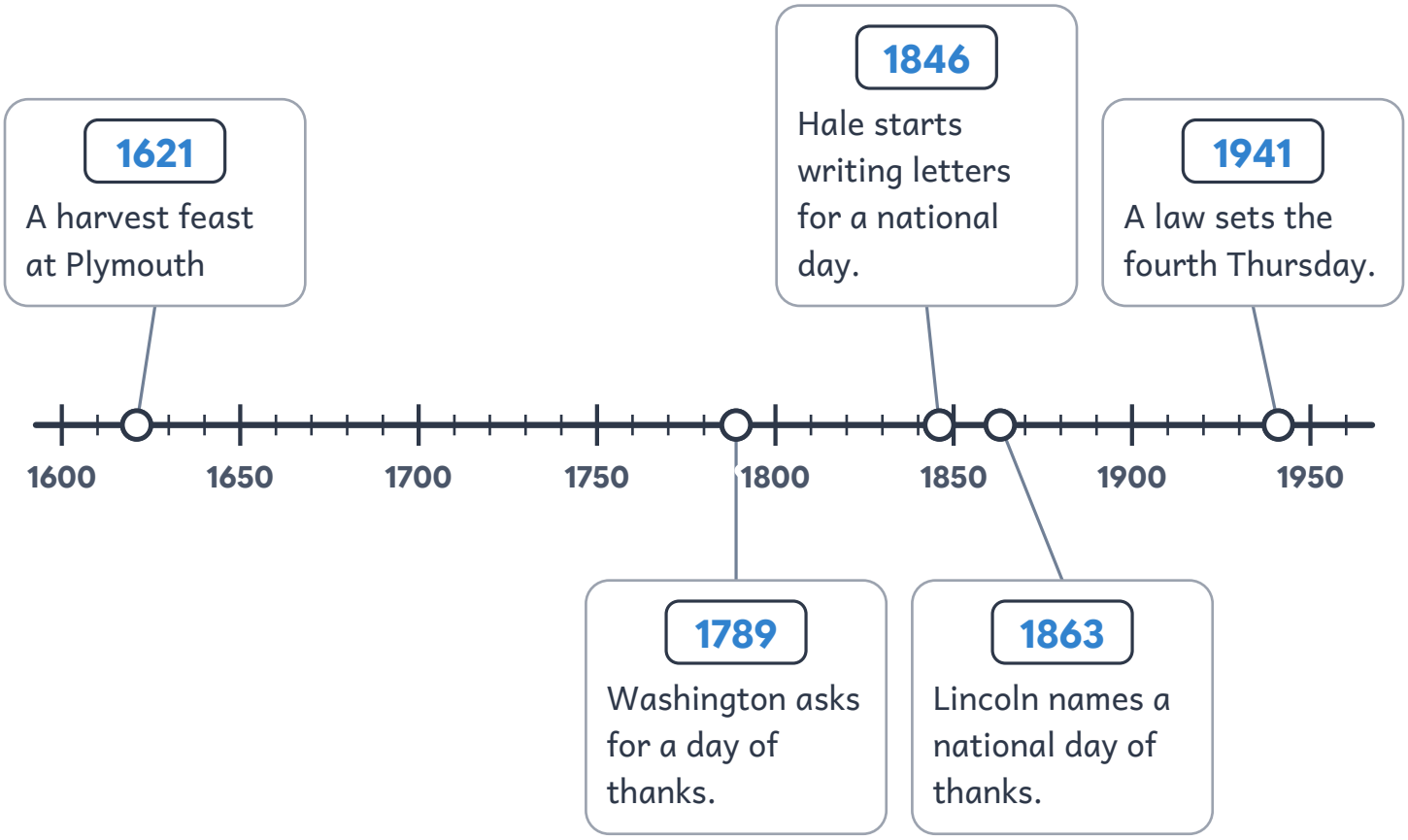
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How Thanksgiving Began

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Years: 1621 1789 1846 1863 1941

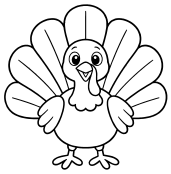


1. How many years after Washington's day of thanks did Lincoln name his? **74** years

2. How many years did Hale write before Lincoln agreed? **17** years

3. How many years after Lincoln's day of thanks did the law come? **78** years

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How Thanksgiving Began

Draw a line from each cause to its effect.

Cause	Effect
Before 1863, each state chose its own day of thanks.	Congress set one Thursday for everyone by law.
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