ABC's of the First Thanksgiving
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Parts(30): Narrator 1  Narrator 2  Narrator 3  Narrator 4
Assign Readers for Letters A-Z

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Narrator 1: Thanksgiving is one of our favorite holidays. We have been learning about early America and the very first Thanksgiving celebration.

A is for Americans: Some of the earliest Americans were the Pilgrims. They wanted to be free to have their own religion.

B is for Big Ship: The Pilgrims sailed across the Atlantic Ocean in a big ship called the Mayflower.

C is for Cramped: The ship was very cramped or crowded. There was little room for children to play. Many people became sick.

D is for Danger: The trip was filled with danger. Often there were storms with great winds. Everyone was afraid.

E is for Explore: After 66 days the happy Pilgrims reached land. Some of the men went to shore to explore. They wanted to see what was there.

F is for Fields: They found forests and fields where the native people had planted corn. They found clean water to drink.

G is for Grateful: Everyone was happy and grateful. They found a safe place to live the way they wanted.

H is for Hard: That first winter was very cold and hard for the Pilgrims. There was not enough food. Many people got sick and died.

I is for INDIAN: (Now we say Native American.) A friendly Indian named Squanto helped the Pilgrims. He showed them how to plant corn and where to find fish.

J is for JONES: In the spring, Captain Jones, the captain of the Mayflower, went back to England. The Pilgrims stayed in their new home, America.

K is for KEPT: The Pilgrims kept working hard. They planted gardens and built houses and furniture.

L is for Land: They learned how to hunt and fish in the new land.

M is for MANY: By summer, the Pilgrims had built many houses. Their vegetable gardens grew well.

N is for NO ONE: By November, there was plenty to eat. No one would be hungry this winter.

O is for ONE: One day, Governor Bradford said, “We should be thankful for our harvest.”

P is for Pilgrims: The Pilgrims harvested pumpkins, corn, squash, beans, and carrots. They found nuts and berries in the woods.

Q is for QUAIL: The men hunted for wild quail, turkey, geese, and deer. They caught fish in the rivers.

R is for READY: They caught lobsters, clams, and oysters in the ocean. They got everything ready for a big celebration.
S is for SHARE:   The Pilgrims wanted to share what they had with the Indians, their new friends.

T is for THANKFUL:   The Pilgrims were thankful. Now they had food, homes, and friends.

U is for US:   The Pilgrims said to their new friends, “Please join us!”

V is for VISIT:   They invited the Indians to visit them for their special harvest celebration.

W is for When:   When everyone came, they ate together and played games.

X is for EXCITED:   The Pilgrims were EXCITED and very happy. Their celebration lasted for three days!

Y is for YELLED:   The children played and laughed and yelled.

Z is for Zany:   The children acted zany, running all around with their new friends. They had a wonderful time.

Narrator 2:   Most people don’t know that the Pilgrims did not celebrate again the next year. Later on, several Presidents, including George Washington, made one-time Thanksgiving holidays.

Narrator 3:   It became an official holiday in 1863, when President Abraham Lincoln, said to set aside the last Thursday in November to give thanks.

Narrator 4:   In 1941, Congress made Thanksgiving an annual national holiday to be celebrated on the 4th Thursday of November. Now it's a time for family and friends to give thanks together, eat lots of good food, watch parades and football games. It's also the start of the winter holiday season!