

What did they eat for Thanksgiving?

When you think of Thanksgiving, do you think of turkey and cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie?

The Pilgrims had turkey too. But their turkeys were not like the ones we eat today. Their turkeys were wild and much bigger.

Plenty of cranberries grew around Plymouth. But the Pilgrims did not make cranberry sauce.

They had plenty of pumpkins, but no pumpkin pie. They did have meat pies.

There were wild geese, wild duck, lobsters, eels, clams, oysters, and many other kinds of fresh fish. And the Indians killed five deer for the feast.

There was corn cooked in many different ways. And there was popcorn too.

The Pilgrims had no sugar. Perhaps they used wild honey to sweeten their food.

There were vegetables from the Pilgrims' gardens—

carrots and cucumbers, turnips and onions, radishes, beets, and cabbages.

Most of the cooking and all of the feasting was done outside. Deer, turkeys, geese, and ducks were roasted on outdoor spits. Lobsters and oysters were roasted over hot coals.

For dessert there were wild berries and fruits. Strawberries, gooseberries, plums, cherries, and other fruits had been picked in the spring and dried to eat later.

No one went hungry the first Thanksgiving. There was so much food that it took three days to eat it all!



