



The fourth Thursday in November, each year, the United States celebrates Thanksgiving. Millions of people (326 766 748 to be exact) in the US and sprinkled around the world (like me!) celebrate this very special day as if it were Christmas Eve here in Spain. People travel for each corner of the country to make it home in time and have a special day with their families. The purpose of this is to give thanks for our families, our health, home, for having food to eat...for the most basic and necessary things in our lives. Well, we also go home for the turkey, corn, creme of pumpkin soup, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, green beans, baked sweet potatoes and apple pie 😊 YUMMY!

Where does this tradition come from? If you have a minute and your Spanish this explanation may interest you.

Traditionally it has been told, and as students we learn at American schools that the first Thanksgiving was celebrated at the Plymouth Rock settlement in Massachusetts in November 1621. A year before 102 pilgrims has arrived at this site fleeing from England on a ship named the Mayflower looking for new land for religious freedom. Their first year in Plymouth was incredibly hard due to the cold winter, the snowfall and generally because these pilgrims did not have enough food to feed themselves. They survived thanks to the neighboring Native American tribes from the area that gifted them food and medicines/herbs. Despite this, 46 pilgrims passed away that winter.

The first spring in America the pilgrims learned about local agriculture, how to hunt accompanied by the natives, fishing and preparing themselves for the winter.

As Autumn approached, the pilgrims saw the fruits of their labor from the agriculture which were many. Thankful for this the pilgrims invited the neighboring natives, with whom they had made friendships with, to a large and bountiful dinner. Here they gave thanks for all of their friends help and Americans continue with this tradition today.

Until this point everything sounds familiar....



**But.... What if the first Thanksgiving were actually a Spanish tradition?**

The Coral Gables Museum in Miami, Florida [@coralgablesmuseum](https://www.coralgablesmuseum.com) have another theory.



In this painting we see a catholic mass being celebrated by Spanish explorers in what is today the city of St. Augustine, Florida. This occurred 50 years before the celebration at Plymouth Rock.

Basing their arguments on a painting housed at the museum, the experts explain that the Spanish conquistadors celebrated a mass to give thanks for reaching Florida alive and in good health. The travel logs from this expedition indicate that afterwards they celebrated with a large celebration dinner to give thanks with wine and Spanish serrano ham. ¡Pero claro!

Be what may, today is a great day to give THANKS!

We encourage you to share a meal with your family, lunch or dinner and take a moment to give thanks a lot loud for the things you have: your home, family, health, food, love, friends, work, school, teachers. You will see that this make for a very special moment.

If you are one of our students:

**Give Thanks today for something you are grateful for!**

We will do this today. WE will give thanks for you, for our students and families and for being lucky enough to have lived by your side for the past 13 years!

Love, Silvia!

**We are grateful and blessed! Estamos agradecidos!**