*Приложение 1*

**Thanksgiving. History and Traditions**

The fourth Thursday in November in the USA is Thanksgiving. Though the holiday started about 400 years ago, it was proclaimed the national day of observance in 1941. People of all faiths celebrate the holiday. Most people don’t go to work on this day. People get together with their families and friends to give thanks for the good things in their lives.

The first Thanksgiving Day was celebrated by the Pilgrims in 1621.They came from England for religious freedom and better life. They sailed from Plymouth, England, on the 16th of September 1920. Their ship was called the Mayflower. They landed at Plymouth Rock (now the state of Massachusetts) on the 26th of December.

The first winter was a terrible time. There was much sickness (болезнь)) and starvation (голод). Native Indians taught the Pilgrims how to plant (сажать растения), to hunt, to fish and to survive (выживать) n America. The crops did well and in the fall of 1621 the Pilgrims had a great harvest (урожай). They were very thankful and decided to celebrate with a feast. They invited their Indian friends to share this Thanksgiving feast. They prepared dinner of turkey, corn, beans, pumpkin. The Indians brought food to the feast too. They even brought pop corn.

The first Thanksgiving was three days long. But in the years after the first holiday there were many problems between the newcomers (переселенцы) and the Indians. The newcomers took land from the native (коренные) people, they killed those who helped them, destroyed Native American way of life. Today lots of Americans feel ashamed (испытывают чувство стыда) about this. Some states celebrate Native American days. On these days they honour (отдают дань) Native people and remember the peace and friendship of the first Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving is a family holiday. Families come together from near and far. There are special church services in the morning. Then families get together at the dinner table for the traditional feast. Turkey with stuffing and cranberry sauce is the main dish. Pumpkin pie, pudding, pop corn is also very popular. Apple cider is the drink of the day. After dinner families relax and talk. Some of them watch a football game on TV. Football is the most popular game on this day. They also watch the annual (ежегодный) Thanksgiving Day Parade which is held in New York City. Celebrities (знаменитости), bands, balloons shaped like cartoon characters appear at the parade. Santa Clause arrives at the end to mark the beginning of the Christmas season.

Thanksgiving is a brightly coloured holiday. Stores, classrooms and homes are decorated with turkeys, pilgrims, Indians, wreaths (венки) of dried flowers, vegetables and horns of plentу (рог изобилия). It’s a wonderful time full of words of gratitude that are heard everywhere on Thanksgiving Day.