



# THANKSGIVING TRIVIA



**Question #1:** On what date was the first Thanksgiving held?

**Answer:** Nobody actually knows. It was thought to be between late October and mid-November.

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**Question #2:** In what year was the first “Thanksgiving” celebrated?

**Answer:** 1621

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**Question #3:** What Native American tribe celebrated “Thanksgiving” with the pilgrims:

**Answer:** The Wampanoags

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**Question #4:** Where was the first “Thanksgiving” celebrated?

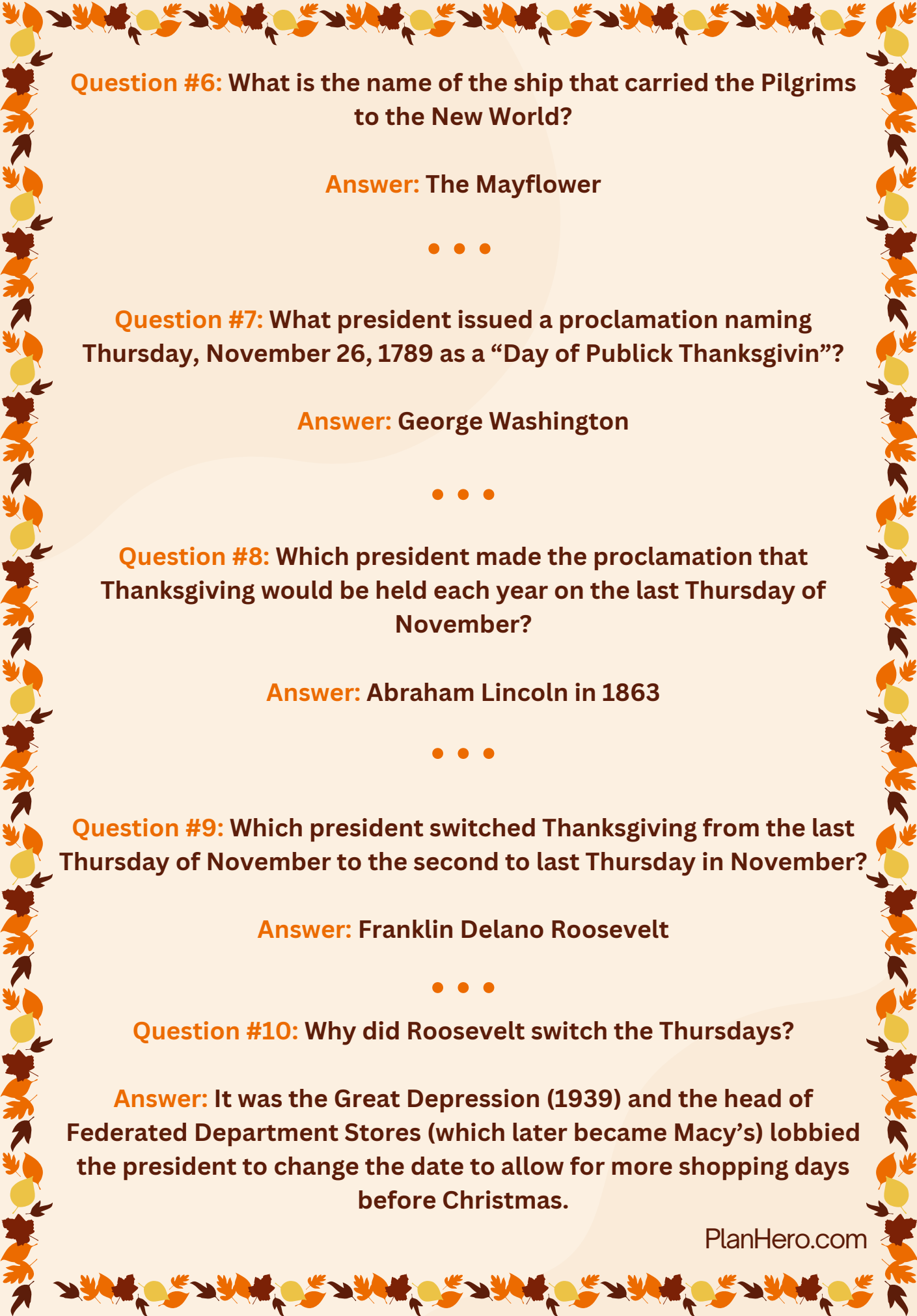
**Answer:** Plymouth, Massachusetts

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**Question #5:** What did the first “Thanksgiving” actually celebrate?

**Answer:** A successful harvest.

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**Question #6:** What is the name of the ship that carried the Pilgrims to the New World?

**Answer:** The Mayflower

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**Question #7:** What president issued a proclamation naming Thursday, November 26, 1789 as a “Day of Publick Thanksgivin”?

**Answer:** George Washington

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**Question #8:** Which president made the proclamation that Thanksgiving would be held each year on the last Thursday of November?

**Answer:** Abraham Lincoln in 1863

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**Question #9:** Which president switched Thanksgiving from the last Thursday of November to the second to last Thursday in November?

**Answer:** Franklin Delano Roosevelt

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**Question #10:** Why did Roosevelt switch the Thursdays?

**Answer:** It was the Great Depression (1939) and the head of Federated Department Stores (which later became Macy’s) lobbied the president to change the date to allow for more shopping days before Christmas.



**Question #11:** What president signed the joint Congressional resolution declaring that Thanksgiving would be an official U.S. holiday on the fourth Thursday of November?

**Answer:** Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Most of the American people didn't like the change to the third Thursday of November!



**Question #12:** In what year did Thanksgiving become an official U.S. holiday?

**Answer:** 1941



**Question #13:** Has turkey always been served on Thanksgiving?

**Answer:** It's not completely clear. There is no clear evidence that it was served on the first "Thanksgiving." The Wampanoag brought deer, and the Pilgrims brought wild "fowl," which may have been turkey.

An American writer named Sarah Josepha Hale wrote a novel in 1827 in which she described a typical New England Thanksgiving that included a roasted turkey "placed at the head of the table."



**Question #14:** Did the Wampanoag and Pilgrims eat cranberries at the first “Thanksgiving?”

**Answer:** It is not clear, but only three fruits were native to North America: blueberries, Concord grapes, and cranberries. The Wampanoag were known to eat cranberries and use them for dye, so it is thought that they likely enjoyed cranberries at the first “Thanksgiving.”



**Question #15:** Did the Wampanoag and Pilgrims eat either white potatoes or sweet potatoes at the first “Thanksgiving?”

**Answer:** Nope. In 1621, neither type of potato had yet proliferated in North America.

White (Irish) potatoes had been brought to North America several times in the 1600s, but they weren’t grown at scale until after 1719. Sweet potatoes were grown in Virginia in 1648, and are thought to have been taken to New England in 1764.