

## Weekly Concept Celebrate America!



### Essential Question

Why do we celebrate holidays?



*Go Digital!*



# Red, White, and Blue



## Talk About It

What are these people celebrating together?



## Essential Question

Why do we celebrate holidays?

Read about how people celebrate the harvest.



Go Digital!



# Share the Harvest and Give Thanks

Each year, farmers pick crops from their fields. This is called the harvest. It marks the end of the growing season—a fun time of the year.



# Say Thanks



In our **nation**, families celebrate the harvest in a number of ways. You can eat a harvest dinner at home, or you can go to a fair or festival. Harvest is a time to **unite** with friends and family. It is also a time when people share harvest foods.



Farm stands have harvest fruits and vegetables. These may include pumpkins and apples in the fall and berries and tomatoes in the spring.





All across the United States, people give thanks for the fall harvest. This day is called Thanksgiving. It is on the fourth Thursday in November. Families eat together and show that they are thankful. But are you aware of the very first Thanksgiving?





**In 1620, the people we call Pilgrims sailed from England and landed in Plymouth, Massachusetts. The Native Americans there taught the Pilgrims which crops to plant.**

The first Thanksgiving in our nation was in 1621. The Pilgrims who had come to America had a feast to show thanks for the harvest. They ate duck, deer, corn, and squash. Can you compare that to a meal today?





Today, families still give thanks with a feast. But they may eat such **favorite** foods as turkey, corn, and green beans. People like to enjoy the harvest foods before they are **gone**.

**Many families eat a special meal on Thanksgiving. Foods that are harvested in the fall may be part of the celebration.**





# Festivals and Fairs

In many states, Thanksgiving is a fun affair! Some places hold big parades where people march, sing, and dance. At one parade, **young** actors wear costumes. They act out the first Thanksgiving. That is so you can see what harvest was like so many years ago.

**In Plymouth, the city of the first Thanksgiving, some people dress up like Pilgrims and Native Americans.**



At the Kentucky Harvest Festival, the corn crop is the star. Kids have a contest to peel the most ears of corn. Families join teams to play a Cornhole Toss game. The teams toss a **few** bags filled with corn kernels. They follow rules to score. The winning team gets a **surprise!**



A bean-bag toss game is popular at Kentucky and Ohio harvest festivals. Players pitch their corn bags and try to get them into a hole.

Kwanzaa is also a harvest celebration. Kwanzaa means “first fruits.” At this time, people give thanks for crops such as corn, apples, and pears.

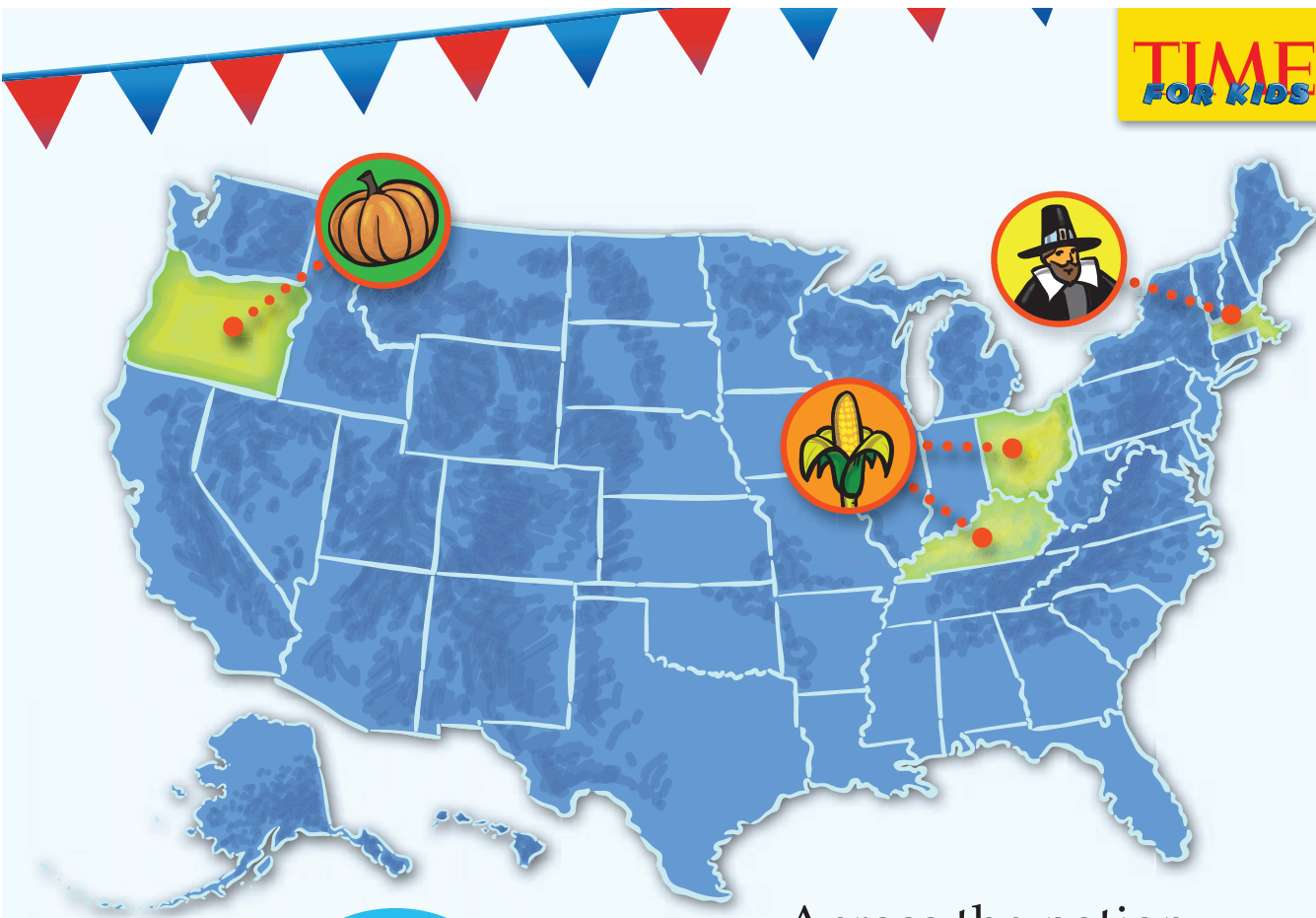
In some places, pumpkins are a BIG deal! Large pumpkins are dug out and used as boats. After the race the pumpkins are used for compost, or to make new dirt.



**Kwanzaa begins on December 26. It celebrates the harvest of Africa. Many people in the United States celebrate Kwanzaa traditions.**

**Row, row, row your pumpkin! These giant pumpkins make a splash at Oregon’s Giant Pumpkin Race.**





**Key**



Pumpkin Race in Oregon



Corn Festivals in Kentucky and Ohio



Pilgrims at the First Thanksgiving in Massachusetts

Across the nation, people celebrate the harvest. At home or with others, it is no **wonder** that harvest is a fun time for all!

**Make Connections**



How do you celebrate the harvest? **Essential Question**