

Informational Texts for November

# Five Things You Didn't Know

about

# Thanksgiving

by Margaret Whisnant



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### Five Things You Didn't Know about Thanksgiving

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# Five Things You Didn't Know about Thanksgiving

## #1. The Pilgrims Ate with Their Fingers.

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*The First Thanksgiving* Jean Leon Gerome Ferris (1863-1930)

No, the Pilgrims did not have bad table manners. They simply used what they had—knives for carving and cutting and spoons for mushy foods. Forks, as we know them, hadn't been invented.

A type of two-tined instrument was available in England in 1621, but mostly it was used as a companion for a carving knife. The English saw no reason to use it for eating. "Why should a person need a fork," they asked, "when God has given him hands?" Besides, their two prongs couldn't hold on to food like fingers. Even worse, using a fork was just plain sissy!

(Full article has two more paragraphs.)

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## #1. The Pilgrims Ate with Their Fingers.

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### Questions

Use the text to answer the following questions. Write the letter of the correct answer in the blank to the left.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The central idea of this article is
- (A) how forks came to America.
  - (B) why the Pilgrims ate with their fingers.
  - (C) how forks were invented.
  - (D) why rich people liked forks. (5 Questions in full article)