## ABC's of the First Thanksgiving <br> Marci McGowan

| Parts(30): Narr | tor 1 Narrator 2 Narrator 3 Narrator 4 Readers for Letters A-Z |
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| Narrator 1: | Thanksgiving is one of our favorite holidays. We have been learning about early America and the very first Thanksgiving celebration. |
| A is for Americans: | Some of the earliest Americans were the Pilgrims. They wanted to be free to have their own religion. |
| $B$ is for Big Ship: | The Pilgrims sailed across the Atlantic Ocean in a big ship called the Mayflower. |
| C is for Cramped: | The ship was very cramped or crowded. There was little room for children to play. Many people became sick. |
| D is for Danger: | The trip was filled with danger. Often there were storms with great winds. Everyone was afraid. |
| E is for Explore: | After 66 days the happy Pilgrims reached land. Some of the men went to shore to explore. They wanted to see what was there. |
| F is for Fields: | They found forests and fields where the native people had planted corn. They found clean water to drink. |
| G is for Grateful: | Everyone was happy and grateful. They found a safe place to live the way they wanted. |
| H is for Hard: | That first winter was very cold and hard for the Pilgrims. There was not enough food. Many people got sick and died. |
| I is for INDIAN: | (Now we say Native American.) A friendly Indian named Squanto helped the Pilgrims. He showed them how to plant corn and where to find fish. |
| J is for JONES: | In the spring, Captain Jones, the captain of the Mayflower, went back to England. The Pilgrims stayed in their new home, America. |
| K is for KEPT: | The Pilgrims kept working hard. They planted gardens and built houses and furniture. |
| $L$ is for Land: | They learned how to hunt and fish in the new land. |
| $M$ is for MANY: | By summer, the Pilgrims had built many houses. Their vegetable gardens grew well. |
| $N$ is for NO ONE: | By November, there was plenty to eat. No one would be hungry this winter. |
| 0 is for ONE: | One day, Governor Bradford said, "We should be thankful for our harvest." |
| P is for Pilgrims: | The Pilgrims harvested pumpkins, corn, squash, beans, and carrots. They found nuts and berries in the woods. |
| Q is for QUAIL: | The men hunted for wild quail, turkey, geese, and deer. They caught fish in the rivers. |
| $R$ is for READY: | They caught lobsters, clams, and oysters in the ocean. They got everything ready for a big celebration. |


| $S$ is for SHARE: | The Pilgrims wanted to share what they had with the Indians, their new friends. |
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| T is for THANKFUL: | The Pilgrims were thankful. Now they had food, homes, and friends. |
| $U$ is for US: | The Pilgrims said to their new friends, "Please join us!" |
| $V$ is for VISIT: | They invited the Indians to visit them for their special harvest celebration. |
| W is for When: | When everyone came, they ate together and played games. |
| $X$ is for EXCITED: | The Pilgrims were EXCITED and very happy. Their celebration lasted for three days! |
| $Y$ is for YELLED: | The children played and laughed and yelled. |
| Z is for Zany: | The children acted zany, running all around with their new friends. They had a wonderful time. |
| Narrator 2: | Most people don't know that the Pilgrims did not celebrate again the next year. Later on, several Presidents, including George Washington, made one-time Thanksgiving holidays. |
| Narrator 3: | It became an official holiday in 1863, when President Abraham Lincoln, said to set aside the last Thursday in November to give thanks. |
| Narrator 4: | In 1941, Congress made Thanksgiving an annual national holiday to be celebrated on the 4th Thursday of November. Now it's a time for family and friends to give thanks together, eat lots of good food, watch parades and football games. It's also the start of the winter holiday season! |

