

Name: _____

Thanksgiving and The Pumpkin Pie

By Mikki Sadil

Thanksgiving! Doesn't just the name of the day make your mouth water when you think of all the good food Mom is going to be cooking? There's turkey and dressing, cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes and gravy, some good veggies, and best of all...Pumpkin Pie for dessert! YUM!



You've probably always had pumpkin pie on Thanksgiving, and maybe Christmas, too, but where did pumpkin come from? No, not in the local market! Pumpkins have an interesting history, and you can trace them back about 9,000 years to different places in Central America. The name 'pumpkin' originated from a very old Greek word, 'pepon', and over centuries was finally changed into 'pumpkin' by the early American colonists.

Native Americans used pumpkins in several different ways: when they cleaned the seeds out, they used them for medicine. They would boil them and make a kind of tea that they drank for different sicknesses. They also used them to rub on a snakebite, because they believed the seeds would draw the snake venom (poison) out of the wound. Many years later, the American colonists thought pumpkin seeds would remove freckles if they rubbed them over their faces.

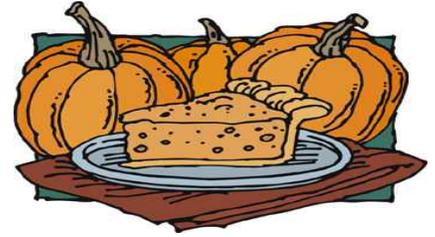
Another way Native Americans used the pumpkins was to slice them into long strips, dry them, and then weave them into mats for them to sleep on. Sometimes they even wove them into the long grasses that some tribes used to build their wigwams. When there were pumpkins left over after all the work was done, the Indians cut them into long strips, roasted them over an open fire, and ate them. This was a real treat.

The first 'pumpkin pie' occurred when the early colonists sliced the top off, cleaned out all the seeds, and filled the inside with milk, spices, and honey, and then baked it in hot ashes. The pumpkin pie changed over many generations, with a lot of different ingredients added to it, until today when it is that delicious Pumpkin Pie your mom bakes as the special dessert for Thanksgiving dinner.

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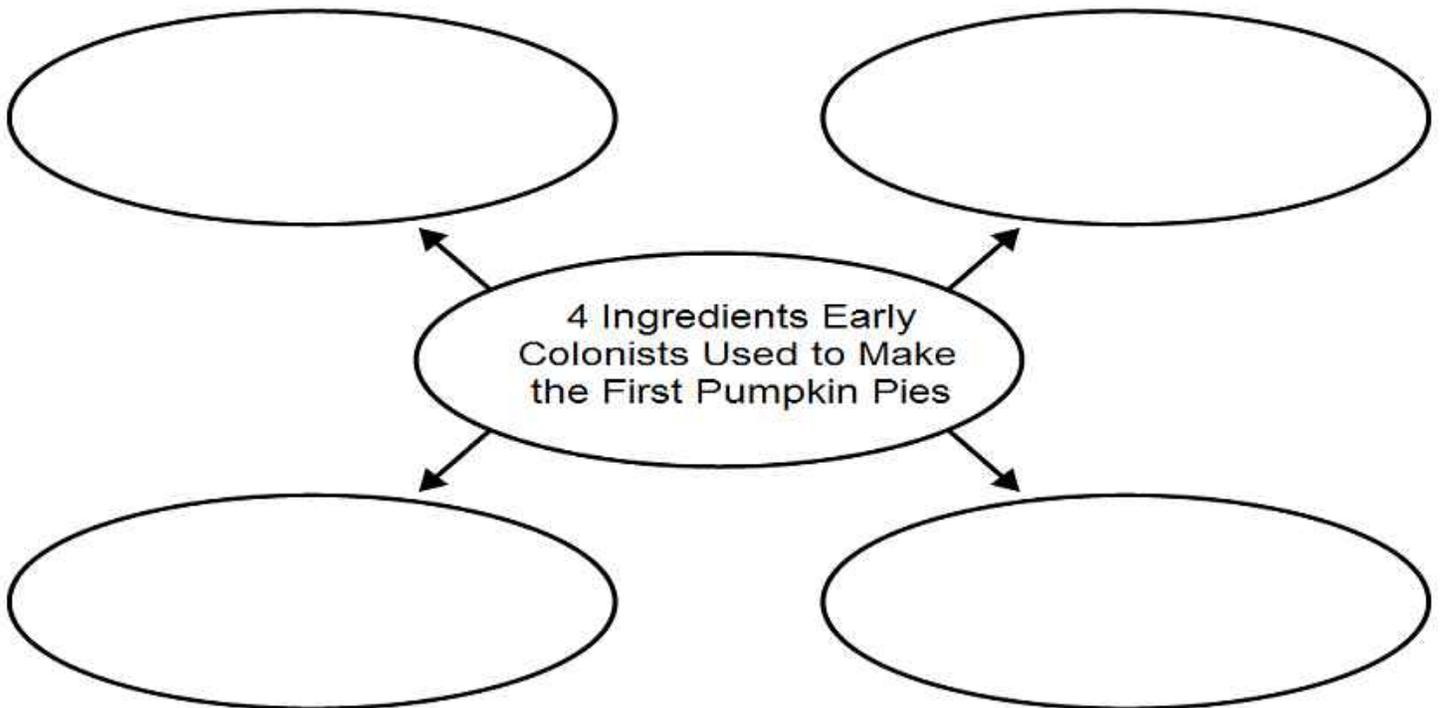


1. Who made the first pumpkin pie?
- a. Native Americans
 - b. American colonists
 - c. Greeks
 - d. modern Americans

2. Why did Colonists sometimes rub pumpkin seeds on their faces?

3. What part of the pumpkin did Native Americans boil to make medicine?
- a. the orange skin
 - b. the goop inside
 - c. the seeds
 - d. the stem

4. Complete the graphic organizer.



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Match each vocabulary word on the left with its definition on the right.



_____ 1. dressing

a. near home

_____ 2. dessert

b. injury

_____ 3. centuries

c. a mixture of foods stuffed in a turkey before cooking

_____ 4. local

d. dome-shaped hut that some Native Americans lived in

_____ 5. wound

e. sweet treat eaten after a meal

_____ 6. wigwams

f. small brownish spots on the skin

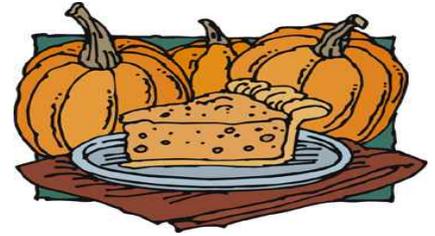
_____ 7. freckles

g. periods of 100 years

ANSWER KEY

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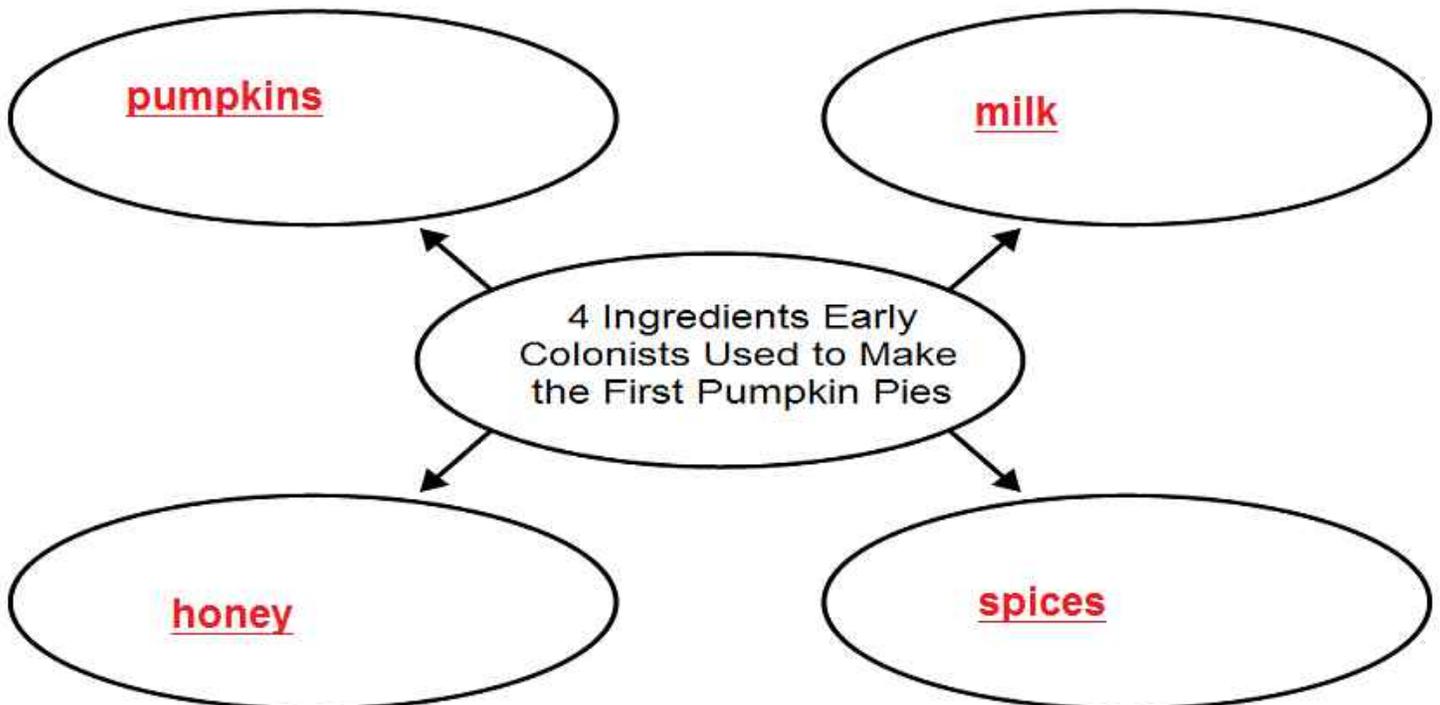
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