# American History According to Roaches: The First Thanksgiving Was Inspired By...



American History (According to Roaches) The First Thanksgiving Was Inspired by Roaches by Ansel Hatch

★★★★★ 4.3 out of 5
Language : English
File size : 1377 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting: Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 14 pages



The story of the first Thanksgiving is often told as a heartwarming tale of Pilgrims and Native Americans coming together in peace and harmony. But what if the real story is much more...roach-filled?

According to entomologist Dr. Michael Waran, roaches may have played a pivotal role in the first Thanksgiving. In his book "American History According to Roaches," Waran argues that the Pilgrims' decision to celebrate Thanksgiving was inspired by their discovery of a large population of roaches in their new home.

The Pilgrims arrived in Plymouth Colony in 1620. They were a group of English separatists who had fled England in search of religious freedom. The Pilgrims were unprepared for the harsh conditions of the New World, and many of them died during the first winter.

In the spring of 1621, the Pilgrims were visited by a group of Native Americans led by Squanto. Squanto had been kidnapped by English explorers and taken to England, where he learned to speak English. He returned to America in 1619 and helped the Pilgrims survive by teaching them how to grow corn and other crops.

According to Waran, the Pilgrims were also grateful for the presence of roaches. Roaches are scavengers that feed on a variety of organic matter, including food scraps and dead animals. The Pilgrims' camp was a perfect breeding ground for roaches, and the insects quickly became a major source of food for the colonists.

Waran argues that the Pilgrims' Thanksgiving celebration was a way of expressing their gratitude for the roaches that had helped them to survive. The colonists knew that the roaches were not a delicacy, but they were a valuable source of protein and other nutrients. The Pilgrims also believed that the roaches were a sign of God's favor.

Waran's theory is supported by a number of historical documents. For example, one of the first written accounts of Thanksgiving mentions that the colonists ate "fowl and other provisions, with an abundance of bread and Indian corn." This suggests that the Pilgrims ate roaches as part of their Thanksgiving meal.

Another piece of evidence that supports Waran's theory is the fact that roaches are still considered a delicacy in some cultures. In China, for example, cockroaches are fried and eaten as a snack. In Thailand, cockroaches are used to make a spicy soup.

Of course, not everyone is convinced by Waran's theory. Some historians argue that the Pilgrims were simply grateful for the food that they had, and that they did not need to eat roaches to survive. Others argue that the Pilgrims' Thanksgiving celebration was more about religious than culinary matters.

Regardless of whether or not you believe Waran's theory, it is clear that roaches have played a significant role in American history. Roaches were a source of food for the Pilgrims, and they continue to be a source of food for people around the world. Roaches are also pests, but they are also a fascinating part of our natural world.

#### **Roaches: A Closer Look**

Roaches are insects that belong to the order Blattodea. There are over 4,000 species of roaches in the world, and they can be found in almost every climate. Roaches are scavengers that feed on a variety of organic matter, including food scraps, dead animals, and even feces.

Roaches are known for their ability to survive in harsh conditions. They can live without food for up to a month and without water for up to two weeks. Roaches can also survive in extreme temperatures, from freezing cold to boiling hot.

Roaches are also known for their ability to reproduce quickly. A single female roach can produce up to 50 eggs at a time, and she can produce several generations of offspring in a year.

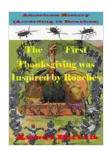
Roaches are considered pests because they can spread diseases and contaminate food. However, roaches can also be beneficial. Roaches help

to decompose organic matter, and they are a food source for other animals.

### **Roaches and American History**

Roaches have played a role in American history since the arrival of the first colonists. Roaches were a source of food for the Pilgrims, and they continue to be a source of food for people around the world. Roaches are also pests, but they are also a fascinating part of our natural world.

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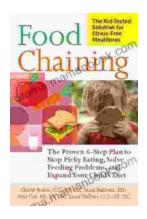
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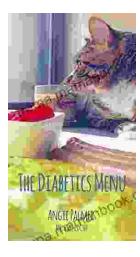
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