Objective

By the end of this lesson, Kaluna will understand the significance of the First Thanksgiving, including where and when it took place, why it was celebrated, and what foods were eaten. She will also engage in creative activities that reinforce her learning.

Materials and Prep

- Paper and crayons or markers
- Simple ingredients for a pretend Thanksgiving meal (like pictures or drawings of food)
- Access to a comfortable reading space for a story about Thanksgiving
- Basic knowledge of the Pilgrims and Native Americans

Activities

1. **Story Time:** Read a short story about the First Thanksgiving. This can be a simple book or a retelling. Ask Kaluna questions about the characters and events in the story.

2. **Thanksgiving Meal Drawing:** Have Kaluna draw her version of the First Thanksgiving meal. Encourage her to include foods that were actually eaten, like turkey, corn, and berries.

3. **Thankful Tree:** Create a "Thankful Tree" where Kaluna can write or draw things she is thankful for on paper leaves and attach them to a tree branch or paper tree.

4. **Thanksgiving Role Play:** Act out the First Thanksgiving with Kaluna. Pretend to be Pilgrims and Native Americans and discuss what they might have said to each other.

Talking Points

- "The First Thanksgiving happened a long time ago in 1621. It was a special meal shared by the Pilgrims and Native Americans."
- "Do you know where the First Thanksgiving took place? It was in a place called Plymouth, which is in Massachusetts."
- "Why do you think they had this special meal? They wanted to celebrate their harvest and give thanks for the help they received."
- "What do you think they ate? They had foods like turkey, corn, beans, and even pumpkin!"
- "Can you think of something you are thankful for? Let's write it on our Thankful Tree!"
- "How do you think the Pilgrims and Native Americans felt during their meal together? They probably felt happy and grateful!"
- "What would you like to eat if you could have a Thanksgiving meal? Let's draw it!"