

# THANKSGIVING



Scan to review worksheet

Expemo code:  
134L-S4GA-D33L

1

## Warm-up

What do you know about Thanksgiving and its traditions?

2

## Thanksgiving traditions

Match the words to the pictures of Thanksgiving traditions.

American football  
pumpkin pie

a wishbone  
Thanksgiving dinner

cranberries  
turkey

Macy's parade  
yams



1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_



5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

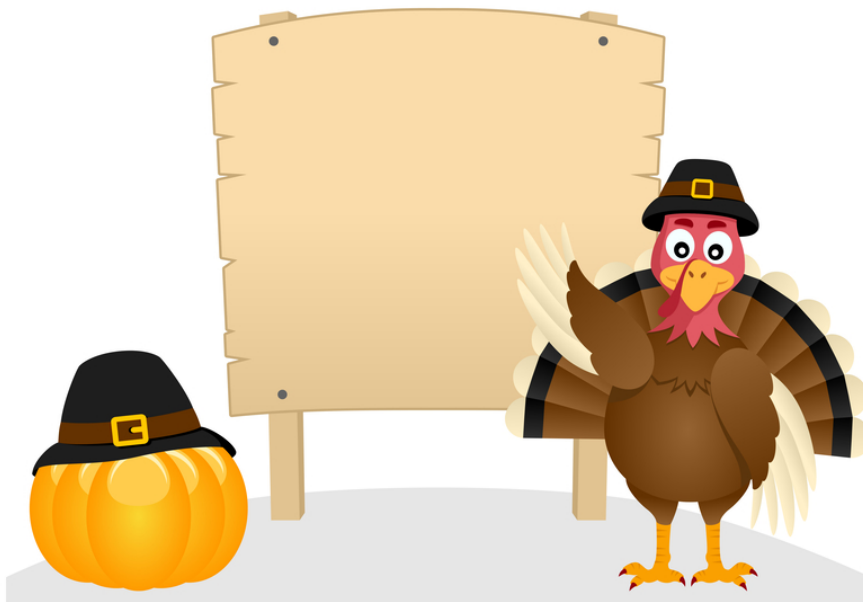


## 3

**Find the information**

You're going to read an article about Thanksgiving. Guess the answers to the questions below, and then check your answers by reading the text on the next page.

1. When is Thanksgiving celebrated in Canada?
  - a. the beginning of September
  - b. the beginning of October
  - c. the beginning of May
2. How many people travelled from England in 1620 on one ship to America?
  - a. 40
  - b. 102
  - c. 120
3. What is another name for Thanksgiving?
  - a. New World Day
  - b. Macy's Day
  - c. Turkey Day





## Thanksgiving: a brief history

1. Although it is unsure when the first Thanksgiving dinner actually took place, the United States celebrates it on every 4th Thursday in November. In Canada, it's always celebrated on the 2nd Monday in October. Most businesses are closed, and children don't go to school for 4 days. People travel across the country to be with their families and celebrate being reunited with a big dinner. It's a time to be thankful for all that they have.
2. The tradition of celebrating Thanksgiving was started by Native American Indians and the Pilgrims. The Pilgrims travelled from England to Holland, and then half-way around the world to America to escape persecution and find religious freedom.
3. In the year 1620, 102 men, women and children travelled across the Atlantic Ocean on a ship called the Mayflower. They arrived on the north east coast of North America at a place they called Plymouth, and started a colony there.
4. It was already winter when they arrived and it was too late to grow crops. They immediately started to build small houses. It was a long, cold winter and half of the settlers became sick. By spring, many of them had died.
5. The Native American Indians gave the Pilgrims food and taught them how to survive in their new home. They showed them how to grow corn, how to hunt and which plants they could eat. So, the Pilgrims were able to continue their new life with a sense of hope. Everyone now had food and a home. The Indians and the Pilgrims soon became allies, and later signed a peace treaty.
6. To celebrate the excellent harvest and new relationships, the governor of the new colony invited the Native Americans for a large feast. The Indians brought five deer, goose, duck, turkey, fish, shellfish, and fruit and vegetables such as pumpkins. The celebration continued for three days.
7. Now almost 400 years later, many people think that the story of how Thanksgiving started is just that - a story. In modern times, 'Turkey Day' (an informal name for Thanksgiving), is a special holiday for both Americans and Canadians. Although there are slight differences, the two countries agree that roast turkey is the symbol of this holiday dinner. For Americans, no Thanksgiving meal would be complete without corn on the cob, stuffing, mashed potatoes and gravy, yams, cranberry sauce and of course the famous pumpkin pie. With so many dishes to be prepared for this one evening, most of the family helps out in the kitchen. To prepare the turkey, first it is stuffed with seasoning mix and then roasted. When it's cooked it's served and carved at the table and families feast together.
8. Many organizations in America prepare free Thanksgiving meals for those that are less fortunate. In NYC, The Feeding NYC project prepares and sends food to over 35,000 families for this holiday.
9. The city also holds an annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade with floats and balloons.
10. Thanksgiving traditions vary depending on the region, but playing backyard football on Turkey Day with family and friends has been a tradition across the country since the 19th century. The NFL traditionally holds a series of games that are played during Thanksgiving weekend in the United States.
11. The annual White House tradition of pardoning the turkey is televised and watched by millions. Turkeys have been given to presidents for Thanksgiving for years, but the first official pardoning happened in 1989 when George Bush senior stopped a turkey from ending up on the table as the main course.



## 4

**Checking understanding**

Read the text again and put T (true) or F (false) next to each statement below.

1. Thanksgiving is always in early November. \_\_\_\_\_
2. The first Thanksgiving celebration lasted one day. \_\_\_\_\_
3. The settlers were able to grow crops immediately in America. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Many of the settlers didn't make it through the first winter. \_\_\_\_\_
5. The Indians brought very little food to the first Thanksgiving. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Every year the president saves a turkey from being eaten on Thanksgiving. \_\_\_\_\_

## 5

**Find the words**

Find a word or phrase in the article which means ...

1. the group of English people who sailed to America (**noun, P.2**): \_\_\_\_\_
2. unfair treatment because of someone's religious beliefs or race (**noun, P.2**): \_\_\_\_\_
3. the right to act, speak or think without limits (**noun - plural, P.2**): \_\_\_\_\_
4. a place that is controlled by another country where people from that country live (**noun, P.3**):  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. people or countries who help and support each other (**noun - plural, P.5**): \_\_\_\_\_
6. a written agreement between countries so that they don't fight each other (**noun, P.5**):  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. a large, special meal for a lot of people to celebrate something (**noun, P.6**): \_\_\_\_\_
8. large vehicles that are decorated and used in parades (**noun - plural, P.9**): \_\_\_\_\_

## 6

**Verbs**

Complete the sentences with the verbs in the correct form.

carve      hold      pardon      reunite      roast      serve      stuff

1. Most people \_\_\_\_\_ a turkey the night before Thanksgiving, so it's ready to go in the oven.
2. We \_\_\_\_\_ chestnuts on the fire last Christmas.
3. You need a sharp knife to \_\_\_\_\_ the turkey.
4. What time do you \_\_\_\_\_ the turkey at a Thanksgiving dinner?
5. The family \_\_\_\_\_ at the airport and then went for pizza at their favourite restaurant.
6. The Truman family always \_\_\_\_\_ a festive New Year's Eve dinner party.
7. The prisoner was \_\_\_\_\_ by the president. He was free to go.



7

## Talking point

Discuss any of the questions below in pairs or groups.

1. Do you celebrate a day of giving thanks?
2. Describe what you think the first Thanksgiving was like.
3. How do you think the Pilgrims and Indians communicated?
4. What cultural problems do you think they might have faced at the first Thanksgiving?