

Thanksgiving

Preview

Have you ever tasted the traditional Thanksgiving dishes shown in the photo? Can you name them?



Turkey, pumpkin pie, family, football, and parades! Where did these traditions come from? How did they become a part of the national holiday we call Thanksgiving? To understand the origins of this holiday, we must take a look back at the origins of our country itself.

In 1620, the cargo ship Mayflower transported a group of 102 Englishmen, women and children to the New World. Some people in the group were Separatists, people who had separated themselves from the Church of England and wanted to come to the New World to find religious freedom. In time, these people would be known as the Pilgrims.

The Pilgrims experienced a harsh winter; nearly half the colonists died, and those who did not, fell ill. In the spring of 1621, the luck of the Plymouth Colony changed. The colony was visited by several local Indians, who taught the Pilgrims the best ways to grow crops. That fall, the Pilgrims had an abundant harvest, which could have included corn, pumpkins, squash, and some grain. To celebrate the good harvest, they had a celebration feast. They caught fish, ducks, geese, and even wild turkeys to feast on in celebration. The local Indian chief donated five deer to this great feast, which lasted for three days.

In 1863, Abraham Lincoln declared the fourth Thursday of November to be Thanksgiving Day. The purpose of this day would be to “awaken in American hearts the love of home and country, of thankfulness to God, and peace between brothers”. Year after year, Americans continue to celebrate this day of feasting and thanks.

Today, Thanksgiving morning begins with a large parade down the streets of New York City ending at Macy's Department Store. This parade marks the beginning of the Christmas shopping season. In the afternoon, after a big Thanksgiving feast with family, many people relax and watch a professional football game on TV. Thanksgiving has become a welcome day of rest to spend with loved ones in recognition and appreciation for all the blessings for which we are thankful.

Questions for Discussion

- What are some things you are thankful for?
- Does your family say grace (a prayer of thanksgiving) before meals?
- What is your favorite Thanksgiving food?
- Who cooks Thanksgiving dinner in your home?
- What time of day does your family typically sit down to eat Thanksgiving dinner?
- What are some Thanksgiving traditions?
- What are some Thanksgiving traditions in your family?
- Do you think Thanksgiving is a family holiday? Why?
- What is your favorite Thanksgiving memory?
- What is your worst Thanksgiving memory?
- If you had to list your favorite holidays, what number would Thanksgiving be? Why?
- Do you have a similar celebration to remember a special event in your country's history?
- In your opinion, is the Thanksgiving holiday overshadowed by Christmas?

More Speaking Practice

Situation: You have recently put on a lot of weight; none of your clothes fit, and your doctor says you must diet. But you feel OK and enjoy your food. Also, you have to eat out a lot in your job. In addition, Thanksgiving is next week, and you usually eat too much!

Speaking practice: With all the students at your table, brainstorm and discuss possible suggestions and advice for this situation. Try to use the verbs: *must, have to, should, ought to, may, might, or could*.

Thanksgiving Prayer

Since Christians understand that all good things ultimately come from God, Thanksgiving Day is a good time to offer a pray of thanks to God. Whenever you have much to be thankful for, here is a simple prayer to say:

Heavenly Father, on Thanksgiving Day
We bow our hearts to You and pray.
We give You thanks for all You've done
Especially for the gift of Jesus, Your Son.
For beauty in nature, Your glory we see

For joy and health, friends and family,
For daily provision, Your mercy, and care
These are the blessings You graciously share.
So today we offer this response of praise
With a promise to follow You all of our days.

--Mary Fairchild

感謝の祈り

クリスチャンは、すべての良いものは、神から与えられると信じています。そのため、感謝祭は神に感謝の祈りをする良い時です。多くのことに感謝を覚えることがあるなら、ここに簡単な祈りがあります：

天の父なるお父様、この感謝祭の日をありがとうございます。

あなたに心を傾けて祈ります。

あなたがしたことすべてに感謝します。

特に、御子イエスを与えてくださったことに感謝します。

自然の美しさを通して、あなたの栄光を見ます

また、喜びと健康、友人や家族を与えてくださってありがとうございます。

日々の糧（かて）にある、あなたの憐れみとご配慮に感謝します。

これらのすべての祝福は、あなたが分かち合ってくださいましたものです。

今日、このことに感謝を覚えて、あなたを褒め称えます！

あなたが与えてくださった、私のすべての日の内に、従っていきます。

イエスの名によってお祈りします。

メアリーフェアチャイルド