

# Thanksgiving (teacher's notes)

## 1. Warm-up (Activity 1) 5 mins

**Aims:** to break the ice and foster a safe environment for learning.

**Procedure:** Show the picture and ask the students what they can see and what holiday it symbolizes. Ask what countries celebrate Thanksgiving (**key: the USA, Canada and some of the Caribbean islands, and Liberia. Similarly named festival holidays occur in Germany, Australia and Japan**) and emphasise that today you're going to talk about Thanksgiving in the USA.

## 2. Vocabulary work (Activity 2) 5 mins

**Aims:** to generate interest in the topic and revise basic vocabulary.

**Procedure:** Ask students to look at the pictures and match them with the words. You can ask them to work in pairs.

## 3. Video (Activity 3) 10 mins

**Aims:** to practise listening skills and to learn about the history of the holiday.

**Procedure:** Ask students to watch the video and answer the question. Play the video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=faUYJ9fMiGg>

**Key: the Indians / Native Americans**

Ask student(s) to look through the story. Students may complete some of the gaps. Then student(s) should watch the video again and complete the gaps. Play the video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=faUYJ9fMiGg>

If you work in a group, let students speculate in pairs before checking the answers.

**Key:**

In the year **1620** a hundred and two people, called **the Pilgrims**, sailed from **the UK / Great Britain** on a ship called **Mayflower**. Half of the people came for religious freedom. All came for new lives. The first winter was very difficult. The Pilgrims were **hungry** and **cold**. Half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) of the Pilgrims died during the winter 1620-1621. In the spring of 1621, a friendly **Indian** came to visit. He could speak English. Squanto, from the Wampanoag tribe of Native Americans. The Indians helped the Pilgrims to survive. They showed them how to plant corn, taught to built houses, hunt and fish. The fall **harvest** was so good in 1621 and the Pilgrims were so **thankful** that they decided to have a big **dinner / feast**. They invited their Native American friends. They had a big party for three days. It was the first THANKSGIVING. The Pilgrims prayed God, they said "**Thank** you".

#### 4. Thanksgiving nowadays (Activity 4) 10 min

Aims: to find out more about the traditions.

Procedure: Stick the answers on the walls all around the classroom. Students should walk around and complete the table matching the questions and the answers. When the students are ready check the answers open class.

Answers:

On the 4<sup>th</sup>  
Thursday in  
November

Turkey



Pumpkin  
pie



# Mashed



# potato

# Corn



# Cranberry



# sauce

# Get together



**with family**

**Have**



**a feast**

**Give thanks**

**Football**

# Parade

# No

Key:

When is Thanksgiving Day? - **On the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday in November**

What is traditional Thanksgiving food? - **Turkey, pumpkin pie, mashed potato, corn**

What do people do on Thanksgiving Day? - **Get together with family, have a feast, give thanks**

What sport do people usually watch on this day? - **Football**

What is the famous Thanksgiving event in New York city? - **parade**

Do people in America work on Thanksgiving holiday? - **no**

## 5. Discuss the questions (Activity 5) 10 mins

Aims: to develop speaking for fluency.

Procedure: If you work in a group, allow students some time to think before they answer. Then maintain a discussion between all members of the group. Ask if the participants have the same opinion as the previous speakers. If a group is too big, let students discuss their answers in pairs. If you work one-to-one, comment on your student's answers and express your opinion.

To help students to answer questions 9-11

## 6. Song (Activity 6) 5 mins

Aims: to practice listening skills.

Procedure: Ask students to watch the video and remember Thanksgiving symbols.

Play the video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D4MbtUj4WHM>

key:

the Pilgrims, a turkey, a cranberry sauce, Indians, harvest, a pumpkin pie, corn, a feast, .

Before listening for the second time, ask students to look through the lyrics. Students read the definitions and try to complete the gaps, label the pictures. Discuss the possible options open class.

Then students listen to the song again and do the tasks. Make pauses before a new type of task.

Key:

A celebrations' goin' on  
Since the country came along  
And it's called  
**Thanksgiving!**

At the end of **November**  
Bring your friends and **family** members  
Come along  
To **Thanksgiving!**

Thank you for this **land**  
Where we're living  
**thank you**  
Thank you for Thanksgiving  
Don't be **shy**, come on by  
We've got lots of **pumpkin pies**  
At the party  
Called **Thanksgiving!**

We'll adopt an attitude  
That we call **gratitude**,  
On the day  
Of Thanksgiving

Thank you for this land  
Where we're **living**  
Thank you  
Thank you for **Thanksgiving!**

### 7.Sum up 5 mins

Put errors on the board or whiteboard and let student(s) correct them.  
Ask students what they have learnt today and if they have any questions.