

Use the word given in capitals to form a word that fits the gap.

# MACY'S THANKSGIVING DAY PARADE



The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade skirts along the **(1)** \_\_\_\_\_ [WEST] edge of Central Park. Then it veers away from the park and heads toward its destination: Macy's department store on Herald Square. The **(2)** \_\_\_\_\_ [LOVE] balloons have a history as **(3)** \_\_\_\_\_ [COLOUR] as the parade itself. Over the years, the characters have been the source of much delight, but they also have caused some calamities.

Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade is **(4)** \_\_\_\_\_ [FAME] for its super-sized balloon **(5)** \_\_\_\_\_ [PERSON]. The characters have bobbed and weaved their way through New York City almost every year since 1924.

The very first parade featured live animals from Central Park Zoo, as well as Macy's employees dressed in costumes. Many of the employees were **(6)** \_\_\_\_\_ [MIGRATE]. They wanted to hold an event to thank America and New York City for the opportunities they had been given. They chose a parade, which was a common event in their countries of origin. The 1924 parade also celebrated Macy's **(7)** \_\_\_\_\_ [GROW] as a company. It had just become the largest department store in the world.

The first big balloon appeared in 1927. It was Felix the Cat, a favourite cartoon character of the day. The balloon was made of **(8)** \_\_\_\_\_ [RUB] and filled with air. Workers pulled it along. Felix was a big hit with spectators who lined the **(9)** \_\_\_\_\_ [ROUGH] six-mile parade route. The following year, **(10)** \_\_\_\_\_ [WORK] added helium. This allowed Felix to float above the heads of spectators. However, there was no way to deflate the balloon at the end. So, his tethers were cut, and Felix floated upward until he popped!

The following year, balloon **(11)** \_\_\_\_\_ [CREATE] added release valves to the balloons. Letting the air out prevented a balloon from bursting as it rose into the sky. Instead, a balloon would drift for days, as helium leaked out through the valve. The balloon **(12)** \_\_\_\_\_ [GRADE] deflated and eventually fell to the ground. Macy's offered rewards for bringing back the deflated balloons, but few were returned. In 1932, a drifting balloon became tangled up in an airplane wing. As a result of this near disaster, Macy's had to **(13)** \_\_\_\_\_ [THINK] its balloon release method.

Goodyear Tire and Rubber in Akron, Ohio, was the **(14)** \_\_\_\_\_ [MAKE] of these enormous rubber balloons until World War II. During the war, the American military needed many tons of rubber. It was used in everything from electrical **(15)** \_\_\_\_\_ [WIRE] to tank and battleship parts. The Thanksgiving Day Parade **(16)** \_\_\_\_\_ [ORGANIZE] put the parade on hold for the first time ever. Instead of making balloons, Macy's **(17)** \_\_\_\_\_ [MANAGE] donated the rubber to the war effort. When the parade returned three years later, the balloons were more **(18)** \_\_\_\_\_ [INNOVATE], and there were more of them.

**(19)** \_\_\_\_\_ [EVENT], Macy's workers took over the **(20)** \_\_\_\_\_ [MAKE] of balloon characters. They designed and constructed the balloons in an old Tootsie Roll factory in New Jersey. The balloon-making process they began is still in effect today.

Adapted from <https://simplesolutions.org/blog/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Grade6-MacysThanksgivingParade.pdf>