



## LEARNING ABOUT THANKSGIVING

👋 Welcome! In this activity, you will learn about Thanksgiving, a special celebration in the United States.

You will:

Read a short text about Thanksgiving

Learn new words

Answer questions

Have fun learning English and culture!



## Thanksgiving Day

In the United States, Thanksgiving Day is one of the biggest holidays of the year. It is celebrated primarily in the United States and Canada. In the United States it is celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November. It is a day when families from all over the United States get together (sometimes travelling long distances) and prepare traditional dishes, watch football on TV and have a big meal.

A traditional meal usually consists of a stuffed oven roasted turkey as the main dish. Other dishes like potatoes (in various forms) and cranberry sauce are also considered traditional by most families. Watching a football game on TV has also become part of the Thanksgiving tradition for American families. Many also like to watch the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade on TV, which is transmitted, live from New York City.



The origins of this holiday in the United States go back to 1621 when the Pilgrims and the native Indians sat together and enjoyed a feast to celebrate a successful harvest. The Pilgrims were Europeans who came to the United States seeking religious freedom. They founded a colony at Plymouth in present day Massachusetts but would not have survived without the help of the native Indians who lived there. They continued this traditional feast for many years after that.

When the United States won its independence from England in 1776, each state celebrated Thanksgiving on a different day. In 1863 President Abraham Lincoln, in an effort to unite the northern and southern states, fixed Thanksgiving Day for the entire country as the last Thursday of November. In 1941, President Franklin D Roosevelt made Thanksgiving Day the fourth Thursday of November (not necessarily the last one).





# Thanksgiving

## ACTIVITY 1: TRUE or FALSE

Read the text about Thanksgiving and write TRUE or FALSE:

1. Thanksgiving is celebrated in September.
2. People eat turkey and pumpkin pie on Thanksgiving.
3. Families celebrate Thanksgiving together.
4. Thanksgiving is celebrated only in Canada.
5. People watch parades and football games on Thanksgiving.





## ACTIVITY 2: MATCH THE WORDS

Match the words with the correct meaning:

### WORD

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- 
- 
- Turkey
  - Parade
  - Pumpkin pie
  - Family dinner
  - Football game
  - November
  - Pilgrims
  - Harvest

### MEANING

- 
- 
- The month when Thanksgiving is celebrated
  - A celebration with people marching
  - The first people who celebrated Thanksgiving
  - A sport people watch on Thanksgiving
  - A sweet dessert with pumpkin
  - A big bird people eat on Thanksgiving
  - The gathering of crops from the fields
  - Eating together with family



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### ACTIVITY 3: ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

Read the text again and answer the questions  
in complete sentences:

1. When is Thanksgiving celebrated?
2. What do people usually eat on Thanksgiving?
3. Who do people celebrate Thanksgiving with?
4. What do people watch on TV on Thanksgiving?
5. Why do people celebrate Thanksgiving?