

**PREPARATION OF RCC (READING COMPREHENSION COMPETITION)  
CYCLE 1**

## Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is a holiday celebrated predominantly in North America, and it possesses a different meaning in each of the countries where it's acknowledged.

In the United States, Thanksgiving is a federal holiday (meaning all government employees and most private employees are given a day off of work), and always takes place on the **Fourth Thursday in November**, regardless of the date.

The holiday signifies the immense progress made by **pilgrims**, or **some of the first travelers to North America**, at Plymouth Plantation circa 1621. It was at this time that the hungry and weary Pilgrims were taught (by Native Americans) how to grow and produce food on North America's unique terrain. Once they'd grown (and caught) an abundance of food, the Pilgrims were expectedly thankful, and they celebrated alongside the Native Americans who provided them with such valuable assistance. President Abraham Lincoln initiated the contemporary practice of Thanksgiving by calling for a "day of Thanksgiving" during one of his Civil War addresses.

In America today, Thanksgiving remains firmly engrained in its historical roots, and is widely considered to be a day for giving thanks for good food, good times, and family. **Thanksgiving dinner** generally consists of turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, vegetables, gravy, and ample desserts. To be sure, indulging in abundance is a cornerstone of the holiday, as doing so could only be possible if one possesses abundance.

**Question 1:**

When is Thanksgiving celebrated in the US?

a November 25

b Four weeks before Christmas

c Throughout November

d The Fourth Thursday in November

**Question 2:**

Which event(s) began the tradition of Thanksgiving?

a The pilgrims' food-creation success and largescale celebratory dinner

b Nobody is certain

c An address delivered by President Lincoln

d A and C

**Question 3:**

Which food(s) are often prepared for Thanksgiving dinner?

a Turkey

b Potatoes

c Stuffing

d All of the above

**Question 4:**

Where is Thanksgiving celebrated?

a Only in America

b Only in Canada

c In English speaking countries

d Throughout North America and some other parts of the world, albeit in different forms and on different dates

**Question 5:**

What is the meaning of Thanksgiving's federal holiday status?

a The federal government instructs all citizens to celebrate Thanksgiving

b Only federal government employees celebrate Thanksgiving

c All federal employees and many other workers are given a day off for Thanksgiving

d It's difficult to say for sure

## The pet store

George is at the pet store, looking at what kind of pet he might want to get for his birthday. George asked if he could have a horse, but his parents said no because horses are too big.

First, he sees dogs and cats. Baby dogs are called puppies. Baby cats are called kittens. George likes them because they are easy to take care of and can play a lot, but they will get bigger. George wants a small pet.

Then George sees animals that have to live in a cage. He sees rabbits, guinea pigs, and mice. Mice are what you call more than one mouse. He likes these animals because they are small. Birds live in cages too. George sees a parrot and a canary. He likes them all, but he doesn't want to clean the cage.

George sees the animals in tanks. The tanks full of water have fish and turtles in them. He thinks about a goldfish but decides he likes the turtles more. There are also tanks with rocks and sand that have snakes, spiders, and scorpions, but George is afraid of them. George likes the turtles best, but they won't fit in the little fishbowls. Turtles need bigger tanks, so they can swim sometimes and hide sometimes.

George decides he wants to get a turtle for his birthday. He buys a book on how to take care of a turtle and a list of what types of turtles the store has.

### Question 1:

What kind of pet did George want, but his parents said no because they were too big?

a A Horse

b A Kitten

c A Rabbit

d A Puppy

### Question 2:

What kind of pet does NOT live in a cage?

a Mice/Mouse

b Rabbits

c Goldfish

d Guinea pigs

Question 3:

Which kind of pet did NOT scare George?

a The Scorpions

b The Canaries

c The Snakes

d The Spiders

Question 4:

What kind of pet did George decide he wanted to get for his birthday?

a Goldfish

b Mouse

c Parrot

d Turtle