Thanksgiving

Tick the words related to Thanksgiving.

- spooky decorations
- to decorate the tree
- cranberry sauce
- to write a letter to Santa
- to cook a turkey
- costume party
- gingerbread cookies
- to sing carols
- to be thanksful
- to watch parade
- trick or treat
- mashed potato
- to watch a football game on TV
- gingerbread cookies

Read Gabriela's story about her first Thanksgiving in the USA. Why does she feel lucky during Thanksgiving?

My First Thanksgiving in the USA

I am from Brazil and I live in New York. In 2018, I was very excited because it was my first Thanksgiving in the USA.

On Thanksgiving Day, I woke up at 7:00 a.m. My husband and I went to his mother's house in Brooklyn. The house was full of people. There were many children, too. They were playing in the living room.

At 12:00 p.m., we ate lunch. We had turkey, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie, and apple pie. It was delicious! After lunch, we watched football on TV. My husband's family loves sports!

In the evening, we played board games. We played Monopoly and Scrabble. My mother-in-law won Monopoly, but I won Scrabble! At around 10:00 p.m., we went home. I was very tired, but I was happy.

I think Thanksgiving is a wonderful holiday. It's not like Christmas or New Year's Eve. Nobody gives presents. But we say thank you. We say thank you to our friends and family, and we say thank you to God for all the good things in our lives. I love that. It's important to remember that there are a lot of things to be thankful about.

Thanksgiving is also about food. I love food! I cook a lot, so I like to try new recipes for Thanksgiving. Last year, I made a Brazilian dessert called brigadeiro. Everybody liked it. This year, I'm going to make a Brazilian drink called caipirinha. I think they'll like that, too.

Another thing I like about Thanksgiving is that it's a time to be with family. My family is in Brazil, so I really miss them. But I'm lucky because I have my husband's family. They're very nice to me, and they make me feel welcome. I'm thankful for that.

This year, I'm going to my mother-in-law's house again. I can't wait!

Fill in the table with the information from the text and share it with the rest of the group:

- Have you tried any of these dishes?
- What do you usually do on family holidays in your country?

What people **eat** on this holiday	What people **do** on this holiday

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Watch the video about the history of Thanksgiving and answer the following questions.

1. Why did the Pilgrims leave England?
A. They wanted to start a new life in a new country
B. They wanted to start a war with the Native Americans
C. They wanted to start a new church in England
D. They wanted to travel and explore new places

2. What happened to the Pilgrims during their first winter in North America?
A. They had a great harvest and plenty of food
B. They made many new friends with the Native Americans
C. Half of the Pilgrims died because of the harsh weather
D. They were able to grow crops right away

3. Who helped the Pilgrims when they arrived in North America?
A. The President of the United States
B. The king and queen of England
C. A Native American named Squanto
D. The captain of the Mayflower ship

Glossary:

pilgrims - people who travel to a special place for religious reasons or beliefs.

pilgrim fathers - the first group of people who moved to America to start a new life.

parade - a public event where people walk or march together to celebrate something.

church - a building where people go to pray together.

4. What is the traditional Thanksgiving meal usually made up of?
A. Hamburgers, french fries, and milkshakes
B. Roast turkey, cranberry sauce, potatoes, and pumpkin pie
C. Steak, mashed potatoes, and apple pie
D. Pizza, salad, and ice cream

5. Where is a famous Thanksgiving parade held every year?
A. In Washington, D.C.
B. In Los Angeles, California
C. In Chicago, Illinois
D. In New York City, New York

Watch the video again and fill in the gaps.

Americans of all religions celebrate Thanksgiving on the _____(1)
Children do not go to school and most businesses close for _____(2)
Thanksgiving is a special day for _____(3) and people travel great distances to be with their families for this occasion
The tradition started with the Pilgrim Fathers who left England on _____(4)
The first Thanksgiving dinner was celebrated in November _____(5) with Pilgrims and Native Americans
Today, the traditional Thanksgiving meal includes roast turkey, cranberry sauce, potatoes, corn, and _____(6)
Macy's _____(7) in New York City has been a famous tradition since 1924, and two million come to see it each year.

Discuss the following questions in pairs.

1. How does your family celebrate special holidays, and what traditions do you have that are similar to Thanksgiving?

2. What do you think is the most important part of Thanksgiving: spending time with family, the food, or remembering history? Why?

3. Have you ever attended a Thanksgiving Day parade, like the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade?

4. If you could create a new tradition for Thanksgiving, what kind of food or activities would you include?

LIVEWORKSHEETS