

Thanksgiving

Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. Which countries celebrate Thanksgiving?
2. Which crops grow in your region at this time of year?
3. What kinds of food did you have at your last family gathering?
4. What are some symbols of Thanksgiving?



B. Vocabulary Preview

Match up as many words and meanings as you can.

Check this exercise again after seeing the words in context on page 2.

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|---------------------|--|
| ___ 1. harvest | a) a person who travels somewhere for religious purposes |
| ___ 2. ceremony | b) a person who was born in or has citizenship in Europe |
| ___ 3. Native | c) a large meal |
| ___ 4. European | d) to continue to live, to not die |
| ___ 5. pray | e) crops gathered from the land, such as grains and vegetables |
| ___ 6. Pilgrim | f) a lack of (not having enough) food |
| ___ 7. starvation | g) to communicate with God |
| ___ 8. disease | h) a health disorder |
| ___ 9. survive | i) to express excitement about something |
| ___ 10. feast | j) done this way for a long time, habitual |
| ___ 11. celebrate | k) a celebration honoring a religious day or special event |
| ___ 12. traditional | l) a person who belongs to a group that first settled a region |



Reading

1. **Harvest** festivals and thanksgiving celebrations have been held around the world for thousands of years. The ancient Greeks, Romans, Egyptians, Hebrews, Chinese, and many more held festivals to give thanks for their harvests and food.
2. Thanksgiving **ceremonies** were held in North America by the **Native** American people long before **European** settlers arrived. The Natives showed thanks for their harvests by singing, dancing, and **praying**. The American Thanksgiving holiday that we know today began in 1621.
3. When the **Pilgrims** arrived in North America in 1620, their first winter was very difficult and many of them died from **starvation** and **disease**. The next year, a group of Native Americans taught the Pilgrims how to **survive** in their new land. They taught them how to grow corn and other crops, how to collect berries, and how to fish and hunt.
4. In 1621, the Pilgrims had a very successful harvest and they were able to put away food for the long winter ahead. They were very thankful, so they had a large **feast** and **celebrated** for three days. They invited the Natives to their celebration because they had taught them so much about surviving in America. Each year after that, they continued having this dinner to celebrate and give thanks for their harvests.
5. Canadians also celebrate Thanksgiving. The first thanksgiving celebrations in North America by Europeans took place in Newfoundland, Canada. The English settlers held a traditional British harvest feast in the year 1578. They continued celebrating for many years after.
6. Canadians now celebrate Thanksgiving on the second Monday in October, and Americans celebrate it on the fourth Thursday in November.
7. In Canada and the United States, Thanksgiving is a time to spend with family and friends. It is a day to stop working and to give thanks for one's life, health, family, food, and freedom. Most families share a festive meal together with **traditional** dishes such as turkey and stuffing, mashed potatoes, squash, cranberry sauce, and, of course, the traditional pumpkin pie for dessert.



Comprehension

A. True or False?

Write T if the answer is true and F if the answer is false. On the blank lines, make your own true or false statements, and quiz your partner.

- _____ 1. Canadians and Americans celebrate Thanksgiving on the same day.
- _____ 2. When the Pilgrims arrived in North America in 1620, they had a successful harvest.
- _____ 3. The North American Natives held thanksgiving meals before the European settlers.
- _____ 4. The first known thanksgiving celebration was held in Canada.
- _____ 5. _____
- _____ 6. _____
- _____ 7. _____

B. Ask & Answer

Practice asking and answering the following questions with your partner. Then write the answers in your notebook.

- 1. How did Native Americans celebrate their harvest festivals?
- 2. When did the Pilgrims first arrive in America?
- 3. Did the Pilgrims have a successful harvest in their first year?
- 4. What happened to many Pilgrims in the first year?
- 5. What did the Native Americans teach the Pilgrims to do?
- 6. Did the Pilgrims have a successful harvest in 1621?
- 7. What did the Pilgrims do to celebrate their harvest in 1621?
- 8. Who did the Pilgrims invite to their celebration?
- 9. When did the first thanksgiving celebration by Europeans take place in North America?
- 10. Where did it take place?
- 11. When do Canadians celebrate Thanksgiving now?
- 12. When do Americans celebrate Thanksgiving now?
- 13. What do some families do on Thanksgiving now?



Listening

 <http://blog.esllibrary.com/2011/11/09/podcast-thanksgiving/>

Fill in the blanks as you listen to the recording.

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2. Thanksgiving _____ were held in North America by the Native American people long before _____ settlers arrived. The Natives showed thanks for their harvests by singing, dancing, and praying. The American Thanksgiving holiday that we know today began in 1621.
3. When the _____ arrived in North America in 1620, their first winter was very difficult and many of them died from starvation and disease. The next year, a group of Native Americans taught the Pilgrims how to _____ in their new land. They taught them how to grow corn and other crops, how to collect berries, and how to fish and hunt.
4. In 1621, the Pilgrims had a very successful harvest and they were able to put away food for the long winter ahead. They were very thankful, so they had a large _____ and celebrated for three days. They invited the Natives to their celebration because they had taught them so much about surviving in America. Each year after that, they continued having this dinner to _____ and give thanks for their harvests.
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