

Thanksgiving (B1)

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.

Did you understand the text?

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

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

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

- a) Turkey
- b) Potatoes
- c) Stuffing
- d) All of the above

More questions about the text:

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

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