

Around English – activities sheet

Happy Thanksgiving!

STARTING OFF

1. Look at the picture. Work with a partner and discuss what you can see. Talk about:

- Where you think the people are.
- What you think they are doing.
- When you think this took place.
- How the different people are feeling.



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BEFORE YOU READ

1. Work in groups of four. Two people look at questions A and two people look at questions B. Ask the other pair your questions and note the answers.

A

B

1. What was the name of the boat which took the pilgrims from England to America?

- A The Mayflower B The Junebush
C The Marchtree

2. Why did the pilgrims call the place they landed 'Plymouth'?

- A That's what the Indians called it.
B The leader of the Pilgrims was called Plymouth.
C The pilgrims left England from the town of Plymouth.

3 Since when has Thanksgiving been a yearly festival?

- A 1621 B 1789 C 1863

4 On Thanksgiving, what do Americans traditionally watch on TV?

- A baseball B American football
C basketball

5 Who created the first ever national Thanksgiving day?

- A Lincoln B Roosevelt C Washington

6 How many people were at the first Thanksgiving dinner?

- A About 50 B About 90 C About 140

1. When did the pilgrims leave England for America?

- A 1620 B 1670 C 1720

2 What was the first Thanksgiving for?

- A To say thank you for winning an important football game.
B To say thank you for surviving for one year.
C To say thank you for getting across the Atlantic safely.

3 Where did the first ever Thanksgiving dinner actually take place?

- A Canada B Florida C Virginia

4 What is the day after Thanksgiving called?

- A Boxing Day B Labour Day C Black Friday

5 The boat now in Plymouth harbour is

- A The original boat that the pilgrims came to America on.
B An exact copy of the original boat.
C A half size model of the original boat.

6 Which of these did they NOT eat at the first Thanksgiving dinner?

- A seafood B deer (venison) C bison

FIRST READING

1. Read the text and find out how many answers from the Before Reading section the other pair got correct.

SECOND READING

1. Read the text again and put the sentences A-G in the correct places. There is one extra sentence you do not need.

A Each one was a local celebration and didn't involve anyone else.

B No-one knows whose idea this was.

C The celebrations don't stop on the Thursday though.

D Amazingly, it was in perfect condition.

E Even then, it was only a one-off

F Not surprisingly, he has agreed to sell it.

G It had been a hard journey and life in the new world was also difficult.

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VOCABULARY 1

1. Match the words from the text to their correct meanings.

1.	Buried	A	can be eaten
2.	Appreciate	B	a public celebration when musical bands, brightly decorated vehicles etc move down the street
3.	Edible	C	a religious person who travels a long way to a holy place
4.	Survival	D	hidden under the ground
5.	Parade	E	something that is done or made only once
6.	Replica	F	to understand how good or useful someone or something is
7.	Pilgrim	G	an exact copy of something, especially a building, a gun, or a work of art
8.	One-off	H	the state of continuing to live or exist

VOCABULARY 2

1. Match the beginnings to the correct endings to make useful collocations

1. owe your	A celebration
2. much	B wastes of...
3. give	C known as...
4. to be greatly	D thanks for...
5. an annual	E appreciated
6. commonly	F replica of...
7. an exact	G survival to...
8. the frozen	H outnumbered by...

2. Complete the sentences with the phrases above in the correct form.

- Bonfire Night is _____ which takes place on November 5th in the UK.
- We returned from _____ Greenland after four days.
- This is sodium chloride, _____ salt.
- Your help at the school sports day was _____ by us all.
- The fifty Chelsea supporters were _____ the thousands of Arsenal fans.
- We _____ the captain of the plane who landed safely despite the wheels not working properly.
- When I saw my exam results I _____ having passed them all.
- The comedian Steven Wright has a great joke about returning home to find that burglars have stolen all his things and replaced them with _____.

Around English – activities sheet

SPEAKING

A

1. Have you ever eaten turkey?
2. Have you ever eaten goose?

If yes: Where? When? / you like it? What / eat with it?

If no: / you want to? Why/why not?

3. Have you ever watched American football?
4. Have you ever watched cricket?

If yes: Where? When? / interesting or boring? Why?

If no: / you want to? Why/why not?

5. Have you ever travelled a long distance by boat?
6. Have you ever travelled a long distance by train?

If yes: Where / to? How long? / you stop anywhere on the way? How / you feel?

If no: What's the longest / ?

7. Have you ever celebrated Thanksgiving?

If yes: Where? When? What / eat? What / do?

8. What's your favourite celebration? Why?

B

1. Have you ever eaten venison?
2. Have you ever eaten pumpkin?

If yes: Where? When? / you like it? What / eat with it?

If no: / you want to? Why/why not?

3. Have you ever watched baseball?
4. Have you ever watched rugby?

If yes: Where? When? / interesting or boring? Why?

If no: / you want to? Why/why not?

5. Have you ever travelled a long distance by bus?
6. Have you ever travelled a long distance by plane?

If yes: Where / to? How long? / you stop anywhere on the way? How / you feel?

If no: What's the longest / ?

7. Have you ever celebrated English Christmas?

If yes: Where? When? What / eat? What / do?

8. What's your favourite celebration? Why?

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PHOTOCOPIABLE MATERIAL

<p>ROLEPLAY 1 STUDENT A</p> <p>You are a guest at a dinner. You don't know anyone else there. You are sitting next to student B at the dinner table. Start a conversation with him / her.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • introduce yourself • ask the other person if they know anyone else here • listen to the other person and react with interest, asking questions where necessary <p style="text-align: center;">USE YOUR IMAGINATION</p>	<p>ROLEPLAY 1 STUDENT B</p> <p>You are a guest at a dinner. You know several other guests. You are sitting next to student A who you don't know. Wait for student A to start talking to you.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • listen to the other person and react with interest, asking questions where necessary • answer student A's question with details of a few of the more interesting guests • introduce yourself <p style="text-align: center;">USE YOUR IMAGINATION</p>
<p>ROLEPLAY 1 STUDENT A</p> <p>You are thinking of having a dinner party. Telephone your friend (student B) Start a conversation with him / her.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ask him / her how he / she is and react with interest, asking questions where necessary • tell student B about your plans, why you're having the party, who you want to invite and when • ask student B for some advice about what to cook for the party. Listen to their advice and agree or disagree, with reasons, to their ideas <p style="text-align: center;">USE YOUR IMAGINATION</p>	<p>ROLEPLAY 1 STUDENT B</p> <p>You are at home when your friend (student A) telephones you. Say hello and then wait for student A to start the conversation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • answer student A's questions • react with interest to student A's idea and accept the invitation. • Answer student A's questions and, if student A doesn't like your ideas, try to give some alternatives or find out exactly what he/she wants. <p style="text-align: center;">USE YOUR IMAGINATION</p>
<p>ROLEPLAY 1 STUDENT A</p> <p>You have been asked by your teacher to prepare a project on a celebration in your country with another student (student B) Start a conversation with him / her</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • suggest a celebration to write your project on and give reasons for your idea • listen to B's ideas and agree with him/her • discuss how you will go about the project – who will do what and when <p style="text-align: center;">USE YOUR IMAGINATION</p>	<p>ROLEPLAY 1 STUDENT B</p> <p>You have been asked by your teacher to prepare a project on a celebration in your country with another student (student A) Wait for student A to start the conversation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • disagree with As idea and make a different suggestion with reasons for your choice • discuss how you will go about the project – who will do what and when • finish the conversation with a reason why you cannot talk any longer at the moment and say when you'll discuss this further <p style="text-align: center;">USE YOUR IMAGINATION</p>

Around English – activities sheet

The Boston News

1st December 2010

400 year old newspaper found by local farmer

A farmer has found a newspaper from 1621 in a box buried under his field. The newspaper included a report of the first ever Thanksgiving dinner which took place in November 1621.

1 ____ The farmer, Jed Thurgow, found it just one week before this year's Thanksgiving celebrations. Jed is from Plymouth, in Massachusetts which, as most people know, is where the first American Thanksgiving Dinner took place.

How it all started

The pilgrims had arrived from England the year before on the Mayflower. They left Plymouth in England in September 1620 and arrived two months later in America. 2 ____ They owed their survival to the local native Americans who showed them how to grow corn and which berries and fruits were edible. This help was much appreciated by the locals who invited 90 of the native Americans to join them at the feast to give thanks for having survived a year in the new land,. In fact, as there were only fifty pilgrims, the native Americans greatly outnumbered them.

Early years

There was another Thanksgiving dinner in Plymouth the following year and, later on, similar dinners were celebrated in Florida and Virginia. 3 ____

Thanksgiving facts

There was no national celebration of Thanksgiving until 1789 when President Washington decided to hold one. 4 ____ It didn't become an annual celebration until the following century. That was in 1863, when President Lincoln decided on the date of the fourth Thursday in November . Since then, we have celebrated Thanksgiving every year.

Thanksgiving today

Now, Thanksgiving is America's biggest holiday. There are parades in the main cities and a traditional American football game on the television in the evening. 5 ____ Friday is a holiday for many people and is commonly known as Black Friday. This is traditionally the first day of the Christmas shopping season and the town centres and shopping malls are packed.

Jed's Thanksgiving present

Jed Thurgow will have a bit more money for Christmas presents than usual this year. He has already been offered \$200,000 for his find. 6 ____ The sale will take place on the Mayflower II, the exact replica of the original Mayflower which is now in Plymouth harbour . The Mayflower II was built in 1955 in England and everything about it is the same as the original. The materials, the size and it even sailed the same route as the original Mayflower to get here.

Around English – activities sheet

The Plymouth Word

Monday November 28th 1621

The Thanksgiving Dinner in Plymouth has finished after three days. The fifty pilgrims and 90 Indians enjoyed a feast of venison, turkey, lobster, clams, fruit, berries and pumpkins, those strange, huge, orange vegetables that grow here.

The idea for this feast came from Canada. There was a similar feast there to give thanks for the safe return of the explorer James Frobisher who had been up in the frozen wastes of the Arctic.

Around English – teacher's notes

STARTING OFF

1. The aim of this activity is to introduce the topic of the first Thanksgiving supper and allow the students to anticipate some of the vocabulary that will come up in the reading as well as, hopefully, interest them in the topic. Allow the students a few minutes to discuss the questions in pairs and then open them up to a whole class discussion.

BEFORE READING

1. This allows students to discuss what they know about the topic of Thanksgiving as well as giving them a first reading task to find the answers. The reading has been designed so that all the answers can be found without needing the sentences to insert. Allow the students time to ask each other the questions and be ready to help with any vocabulary problems that might arise. (e.g. pilgrims, survive). Don't ask for or give any answers at this stage.

FIRST READING

1. Give the students a copy of the text but not yet the missing sentences and set a time limit of two or three minutes to find the answers to the five questions they asked. Elicit the answers and ask the students how many they got right.

Answers (to the before reading task): A 1A 2C 3C 4B 5C 6C B 1A 2B 3A 4C 5B 6C

SECOND READING

1. The students should know this sort of reading activity. Ask them what sort of clues they should look out for when trying to place the sentences in the right gaps. (Thematic – they are talking about the same topic, lexical – pronouns or linking words link appropriately). Ask the students to justify their answers when giving them, not just to say a letter. 1 'it' refers to the newspaper 2 thematic link – the hard journey is referred to in the previous sentence and the difficult year is referred to in the following one 3 'Each one' – refers to the dinners in Florida, Plymouth and Virginia 4 'one-off' links thematically to the following sentence which talks about when Thanksgiving became a regular occurrence 5 Thematic link – the following sentence goes on to say what happens on the Friday 6 'he' refers to Jed, 'it' refers to the newspaper.

Answers: 1D 2G 3A 4E 5C 6F

VOCABULARY 1

1. Students try to do the activity in pairs without looking at the texts, then check in the text to see if the meanings make sense in the context of the article.

Answers 1D 2F 3A 4H 5B 6G 7C 8E

Around English – teacher's notes

VOCABULARY 2

1. This gives the students some useful, common collocations from the text. Again, see if the students can do the matching without looking so that they only need to look at the text to check their answers.

Answers: 1G 2E 3D 4H 5A 6C 7F 8B

2. This follow up exercise just ensures that students have understood the phrases above. 6 and 7 also gives them practice of thinking about tenses and structures before they complete the gap fill.

Answers: 1. an annual celebration 2. the frozen wastes of 3. commonly known as 4. much appreciated 5. greatly outnumbered by 6. owe our survival to 7. gave thanks for 8. an exact replica (exact replicas)

SPEAKING

1. Make sure that students know when to use the Present perfect and when to use the Past simple. Elicit or tell the students that we often use the present perfect to ask people if they have ever done something and, if they say that they have, we use the past simple to ask follow up questions such as 'When did it happen?' 'Did you enjoy it?' etc. If you feel the class need practise, give them a few examples questions on the board: Have you ever been to Italy? Have you ever broken your arm? Ask the students and, if someone answers 'yes' elicit questions from other students about when/where/how etc.

When the students are ready, put them into pairs and tell them that they are going to ask and answer questions. Hand out the questions and set a time limit for the activity. When finished, elicit questions and answers from different pairs to see how well they did the activity. Make sure the question forms students use are correct. If not, try to get the students to correct themselves or peer correct.

PHOTOCOPIABLE ACTIVITIES

These are simple role-plays for pairs. Each student reads their instructions and, when ready, the pairs act out the roleplay as stated. There are three different roleplays so students can do one, two or three as you feel necessary. When finished, it may be worth asking different pairs to act out their roleplays in front of the whole class to see how well they can do them.

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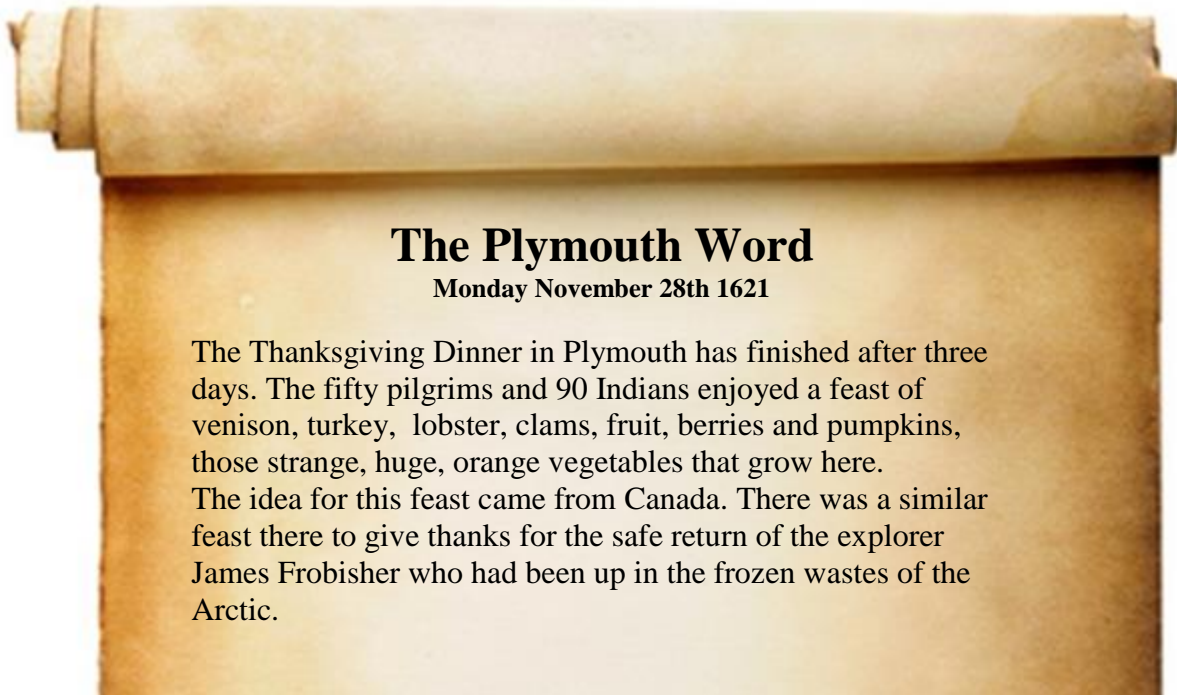
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