

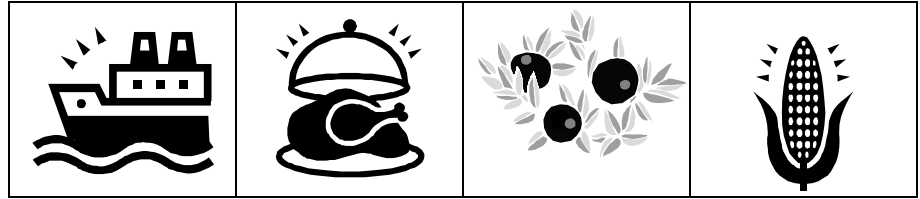
FESTIVAL WORKSHEETS

Thanksgiving Day

Intermediate

①—Thanksgiving is one of the most important holidays in the US. How much do you know about it?

the Pilgrim Fathers – the group of English people who arrived to settle at Plymouth, Massachusetts in the US in 1620



②—You will find a short history of Thanksgiving in North America. Read it quickly and fill in the missing word. Then, try to match the word to their definitions on the right.

Most people recognize the first Thanksgiving as taking place on an unremembered date, sometime in the autumn of 1621, [_____] the Pilgrims held a three-day **FEAST** to celebrate the bountiful harvest they **REAP**ed following their first winter in North America.

The Pilgrims did not hold Thanksgiving again until 1623, [_____] it followed a **DROUGHT**, prayers for rain and a **SUBSEQUENT** rain shower. Irregular Thanksgivings continued after favourable events and days of **FAST**ing after unfavourable ones. Gradually an annual Thanksgiving after the harvest developed in the mid-17th century. This did not occur on any set day or necessarily on the same day in different colonies.

- a) a large meal where a lot of people celebrate a special occasion
- b) a long period of dry weather when there is not enough water for plants and animals to live
- c) happening or coming after something else
- d) old-fashioned to cut and collect a crop of grain
- e) to eat little or no food for a period of time, especially for religious reasons

③—You will read a short text on the history of Thanksgiving Day in America. Read the text and answer the questions. Then, find synonyms to the words in the box.

George Washington, leader of the revolutionary forces in the American Revolutionary War, proclaimed a Thanksgiving in December 1777 as a victory celebration honouring the defeat of the British at Saratoga. The Continental Congress proclaimed annual December Thanksgivings from 1777 to 1783, except in 1782. George Washington again proclaimed Thanksgivings, now as President, in 1789 and 1795. President John Adams declared Thanksgivings in 1798 and 1799, and President James Madison declared the holiday twice in 1815; however, none of these were celebrated in autumn. It was President Abraham Lincoln that set the holiday as a regular yearly event for the final Thursday of November in 1863. In 1939, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt declared that Thanksgiving would be the penultimate Thursday of November rather than the last. This was to give merchants a longer period to sell goods before Christmas; at the time it was considered inappropriate to advertise goods for Christmas until after Thanksgiving. However, Roosevelt's declaration was not mandatory; some states went along with this recommendation and others did not. The United States Congress in 1941 split the difference and established that the holiday would occur annually on the fourth Thursday of November, which was sometimes the last Thursday and sometimes the next to last. On November 26 that year President Roosevelt signed this bill into US law. Since 1970 some American Indians and others have held a National Day of Mourning protest on Thanksgiving at Plymouth Rock in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

1. Was George Washington US President in 1777?
2. Who won the battle of Saratoga?
3. Was Thanksgiving Day celebrated in 1782?
4. Who declared Thanksgiving Days twice?
5. Did the American celebrate Thanksgiving Day in autumn of 1815?
6. Which Thursday of November did Franklin Delano Roosevelt declare Thanksgiving?
7. Was Roosevelt's decision binding for the states?
8. Since when has Thanksgiving Day been celebrated every year?
9. Who demonstrates at Plymouth Rock every year?

Which word means?

- ❖ armed conflict
- ❖ ≠ victory
- ❖ taking place every year
- ❖ apart from
- ❖ two times
- ❖ last
- ❖ the last but one
- ❖ binding
- ❖ demonstrate

FESTIVAL WORKSHEETS

Thanksgiving Day

Intermediate+

Teacher's Notes

Tasks: to collect learn some facts about Thanksgiving Day

Preparation: make copies of the worksheet (one copy per student) and the extension activity (*optional*)

Skills: speaking, reading


Language: vocabulary related to Thanksgiving
collocations with *drought, feast* and *subsequent*
synonyms and words with similar meaning

Sources: WIKIPEDIA (en.wikipedia.org) – the FREE encyclopaedia
Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English on CD-ROM

Task 1 – lead-in

(speaking)


- Introduce the topic of the lesson – Thanksgiving Day – and find out what your Ss know about it. Don't expect too many facts or do not reveal too much at this stage. You may ask your Ss to report what they have heard on TV/radio, read on the net etc.
- Give your Ss copies of the worksheet and ask them to work in pairs.
- Explain that the pictures in this task are related to Thanksgiving Day. Ask your Ss to look at the pictures and try to explain how they are related to the holiday.
- After a few minutes, check their ideas and give the correct answers.

Key 	SHIP: the Pilgrim Fathers had to cross the Atlantic Ocean to get from England to America. Their ship's name was <i>Mayflower</i> .
Key	TURKEY and CRANBERRIES: turkeys and cranberry sauce are traditionally eaten on Thanksgiving Day by most families
Key	CORN: Americans produce plenty of corn, which is one of the basic food products nowadays; the Pilgrim Fathers managed to survive their first years in the New World thanks to corn, as the Native Americans taught them how to plant it


Task 2

(grammar, vocabulary)

- Explain that the text in this task describes the early days of Thanksgiving in North America: from 1621 to the mid-17th century. Stress the fact that it was not a public holiday as the American colonies gained independence in the late 18th century.
- Ask the Ss to read the text quickly, without paying attention to the words in bold. Ask them to think of **one** word which fits both gaps. Elicit the relative adverb *when*, and try to elicit the meaning of the structure and some other relative adverbs and/or examples of its use.

Key 	The missing word: WHEN (relative adverb) – it is one of the means of adding some extra information about time of events without using a new full sentence. Other similar words – relative adverbs: <i>WHERE</i> (when talking about location) and <i>WHY</i> (when talking about reasons)..
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- Then, ask your Ss to read the text more carefully and pay attention to the words in bold. Ask them to match the words with the definitions on the right. Check the answers and ask some comprehension questions if necessary.
- There is an extension activity if you still have quite a lot of time.

Key 	a) FEAST – a large meal where a lot of people celebrate a special occasion
Key	b) DROUGHT – a long period of dry weather when there is not enough water for plants and animals to live
Key	c) SUBSEQUENT – happening or coming after something else
Key	d) REAP – <u>old-fashioned</u> to cut and collect a crop of grain
Key	e) FAST – to eat little or no food for a period of time, especially for religious reasons

Task 2 - extension

(vocabulary)

- This extension task does not offer any new facts about the holiday, but it focuses on the words used in the text.
- First, Ss are asked to complete the collocations with three of the words in bold. T checks their answers.
- Then, they need to use the expressions to complete the sentences on the right.

Key ✍ Key	1. DROUGHT	2. FEAST	3. SUBSEQUENT
	a) severe/long drought	a) feast / preparing	a) subsequent generations
	b) long/severe drought	b) celebrating / feast	b) subsequent years
	c) worth drought	c) hold / feast	c) subsequent chapters

Task 3

(reading, vocabulary)

- Explain that in the last task your Ss are going to read a short text on the history of Thanksgiving Day in the United States.
- First, ask them to read the text on their own or in pairs. When they have read it, ask them to answer the questions underneath. Do not check the answers yet.
- Then, discuss the words in the box, referring back to the text.
- When Ss know pairs of synonyms, ask them to go through the list of questions and answers in order to check their answers. Finally, check the answers as a group.

Key ✍ Key	1. NO	4. John Adams and James Madison	7. NO
	2. the Americans	5. NO	8. 1941
	3. NO	6. the last but one	9. American Indians
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ armed conflict – war ❖ ≠ victory – defeat ❖ taking place every year – annual ❖ apart from – except ❖ two times – twice ❖ last – final ❖ the last but one – penultimate ❖ binding – mandatory ❖ demonstrate – protest 		

Notes & Comments

- If after/during the first task, it becomes obvious for you that your Ss don't know anything about Thanksgiving Day, you may want to use the worksheet for *elementary* students. You can use the text there as a listening comprehension exercise. It will surely provide your students with plenty of information to talk about.
- If your Ss are not familiar with collocations, you may need to introduce this concept. You can use *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English on CD-ROM* as a source of examples or any other sources you have.

Homework

- [VOCABULARY] Ask your Ss to reread the text in Task ③ and prepare a list of words followed by prepositions (e.g. leader of / defeat of) which are used there. Once you have such a list, you will be able to use it later on, e.g. by asking Ss to write sentences with the phrases (.....leader of.....).

Task 2 – extension

Use some of the words from Task 2 to complete the phrases on the left. Then, use them to complete the sentences.

(the) worst
long
severe

..... generations
..... years
..... chapters

prepare
celebrate
hold

1.
 - a) A has caused most of the corn crop to fail.
 - b) Then there was a which produced a very poor harvest.
 - c) Agricultural production fell by 10.8 percent, largely due to the effects of the country's in 50 years.
2.
 - a) Their clothes were aromatic with the they had beening .
 - b) The markets were closed Monday for a holidaying the of the Three Kings.
 - c) Very soon now they will be ready and then I mean to a great for all my people.
3.
 - a) These skills were passed on to
 - b) Old-age pensioners will constitute 15 percent of the population - a figure expected to rise steeply in
 - c) Additional stories will come in

Designed by Bartosz Michałowski for Pearson Longman
Sentences from *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English on CD-ROM*

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