



Follow-up activities

Activity 1:

Quizz: Die Schüler*innen erarbeiten in Gruppen Fragen zu jeweils einem Teilbereich, z. B.

- The first Thanksgiving
- The Puritans in England
- The Mayflower
- Thanksgiving Day in an American family
- Thanksgiving on TV
- Thanksgiving Day in other countries

Jede Gruppe erhält mehrere Zettel, auf die sie jeweils eine Frage zu ihrem Teilbereich schreibt. Diese haben unterschiedliche Farben, damit erkennbar ist, welche Zettel von welcher Gruppe beschriftet wurden. Auf der Rückseite werden diese innerhalb jeder Gruppe mit einer Nummer versehen. Dann werden alle Zettel so an der Tafel befestigt, dass nur die Nummern sichtbar sind. Bei der Durchführung des Quizz wählt jeweils eine Gruppe einen Zettel der anderen Gruppen durch Nennen von Farbe und Zahl. Der Zettel wird umgedreht und die Gruppe muss nach spätestens fünf Sekunden die Frage beantworten. Dann ist die nächste Gruppe an der Reihe.

Activity 2:

Role play: Die Schüler*innen bilden Kleingruppen und wählen eine der folgenden Situationen für ein kurzes Rollenspiel aus:

- The Puritans discuss whether they should leave England or not.
- After four weeks on the Mayflower: What do the Pilgrims complain about?
- The Pilgrims discuss how to organize the first Thanksgiving.
- Thanksgiving Day in an American family: Two children discuss with their parents what to do on Thanksgiving Day.
- The American president wants to eat the turkey instead of pardoning it. His children protest and want to save the turkey.

Activity 3:

Rezepte finden: Da Essen eine zentrale Rolle am Thanksgiving Day spielt, können sich interessierte Schüler*innen im Internet auf die Suche nach einem Rezept für pumpkin pie oder apple pie machen. Die Schüler*innen stellen ihr Rezept in der Klasse vor (und vielleicht auch eine kleine Kostprobe des zu Hause – evtl. mit elterlicher Hilfe – hergestellten Produkts).



“Oh God, I forgot the turkey!”

Florian Teichmann has been with his American host family (*Gastfamilie*) for seven days now and he likes all of them, especially Dave and Susan, the two children in the Duncan family. Today seems to be a special day: There is no school (although it's not a weekend), everybody seems to be a bit excited, and Mrs Duncan has been very busy in the kitchen all day.

Now it's late afternoon. Mrs Duncan comes into the living-room and sits down for a cup of coffee. The children are trying to get Freddy the cat to stand up because they want to post funny animal photos. “Did you forget to turn on the oven, dear?” Mr Duncan says after a while looking up from his golf magazine. “Normally I can smell the delicious roast turkey at this hour.” – “Oh God!” Mrs Duncan shouts and jumps up from her chair. “This is terrible! I did forget to turn it on! This is a disaster!” Florian looks at Dave and Susan in surprise. “Why is this a disaster? We can also eat spaghetti or tortilla, that doesn't take a long time to prepare. And we can have the turkey tomorrow ...” – “What? Eat the turkey tomorrow? We must have the turkey today! Today is ...” But Dave's father stops him and says: “Stop shouting, Dave! Florian certainly knows what's so special about today.”

Why is the turkey so important for dinner that day, and why is that day so important for the Duncan family?

What to do:

1. Read out all the cards aloud.
2. Then divide the cards into groups. Which cards describe the same aspect? Try to find a heading (*Überschrift*) for this aspect.
3. Try to find out which events came first, and which made the other events happen. Arrange the cards in the order you have chosen.
4. Glue (*kleben*) the cards onto a poster, add the subtitles and use symbols (e. g. →) to show the relationships between the cards or groups of cards.
5. Write your answer on the worksheet.



In March 1621 they sailed south and came to what is now Plymouth, Massachusetts, and began to build their colony. Life was very difficult at first as they did not have enough food. Native Americans gave them food and showed them how to grow local food.

In autumn 1621 the Pilgrims had a very good harvest (*Ernte*). They thanked God and celebrated (*feiern*) the harvest together with the Native Americans who had helped them to survive (*überleben*). This was the first Thanksgiving in America.

In the 1660s Thanksgiving became a regular tradition. In 1789 George Washington, the first president of the U.S., said that the first national Thanksgiving Day was “a day of public thanksgiving and prayer (*Gebet*)”.

Thanksgiving Day is spent with the family. Many Americans travel long distances to be with their families. For this reason schools and universities are closed over a long weekend of four to five days to let the children celebrate (*feiern*) Thanksgiving with their parents.

Many families prepare the traditional Thanksgiving meal together. This meal has turkey, stuffing (*Füllung*), gravy (*Bratensoße*), sweet potatoes, mashed potatoes (*Kartoffelpüree*) and cranberry sauce. For dessert pumpkin (*Kürbis*) pie (*Kuchen*) or apple pie are most popular.

Before the meal the children play games such as the “Pumpkin Roll”: They make teams and each team rolls a big pumpkin through the garden until it reaches a finish line. Sounds easy, but isn't, as pumpkins don't roll in a straight line.

The roasted turkey is the most important part of the Thanksgiving meal. More than 44 million turkeys are killed every year for Thanksgiving Day.

After the turkey has been eaten, the breaking of the wishbone takes place in many families. Two people each take the small bone (*Knochen*), make a wish (*sich etw. wünschen*) and pull. The one who ends up with the larger part of the wishbone gets their wish.

There are many Thanksgiving traditions. The most famous one is the “Turkey Pardon”. Each year the president of the U.S. is given two turkeys as a present for Thanksgiving. At a White House ceremony the president traditionally “pardons” these turkeys. Normally they then live on a farm.

The most famous tradition is Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, one of the world's largest parades which is watched on TV by more than 44 million people. It has music, dancers, cheerleaders and gigantic balloons – of Donald Duck, Superman, ice-creams etc. The biggest ones have to be held by 90 people.