



# Beginner Level Thanksgiving ESL Lesson Plan

## Thanksgiving Reading

Harvest festivals and thanksgiving celebrations have been held around the world for thousands of years. The ancient Greeks, Romans, Egyptian, Hebrews, Chinese, and many more held festivals to give thanks to their harvests and foods.

Thanksgiving **ceremonies** were held in North America by the **Native** 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.

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.

The next year 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.

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.

Canadians now celebrate Thanksgiving on the second Monday in October, and Americans celebrate it on the fourth Thursday in November.

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.

1. Americans and Canadians 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 festivals before the European settlers. \_\_\_\_\_
4. The first known thanksgiving celebration was held in Canada. \_\_\_\_\_

Now write 3 more True or False statements and ask them to your partner or your class.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

### B. Practice asking and answering the following questions with your partner. Then write the answers in your notebooks or on the back of this paper.

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 natives teach the Pilgrims to do?
5. Did the Pilgrims have a successful harvest in 1621?
6. What did the Pilgrims do to celebrate their harvest in 1621?
7. Who did the the Pilgrims invite to their celebration?
8. When did the first Thanksgiving celebration by Europeans take place in North America?
9. Where did it take place?
10. When do Canadians celebrate Thanksgiving now?
11. When do Americans celebrate Thanksgiving now?
12. What do some families do on Thanksgiving now?

## Thanksgiving Vocabulary

### A. Unscamble the words below, and then find them in the Word Search.

- |                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. inganthgivks _____ | 2. nieceremos _____ |
| 3. ansreupeo _____    | 4. ayingpr _____    |
| 5. implgris _____     | 6. tharves _____    |
| 7. seasedi _____      | 8. rvationsta _____ |
| 9. sopcr _____        | 10. astfe _____     |
| 11. emal _____        | 12. rvivesu _____   |
| 13. tivesna _____     |                     |

### Thanksgiving Word Search

The words in this puzzle run from left to right, right to left, top to bottom, bottom to top, and diagonally

f y o q k d z y c g d y w  
a f b z p o e m x b z f r  
i x p k p i l g r i m s q  
s t a r v a t i o n n e s  
d i s e a s e m c p v v e  
e v i v r u s u e r c i i  
g n i v i g s k n a h t n  
s n a e p o r u e y l a o  
f e a s t m s e s i a n m  
t s e v r a h p r n j t e  
a d h f e f o z p g r t r  
e u b e j r w e w k t t e  
t d m w c q d b y i o h c

### Thanksgiving Survey

Find a partner ask the following four questions. There are a 2 blank lines below. Use these lines to add two more questions to the survey. After you have conducted the survey, join another pair and tell them about your partner's plans for Thanksgiving this year.

1. Do you celebrate thanksgiving in your country? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Are you going to have a thanksgiving dinner this year? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Who is going to come to the dinner? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What food is going to be served? \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_?
6. \_\_\_\_\_?

### Thanksgiving In Your Country

Is Thanksgiving celebrated in your country? If so, write a couple of paragraphs explaining the history of the celebration and some of the customs that are practiced today. When you are finished, share it with the class or with your partner.

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### Teachers' Notes for Vocabulary Word Search

1. thanksgiving
2. ceremonies
3. europeans
4. praying
5. pilgrims
6. harvest
7. disease
8. starvation
9. crops
10. feast
11. meal
12. survive
13. natives

f y o q k d z y c g d y w  
a f b z p o e m x b z f r  
i x p k p i l g r i m s q  
s t a r v a t i o n n e s  
d i s e a s e m c p v v e  
e v i v r u s u e r c i i  
g n i v i g s k n a h t n  
s n a e p o r u e y l a o  
f e a s t m s e s i a n m  
t s e v r a h p r n j t e  
a d h f e f o z p g r t r  
e u b e j r w e w k t t e  
t d m w c q d b y i o h c