
**Holiday Facts & Fun:
Thanksgiving
Second Edition**



Teacher's Guide
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Produced
by
Colman Communications Corp.

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THANKSGIVING

SECOND EDITION

From the
Holiday Facts & Fun
Series

Grades K-5

Viewing Time: 12:45

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Intended Audience and Uses

Thanksgiving has been produced for students in grades K-5. This video has several classroom uses. First, it can be used to help students understand and appreciate Thanksgiving. Second, it can be used in primary-intermediate social studies units that cover colonial life. This program meets McREL K-4 History Standard 5 (“Understands the causes and nature of movements of large groups of people into the United States...”); McREL K-4 History Standard 1 (“Understands family life now and in the past...”); and McREL U.S. History Standard 3 (“Understands why the Americas attracted Europeans...”).

Program Synopsis

The program is divided into three sections. The first begins as Billy and Sandy Marshall collect food for their school's annual Thanksgiving food drive. Later, as the children at their school separate food for delivery, Mrs. Ryan, a teacher, gives a brief history of Thanksgiving, explaining that the holiday, as practiced by the Pilgrims, was a harvest celebration. She adds that there have been harvest celebrations in many different areas of the world for thousands of years. Present-day activities associated with Thanksgiving, such as parades and football games, also are discussed, as is the Wampanoag Indian game of "hubbub." A "hubbub" is reenacted in a Wampanoag long house. The second segment, "Helping Others on Thanksgiving," shows Billy, Sandy and their mother taking holiday fare to an elderly man who has just returned home from a stay in the hospital. The final segment, "Celebrating Thanksgiving" shows the Marshall family preparing and then eating their Thanksgiving feast. The emphasis is on family togetherness and reasons for being thankful.

VIEWER OBJECTIVES

After viewing this video and participating in the suggested activities, viewers should be able to do the following:

1. Explain how and why the Pilgrims celebrated Thanksgiving.
2. Name five areas of the world where ancient harvest celebrations were held and briefly describe those celebrations.
3. Explain why it is important to help others.
4. Tell how Thanksgiving is typically celebrated.
5. Explain the role of the Wampanoag Indians in the Pilgrims' first Thanksgiving celebration.

The producers encourage you to make adaptations and changes to the following lesson plan whenever you feel it will enhance your students' learning experiences. Only by tailoring the material to your unique classroom situation will you be able to maximize the educational experience afforded by these materials.

SUGGESTED LESSON PLAN

Viewing Strategies

Various strategies may be employed when showing ***Thanksgiving*** to your class. If you wish to use the program as a way to give general information about the holiday, you may find it useful to show the entire program in one screening, then follow up with appropriate questions (see the ***Suggested Discussion Questions*** blackline master) and/or activities suggested in this guide. Alternately, you may wish to show only the first section of the video if presentation time is limited, or if your class is using the program to learn more about early colonial life in North America.

Introduce the Program

Several days before showing the video, instruct your students to bring in magazine pictures – or picture books – of Thanksgiving or Thanksgiving activities. Tell the class that everyone will see a program on the holiday and that the pictures will help them better understand what they will see.

Pre-Viewing Activities

The producers encourage you to prescreen the program to familiarize yourself with its content.

Discuss the pictures the children have brought in. When doing so, ask everyone to share what he or she already knows about Thanksgiving and how the holiday is celebrated in each person's household. On the chalkboard or overhead projector, categorize responses into ***food, activities, people involved***, etc. After completing this activity, tell the class to see if the Thanksgiving shown in the program is similar to theirs. How is it the same? How is it different?

Post-Viewing Activities

Discuss the video, using your inquiries made before showing the program. (*I.e.*, "How is the Thanksgiving in the video different from, and similar to, your family's celebration?") Of course, you may use the ***Suggested Discussion Questions***, if you prefer. Duplicate and hand out ***What's in the Cornucopia?*** You may assign this activity as homework, individual seatwork or committee work. If you feel it is necessary, explain what a cornucopia is and tell its symbolic significance (plentiful harvest and abundance). Your students may be interested in the origins of the cornucopia. It comes from Greek mythology. According to the tale, the Greek god Zeus accidentally broke off a goat's horn. To make amends, Zeus promised the goat that its horn would always be filled with whatever fruits the goat desired. Finally, pass out ***More Thanksgiving Riddles***. You may have your class do this as homework, or as individual seatwork. Place everyone's work on your classroom bulletin board after it has been completed.

Description of Blackline Masters

SUGGESTED DISCUSSION QUESTIONS – Gives questions that may be asked after each segment is viewed.

WHAT'S IN THE CORNUCOPIA? – A fill-in-the-blank activity that reviews the idea of abundance at Thanksgiving and helps students with their spelling.

MORE THANKSGIVING RIDDLES – A coloring and answer-the-riddle activity.

ANSWER KEY

Video Quiz: 1. c., Wampanoags 2. To practice their religion as they wished 3. False 4. b., bones and bowls 5. True 6. b., Demeter 7. c., both a. and b. 8. Go to parades, watch football on TV (or play football), have a big Thanksgiving feast 9. False 10. a., to practice their religion

What's in the Cornucopia? 1. apple 2. peach 3. corn 4. squash 5. strawberry 6. pumpkin 7. lettuce 8. orange 9. cantaloupe 10. grapes

TRANSCRIPT OF THE VIDEO

Part I: Introduction & A Short History of Thanksgiving

Not too long ago, Billy and Sandy Marshall began collecting food for the Bradford School food drive. It's held every Thanksgiving.

When the children got to a house, they told whoever answered the door that the food was for people who wouldn't be able to have a nice Thanksgiving dinner without a little help.

Almost everyone gave something – some canned meat, a loaf of bread, a bag of flour or some vegetables...

As you can see, the collection was a big success! Now, all the food had to be separated for delivery.

It would be a lot of hard work, and would take several hours. As everyone separated the cans and boxes, they passed the time by talking.

After awhile, they took a break with Mrs. Ryan, one of the teachers at Bradford School.

Mrs. Ryan: All this food going to others reminds me of what the Wampanoag Indians did.

Martin: Who were the Wampanoags?

Mrs. Ryan: Well, the Wampanoags were the Native Americans who brought food to the Pilgrims, a group of people who settled in America hundreds of years ago.

They came in their ship, the Mayflower, from England, a country across the ocean.

The Wampanoags brought five deer to the Pilgrim's first harvest celebration.

The animals were made into a large stew. Miguel?

Miguel: Was that the first time there was a Thanksgiving?

Mrs. Ryan: Well, historians say it was really more of a harvest celebration than the kind of Thanksgiving we celebrate today.

You see, the Pilgrims didn't know how cold and snowy it would be in America, so they weren't prepared for their first winter here.

Many of them died from cold and hunger.

The next year, however, was much better for the Pilgrims.

Those who had survived worked hard in their fields and gardens. And all that hard work paid off. The Pilgrims had enough food for the long, cold winter ahead.

So they made bread, grilled fish and other foods – and had a celebration.

The Pilgrims came to America because they were very religious, but they weren't allowed to practice their beliefs in England.

So they came to America, where they could worship as they pleased.

Tina: You know how you said the celebration wasn't the first

Thanksgiving? Well, if the Pilgrims didn't have the first Thanksgiving, then who did?

Mrs. Ryan: Nobody knows for certain.

In England, where the Pilgrims came from, farmers decorated carts with ribbons after their harvest each autumn, and then had what were called "home festivals," celebrations something like Thanksgiving.

More than a thousand years before that, the people who lived in the country of Greece held a nine-day harvest celebration, during which they honored Demeter, their goddess of agriculture.

Other ancient harvest celebrations were held in Africa, from which we get the modern celebration, Kwanzaa; in Asia, where harvest celebrations were sometimes held in royal courts; and here in North America, where many Native Americans gave thanks for their harvests – often, Indian corn – long before the Pilgrims arrived.

The holiday we know as "Thanksgiving" slowly developed over hundreds of years.

But many of the things we think of as being part of Thanksgiving today were started by people who lived in New England, the area where the Pilgrims settled.

Of course, over the years, the holiday has changed in some ways.

Tonya: Like now we have Thanksgiving parades. My Aunt Susan takes me to see them every year.

Robert: Do you know what my family does? We watch football on TV every Thanksgiving.

Mrs. Ryan: Well, people have been watching and playing games at Thanksgiving for a very long time.

Did you know that many years ago baseball was usually played on Thanksgiving, not football?

Wampanoag children played a game called "hubbub." Some

people think that it might have been played during the Pilgrims' first harvest celebration.

Hubbub was usually played with two – and sometimes four – people. A bowl and five bones were used. The bones were colored on one side.

One of the players tossed the bones into the air.

If three of one color and two of another landed face up in the bowl, the tosser received one point.

If the bones came up one and four, the tosser lost his turn and the other player would have a chance to toss the bones.

If the bones landed with only one color face up, he received two points. The first player to get 50 points would win.

Narrator: Mrs. Ryan handed out her own version of the Wampanoag game after all the food was sorted and ready for delivery.

After awhile, moms and dads arrived and the bags of groceries were loaded into cars.

Part II: Helping Others on Thanksgiving

The next day, Billy, Sandy and their mother unloaded the bag of food at the place they were supposed to go, a small apartment house on the other side of town.

It was rainy, blustery and very chilly, so they were eager to get inside.

Shortly, an elderly man opened the door of his apartment and greeted them. The three visitors could see that hobbled unsteadily, and needed a cane.

The man told them that he had just come home from the hospital, and wasn't able to shop for groceries.

Billy and Sandy felt that he was very grateful, and happy, to receive the food. He said that it would make his Thanksgiving much happier.

As the Marshall children left to return home, they felt warm all over, knowing that they had helped the elderly man have a nice Thanksgiving dinner.

Part III: Celebrating Thanksgiving

Later that day, the Marshall household was a beehive of activity.

Each family member, including cousins and other relatives, was assigned a task to help prepare the big holiday feast.

For many, Thanksgiving is a time for families to get together, one of the best traditions of the holiday.

Later, Uncle Paul, the family comedian, read a book of Thanksgiving riddles to Billy and Sandy and their cousins, Peter and Jessica.

Here are some of their favorites.

If the Pilgrims were alive today, what would they be most famous for? Their age.

Can a turkey fly higher than a skyscraper? Yes. Skyscrapers can't fly.

What do you get when you cross a turkey with an octopus? Enough drumsticks for Thanksgiving.

What kind of music did the Pilgrims like? Plymouth rock.

Several hours later, as the Marshall family began their big turkey dinner, a cold, rainy wind blew outside. But inside, it was warm and cozy.

About halfway through the meal, Grandfather Marshall asked cousin Jessica what she was thankful for.

"My family and friends," she said.

Then, one by one, all the other children – and then all the grown-ups – told what they were thankful for.

What do you think they said?

And now it's your turn. Think about all the things that you can be thankful for. You might want to remember them when you celebrate your Thanksgiving this year.

Web Resources

DLK's Crafts for Kids Thanksgiving Site

www.dltk-kids.com/crafts/thanksgiving/

A vast array of craft activities, songs, coloring pages and links for teachers looking for Thanksgiving material.

The KidZone American Turkey Site

www.kidzone.ws/animals/turkey.htm

Everything you'd ever want to know about turkeys.

Primary Level Thanksgiving Coloring Pages

www.coloring.ws/thanksgiving.html

A collection of simple coloring pages for the very young.

Plimouth Plantation Educational Site

www.plimoth.org/learn/

An award-winning site with outstanding activities

Discussion Questions – Thanksgiving, 2nd Edition

For Segment One

1. Who were the Wampanoag Indians? (Native Americans who brought food to the Pilgrims)
2. What was the name of the Pilgrims' ship? (Mayflower)
3. What did the Wampanoags bring to the Pilgrims' first harvest celebration? (five deer)
4. Why did the Pilgrims come to America? (to worship as they pleased)
5. What was a "Home Festival?" (English harvest festival)
6. Who was Demeter? (Greek goddess of agriculture)
7. Who had harvest celebrations in North America, before the Pilgrims? (Native Americans)
8. Where were Asian harvest celebrations sometimes held? (royal courts)
9. From where does the modern celebration of Kwanzaa come? (African harvest celebration)
10. What was the name of the area where the Pilgrims settled? (New England)
11. What game used to be played on Thanksgiving, instead of football? (basesball)
12. What is "hubbub?" (game played by Wampanoags)

For Segments Two and Three

1. Why wasn't the elderly man able to get his own groceries? (He just came back from the hospital.)
2. Why did Billy and Sandy feel good after they had delivered the food to the man? (They knew they had helped the man have a nice Thanksgiving dinner.)
3. Who prepared the food for the Marshall family's Thanksgiving feast? (each family member, including relatives)
4. What did Grandfather Marshall ask cousin Jessica? (what she was thankful for)
5. What was her answer? (family and friends)
6. What happened after Cousin Jessica gave her answer? (Everyone else told what they were thankful for.)

Name _____

What's in the Cornucopia?

Directions: With crayons or magic markers, color in the cornucopia and the fruits and vegetables. Then complete the names of the fruits and vegetables by filling in the blanks.



A cornucopia

1. a _ _ _ _ e

2. p _ _ _ _ h

3. c _ _ _ n

4. s _ _ _ _ _ h

5. s _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ y

6. p _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ n

7. l _ _ _ _ _ _ _ e

8. o _ _ _ _ _ e

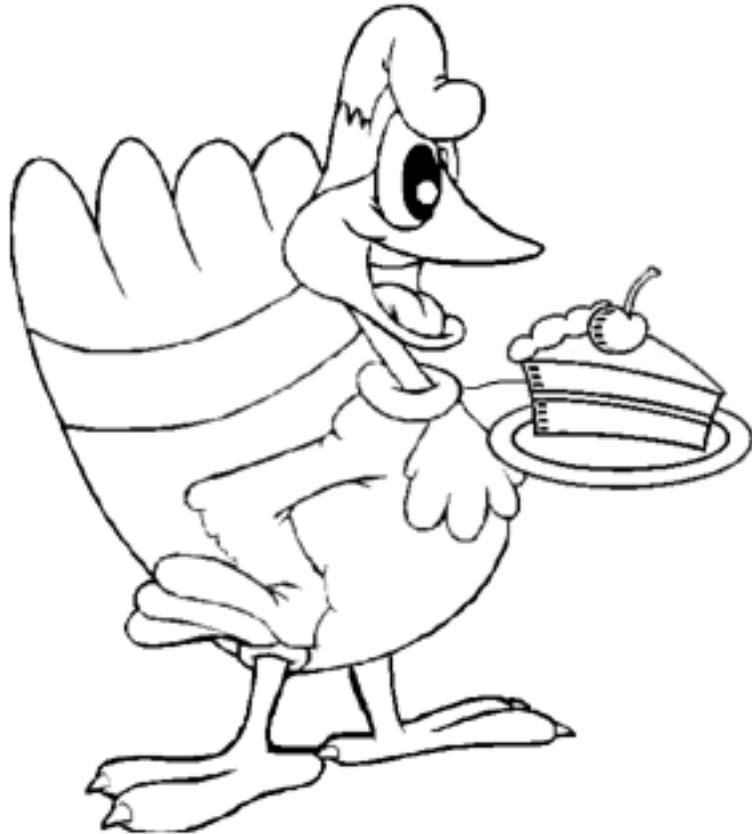
9. c _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ e

10. g _ _ _ _ _ _ s

Name _____

More Thanksgiving Riddles, One

Directions: With crayons or magic markers, color in the picture.



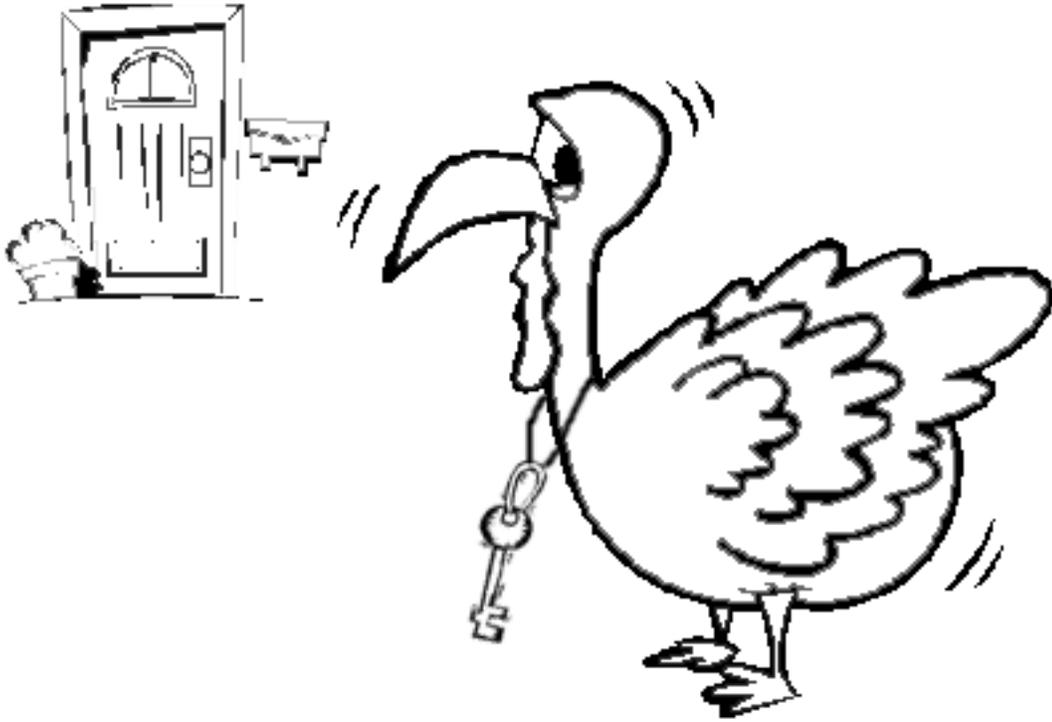
**Why didn't the turkey finish his
dessert?**

He was stuffed!

Name _____

More Thanksgiving Riddles, Two

Directions: With crayons or magic markers, color in the picture.



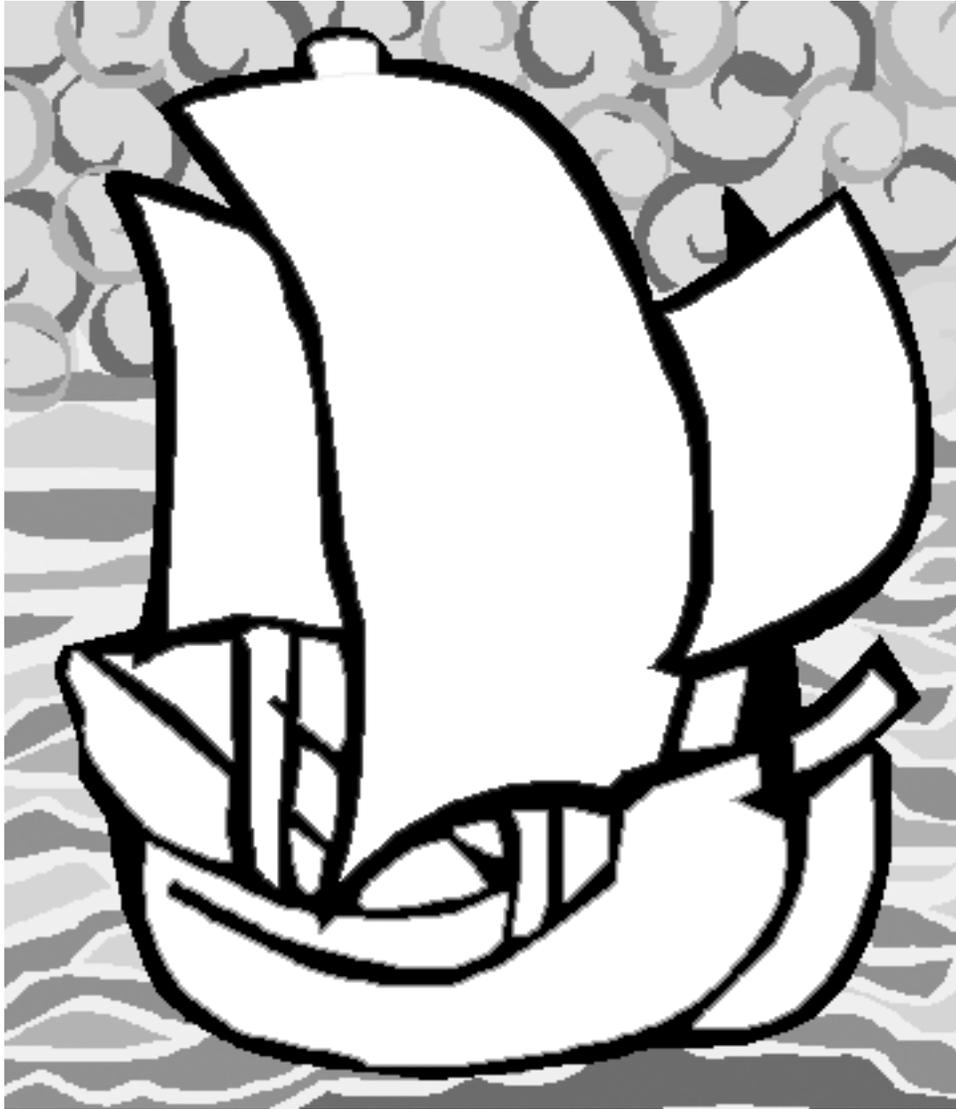
**What kind of key has legs
but can't open doors?**

A tur-key!

Name _____

More Thanksgiving Riddles, Three

Directions: With crayons or magic markers, color in the picture.



**If April showers bring May flowers,
what do May flowers bring?**

Pilgrims!