

Thanksgiving: Giving Thanks Together

B1 | Adults / Teens | Reading + Vocabulary + Discussion | 50-60 minutes

BEFORE YOU READ

Talk with a partner. What are you thankful for? How do people in your community show gratitude?

1. Match the words (1-6) with the definitions (A-F).

- | | | |
|----------------|-------|---|
| 1. gratitude | _____ | A. come together in one place |
| 2. harvest | _____ | B. the feeling of being thankful |
| 3. feast | _____ | C. a particular way of thinking about something |
| 4. gather | _____ | D. the time when crops are collected |
| 5. ancestor | _____ | E. a family member from many generations ago |
| 6. perspective | _____ | F. a large special meal |

2. Read the article. The bold words are the vocabulary from Activity 1.

- Thanksgiving is a public holiday in the United States and Canada, although it is celebrated on different dates. For many people, it is a chance to **gather** with family or friends and share a large meal, often called a **feast**.
- The holiday has historical links to the autumn **harvest**, when crops were collected. Traditional foods in the United States often include turkey, potatoes, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie. However, families may choose foods that reflect their own culture and tastes.
- At the table, people often express **gratitude** for people, experiences or opportunities in their lives. This simple activity can be meaningful because it encourages people to stop and think about what they value. Some families also tell stories about an **ancestor** or an earlier generation.
- Thanksgiving history is viewed from more than one **perspective**. The holiday is connected with early European settlers and Indigenous peoples, and some people use the day to learn more about this complex history. A thoughtful celebration can include both gratitude and honest discussion.

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UNDERSTAND, DISCUSS AND WRITE

3. Comprehension. Answer in complete sentences. Use the article to help you.

1. Is Thanksgiving celebrated on the same date in the United States and Canada?

2. What is a feast?

3. Why do people express gratitude at Thanksgiving?

4. What can families do besides eat together?

5. Why does the article mention different perspectives?

4. Discuss. Talk in small groups. Give reasons and examples.

- What food brings people together in your culture?
- Is it useful to set aside time for gratitude?
- How should schools teach complicated national histories?
- What makes a family meal memorable?

5. Homework: Write a descriptive paragraph.

Write 120-150 words about a meal or celebration that brings people together in your culture.

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ANSWER KEY AND TEACHING NOTE

Vocabulary matching

1. gratitude - B
2. harvest - D
3. feast - F
4. gather - A
5. ancestor - E
6. perspective - C

Comprehension answers

1. Is Thanksgiving celebrated on the same date in the United States and Canada?

No. The two countries celebrate it on different dates.

2. What is a feast?

It is a large special meal.

3. Why do people express gratitude at Thanksgiving?

They want to think about people, experiences or opportunities they value.

4. What can families do besides eat together?

They may tell stories about ancestors or earlier generations.

5. Why does the article mention different perspectives?

Thanksgiving has a complex history connected with settlers and Indigenous peoples.

Teaching note

Compare matching answers before reading. Accept other article-supported comprehension answers; discussion and homework answers vary. Discuss customs respectfully, distinguishing religious, cultural and personal traditions.