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Activity 3 – November 16th

Thanksgiving

Hey, you guys! How are you doing? This week we're going to learn more about this important holiday in North America, in the USA and Canada. And we won't lose the chance to say what we are thankful for!

Thanksgiving in the U.S. is set to take place on the fourth Thursday of November, this year it's around the corner, it'll be on November 26. Canadians celebrate Thanksgiving on the second Monday of October, this year it was on October 12.

They celebrate this holiday on different dates, it's not even in the same month, what else is different? How do they celebrate it? Let's learn about it clicking below:

<https://www.countryliving.com/life/travel/a28679479/when-is-thanksgiving-in-canada/>

➤ **After learning how Canadians celebrate Thanksgiving, let's check this complete guide on how to celebrate Thanksgiving in the US:**

As a non-denominational, secular holiday, Thanksgiving is arguably the most celebrated holiday in the US and it may be the most important dinner of the year.

Here's how to celebrate Thanksgiving in the US – and even if you're not in the States, how you can bring a little bit of Thanksgiving magic to wherever you are in the world:

1. What are we celebrating?

Thanksgiving is a celebration of the close family and friends in our lives and the fall harvest. At its heart, the holiday holds a deep sense of gratitude. It is as it sounds, a day to "give thanks."

2. The history of Thanksgiving

Watch the video to find out the history of the first Thanksgiving according to the books they teach in schools:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XC1hVm1y01o&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=Ingla-Terra

3. How do you celebrate Thanksgiving?

Now that you're schooled up on the history of Thanksgiving, let's fast forward a few centuries to modern-day Thanksgiving. There's a Thanksgiving day timeline:

- 9-10:00am | Watch the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade

Turn on the live stream or find your spot on the street as you watch giant helium balloons, floats, and marching bands parade through the streets of New York City.

- 10:00am-12:00pm | Go to the store

Thanksgiving, like most holidays in the US, is either a day off or short day for employees. Luckily, grocery stores are usually open for the first half of the day, so make sure you get to the store early to pick up all the ingredients you'll need to start cooking.



- 12-1:00pm | Watch the presidential turkey pardon

Yep, you read that right, beginning in the mid-20th century, the President of the United States has “pardoned” one or two Thanksgiving turkeys each year, sparing the birds from slaughter.

- All day | Watch American football

Thanksgiving day football games are an essential part of the American Thanksgiving experience. It is a great chance to cheer for your favorite team and a good distraction from the fact that you’re probably not eating lunch. After all, you’re going to need to be HUNGRY once dinner time rolls around.

- All day | Cook, cook, cook

Preparing a proper Thanksgiving meal can take hours, sometimes even days, depending on what dishes you’re preparing and how many people you’re serving. Just the turkey alone takes at least 20 minutes for every pound, adding up to nearly five hours in the oven for the biggest birds.

- 6-10:00pm | Eat more than you thought was humanly possible

It’s probably not surprising that there’s an American holiday based solely around eating, but it might be surprising how much eating you can actually do if you put your mind to it.

What’s for Thanksgiving dinner?

Turkey

For most non-vegetarian households, the turkey takes front and center at the Thanksgiving feast. Whether it’s roasted, smoked, brined, or fried, achieving that perfect blend of crackled outer skin and moist inner meat is an art.

Stuffing

Before you even put the turkey in the oven, you have to stuff it with cornbread, onions, celery, and dried cranberries. After hours cooking in the cavity of the turkey, the “stuffing” comes out delightfully moist and meaty with sweet undertones.

Cranberry sauce

Tart and sweet, cranberry sauce acts like Indian chutney to bring out the savory, juicy flavor of the turkey. Avoid the canned variety with this easy recipe from our Thanksgiving for beginners guide.

Gravy

Once you’ve removed the turkey from the oven, it’s gravy time. Made from the drippings on the bottom of the pan, turkey gravy is a meaty sauce that can be applied liberally across nearly every part of the Thanksgiving meal.

Mashed potatoes

Where else would you put that gravy? Smothered in the meaty gravy sauce, mashed potatoes are maybe the most delicious (and filling) dish on the Thanksgiving dinner menu.

Pumpkin pie

Seasonal, sweet, and satisfying, homemade pumpkin pie is the quintessential Thanksgiving dessert. But after going back for seconds or even thirds of turkey and ‘taters, it may be the most difficult dish for you to finish. But don’t worry! If you don’t finish on the night of, there’s always breakfast on Friday.



Speaking of leftovers, the Thanksgiving feast doesn't end on Thursday night. With so much food, you'll be eating turkey sandwiches, burritos, and casseroles for the rest of the weekend.

Black Friday & Cyber Monday

After stuffing yourself silly on Thanksgiving Thursday, it's time to shop yourself silly on Black Friday. Seen as the unofficial beginning of the Holiday shopping season, Black Friday is famous in the US for deep discounts and general hysteria as people run from one store to the next in search of the best deals. (This will be learned more next week)

While this may seem like a lot to do, eat, and buy, it's important to remember what the original intent of the holiday was – to give thanks. By gathering in grateful appreciation with friends and family, Thanksgiving brings us together and helps us remember that moment, nearly 400 years ago, when two very different cultures came together to give thanks and enjoy a harvest feast.

Available at: < <https://www.ef.com/wwen/blog/language/celebrate-first-thanksgiving-us>>
(Adapted)

- Now that we learned more about Thanksgiving in the Us and Canada, let's learn more about the history they don't tell the kids in school, watch the videos and draw your own conclusions: (Activate the subtitle to understand better if you need)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ociHVDWxDaY&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=UncivilHistory
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K7jLeBWMA0U&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=TeenVogue
- Now, leaving aside what really happened behind this holiday (it's not our business), let's read this article about how it's good to our well-being and success to be grateful:
<https://www.cnbc.com/2017/11/22/how-being-thankful-can-boost-your-well-being-and-success.html#:~:text=Taking%20the%20time%20to%20be,and%20out%20of%20the%20workplace.>
- Now, watch the teachers giving thanks, and do the same afterwards, send an audio or video in the whatsapp group sharing with us what you are thankful for this year:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2TKcJTNE5uY&ab_channel=ElaineMartins

