



17

BEFORE YOU READ

Talk about this photograph. Guess the answers to the questions below. Write your guesses on the lines.

1. Who are these people? _____

2. What are they going to eat? _____

3. Why are they together? _____

Now turn the
page and read.

Thanksgiving Day

The fourth Thursday in November is Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is a national holiday, so most people don't go to work. People get together with their families and friends to give thanks for the good things in their lives. Many people travel by plane, train, bus, or car to be with their relatives. More people travel for Thanksgiving than for any other holiday.

On Thanksgiving Day, families come together for a special dinner. The family in the picture is together for Thanksgiving dinner. They are going to eat turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, and cranberries. They will have pumpkin pie for dessert. After dinner, the family will relax and talk. Some of them will watch a football game on TV.

Thanksgiving started over 350 years ago with the Pilgrims. In the fall of 1620, one hundred Pilgrims came to the United States from England. They came on a boat, the *Mayflower*. Half of the people came for religious freedom. All came for new lives.

The first winter, the Pilgrims were hungry, sick, and cold. Many people died. Then the Native Americans, the Indians, helped the Pilgrims. They taught the Pilgrims to plant corn and build houses. In the fall of 1621, the Pilgrims and the Indians had the first Thanksgiving. The Pilgrims wanted to give thanks for their new land. They also wanted to thank the Indians for their help.

The first Thanksgiving was three days long. The picture on the next page shows the Native Americans and the Pilgrims celebrating together. But in the years after the first Thanksgiving, there were many problems between the newcomers and the Indians. The newcomers took land from the Indians. They killed Indians and destroyed the Native American way of life. Today many Americans feel ashamed about this. Some states celebrate Native American days. On these days, Americans honor Native Americans and remember the peace and friendship of the first Thanksgiving.



UNDERSTANDING NEW WORDS

Take turns reading these sentences with a partner. Does **a**, **b**, or **c** mean the same as the underlined word? Decide with your partner. Circle **a**, **b**, or **c**.

1. Many people travel by plane, train, bus, or car to be with their relatives on Thanksgiving.
 - a. neighbors
 - ☒ b. families
 - c. employers
2. After Thanksgiving dinner, people relax and talk.
 - a. rest
 - b. work
 - c. clean
3. Newcomers killed American Indians and destroyed the Native American way of life.
 - a. helped
 - b. ruined
 - c. built
4. In the years after the first Thanksgiving, newcomers took land from the Native Americans and killed them. Today many Americans feel ashamed about this.
 - a. happy
 - b. good
 - c. sorry

UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

When Is the Holiday?

Fill in the year. Then write the dates for November. Circle Thanksgiving.

November 19____

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.

True or False?

Take turns reading these sentences with a partner. Is each sentence true or false? Decide with your partner. Put an X under TRUE or FALSE.

	TRUE	FALSE
1. The fourth Tuesday in November is Thanksgiving.	_____	<u> X </u>
2. More people travel for Thanksgiving than for any other holiday.	_____	_____
3. On Thanksgiving, families come together for a special dinner.	_____	_____
4. Thanksgiving started over 350 years ago with the Pilgrims.	_____	_____

5. In the fall of 1600, a thousand Pilgrims came to the United States from England.
6. All of the Pilgrims came for religious freedom.
7. The first Thanksgiving was in the fall of 1621.
8. On the first Thanksgiving, the Indians thanked the Pilgrims for their help.
9. Newcomers to the United States were always friendly and kind to the Native Americans.
10. Americans today celebrate Native American days to honor the Pilgrims.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Understanding Time Order

Take turns reading these sentences with a partner. Decide together what happened first, second, third, and so on. Put the sentences in order from 1 to 7.

- _____ People travel by plane, train, car, or bus for Thanksgiving dinner with relatives.
- _____ The Pilgrims came to the United States on the *Mayflower*.
- _____ The American Indians helped the Pilgrims grow food and build houses.
- _____ Newcomers took land from the Native Americans and killed them.
- 1** _____ The Pilgrims were unhappy in England.
- _____ Many Pilgrims died during the first winter because they were sick and hungry.
- _____ The Pilgrims and the Indians celebrated the first Thanksgiving.

BEFORE YOU CONTINUE

- Look at your guesses on page 133. Were you right?
- Now fill in Thanksgiving Day on the Holiday Chart on page 155.



TALK ABOUT IT, Activity 1

Pilgrim farmers had to eat a lot of food to be strong. They ate 6,000 calories a day. Now 2,000 calories a day are enough for most people.

Many Americans worry about eating too much. They watch their weight and go on diets.

You and your partner are on diets. You want to know how many calories Thanksgiving dinner has. Ask your partner questions to finish the chart. *Do not* look at your partner's book.

Example: "What has 240 calories?"

"How many calories does turkey have?"

Food (for one person)	Calories
turkey	240
stuffing	300
cranberry sauce	
mashed potatoes	150
green beans	50
roll and butter	
	150
pumpkin pie with whipped cream	440

How many calories are in Thanksgiving dinner? _____

PARTNER B

TALK ABOUT IT, Activity 1



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You and your partner are on diets. You want to know how many calories Thanksgiving dinner has. Ask your partner questions to finish the chart. *Do not* look at your partner's book.

Example: "What has 240 calories?"

"How many calories does turkey have?"

Food (for one person)	Calories
turkey	240
stuffing	
cranberry sauce	100
mashed potatoes	
	50
roll and butter	180
glass of wine	150
	440

How many calories are in Thanksgiving dinner? _____



TALK ABOUT IT, Activity 2

People are very busy on Thanksgiving Day. On the top of the next page are some things they do. Talk with a partner or a small group about these things to do. Decide together what to do first, second, third, and so on. Put these things to do in order from 1 to 8.

_____ In the morning, put the turkey in the oven.

_____ Call the family to the table.

_____ Eat the turkey.

_____ Sit down to eat.

_____ Eat pumpkin pie.

1 _____ Get up early.

_____ Take the turkey out of the oven.

_____ Wash all the dishes.



WRITE

A student from Laos is thankful for many things. Read her story.

I am thankful for my family. My husband and I have good jobs in our new country. We are healthy. We have a nice apartment. It is clean and warm. The neighbors are friendly.

What are you thankful for? Write four things. Use the words in the box below if you need help. Then share your answers with the class.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

friends

family

job

school

parents

food

health

children

home

church

money

freedom



LET'S SING

Today most Americans travel by car, plane, train, or bus to be with their families on Thanksgiving. But many years ago, people traveled by horse. In the winter, horses pulled sleighs in the snow.

This is an old American folk song about Thanksgiving. A family is going to visit their grandmother for Thanksgiving dinner. They are riding in a sleigh.

Over the River and Through the Woods

Over the river and through the woods
To grandmother's house we go.
The horse knows the way to carry the sleigh
Through the white and drifted snow.
Over the river and through the woods
Oh how the wind does blow!
It stings the toes and bites the nose
As over the ground we go.

Over the river and through the woods
Trot fast my dapple gray!
Spring over the ground like a hunting hound
For this is Thanksgiving Day!
Over the river and through the woods,
Now grandfather's face I spy!
Hurrah for the fun! Is the turkey done?
Hurrah for the pumpkin pie!

