

1 Read the text and answer the questions.**A brief history of Thanksgiving**

In December 1620 a ship called the Mayflower came to Plymouth, Massachusetts. Its passengers, known as the Pilgrims, came from England. It had been a long trip, the winter was tough and the Pilgrims didn't have much to eat. Only half of them survived the winter.

Native Americans called the Wampanoag lived in that area. They helped the Pilgrims to grow crops the following year. That fall the harvest was good and the Pilgrims had enough to eat. They wanted to celebrate. The Wampanoag weren't invited but they joined the feast anyway bringing even more food to the celebration. This was the very first Thanksgiving Day, celebrated in 1621.

In 1863 the US president, Abraham Lincoln, proclaimed a national day of Thanksgiving. In 1941 the Congress officially named the day when Thanksgiving is celebrated.

1 When is Thanksgiving celebrated in the US?

- a) On the second Monday of January.
- b) On the third Saturday of May.
- c) On the fourth Thursday of November.

Thanksgiving traditions

The day is all about gratitude and friendship. Families across the country get together on Thanksgiving. People decorate their homes with corn cobs, cranberries and pumpkins. There are Thanksgiving parades in many cities and families watch football together, but the main event of the day is the Thanksgiving meal.

The meal often starts with everyone around the table giving thanks, telling who and what they are grateful for. During the meal people often break the turkey wishbone. The one who gets the larger piece of the bone gets to make a wish.

2 Which six dishes do people usually prepare for Thanksgiving?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> hot dogs | <input type="checkbox"/> sweet potato casserole |
| <input type="checkbox"/> roasted turkey | <input type="checkbox"/> mac and cheese |
| <input type="checkbox"/> cranberry sauce | <input type="checkbox"/> cornbread |
| <input type="checkbox"/> meatloaf | <input type="checkbox"/> apple pie |
| <input type="checkbox"/> mashed potatoes | <input type="checkbox"/> pumpkin pie |

3 The day after Thanksgiving the Christmas shopping season starts. It is the busiest shopping day of the year. What is the name of this day?

- a) Red Friday
- b) Black Friday
- c) White Friday

Canadian Thanksgiving

Canadians also celebrate Thanksgiving but they do it earlier, on the second Monday of October. Canadian Thanksgiving isn't about celebrating the harvest. Their thanksgiving started in the 16th century, and it was to thank God for keeping the early explorers safe. Today it's about spending time together with family and enjoying the good food of the season but in a more laid-back way as in the US.

2 Look for information online. Answer the questions.

1 How many turkeys are eaten in the USA on Thanksgiving?

2 What does the President of the United States do every year before the Thanksgiving dinner?

3 Which Disney character made his debut in 1934 in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City?

4 Black Friday is the day when people go shopping after Thanksgiving. The following Monday is also a sales day but online. What is this day called?

Thanksgiving Day

Ratkaisu

1

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White Friday

2

1 How many turkeys are eaten in the USA on Thanksgiving?

About 46 million turkeys.

2 What does the President of the United States do every year before the Thanksgiving dinner?

The US President officially pardons a turkey at the White House. It's been done since 1963 and people all over the USA watch it on TV.

3 Which Disney character made his debut in 1934 in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City?

Mickey Mouse.

4 Black Friday is the day when people go shopping after Thanksgiving. The following Monday is also a sales day but online. What is this day called?

Cyber Monday.

3

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