

PRIMARY PATHWAYS

Thanksgiving

Grade & Georgia Standard:

Kindergarten

SSKHI j. Identify the national holidays and describe the people and/or events celebrated: Thanksgiving Day.

Topic:

Understanding the people and events surrounding making Thanksgiving a national holiday.

Lesson Objective(s):

Students will be able to identify Thanksgiving and describe the people and/or events being celebrated during the national holiday.

Teaching Time:

45 minutes

Materials:

- [Image Reveal Tool](#)
- [Interactive Online Game](#)
- [Giving Thanks: How Thanksgiving Became A National Holiday-YouTube](#)
- GHS Thanksgiving Primary Source Set



Giving Thanks: How Thanksgiving Became a National Holiday

Author: Denise Kiernan

Published: 2022

Publisher: Philomel Books

Primary Sources



are eyewitnesses to history.

Example(s): diaries, letters, photographs

Secondary Sources



are the results of research.

Example(s): nonfiction history books

Introduction

Using the [Image Reveal Tool](#), students will guess what holiday they will be learning about today. Teacher will randomly select students to come up to the board to reveal a piece of the picture. Once the picture is revealed, students will discover they are learning about Thanksgiving. Teacher will explain they will learn about how Thanksgiving became a national holiday using primary sources.

Teacher Strategy (ACT): During the introduction, **contextualization** can be found, as the teacher presents the students with the primary source as part of the image reveal. **Active learning** will also be a part of this introduction, as students engage with the online interactive Image Reveal Tool to guess the holiday being learned.

Direct Instruction

Teacher will explain the difference between a primary source and secondary source before the read-aloud. Teacher will read aloud *Giving Thanks: How Thanksgiving Became a National Holiday*, highlighting the main people and events being celebrated during the holiday. Teacher will highlight primary sources throughout the read-aloud by sharing a large laminated copy of the primary sources to pass around the room for students to analyze more closely and discuss.

Teacher Strategy (ACT): During direct instruction, **contextualization** can be found, as the teacher uses a picture book and primary sources to grow students' understanding of the Thanksgiving holiday.

Student Strategy (SEE): During guided practice, **seeking multiple sources** can be seen as students look at multiple primary sources provided to them through the read-aloud.

Guided Practice

Teacher will review the Thanksgiving primary source set with the class again. As a whole class, students will review what they learned about Thanksgiving, primary sources, and secondary sources through playing an interactive online game. Teacher will randomly call on students to the board to answer the question. The rest of class will give a thumbs up or a thumbs down if they agree or disagree with the answer choice.

Teacher Strategy (ACT): During guided practice, **active learning** can be seen as the students play the interactive online game. Additionally, **contextualization** can be found as students review the Thanksgiving primary source set.

Student Strategy (SEE): During guided practice, **seeking multiple sources** can be seen as students look at the book as well as various types of primary sources provided to them. Additionally, students **engage critically** with the sources to find their three impacts.

Independent Practice

Teacher will conduct a brief interview-style check-in with each student about the learned content:

- Who helped make Thanksgiving a national holiday (**Abraham Lincoln**, George Washington)?
- Who helped promote Thanksgiving as a holiday (**Sarah Josepha Hale**, Betsy Ross)?
- Which is a primary source (textbook, **old letter**)?
- What does being thankful mean (**being grateful for what you have**, wanting everything you see)?

Teacher Strategy (ACT): This is an example of **thoughtful reflection**, as students take time to reflect on what they have learned.

Closure

Teacher will review the main concepts of Thanksgiving and the difference between primary and secondary sources. Then students will do a turn and talk with their neighbor and share one thing they learned today.

Student Strategy (ACT): This is an example of **engage critically**, as students take time to analyze information from their peers and share their own thoughts on what they learn.

With Support From



GEORGIA
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



FREE Self-Paced Online Course

Georgia Historical Society presents the *Teaching Challenging Histories: A Primary Source Approach* self-paced online course for teacher professional development. ***Unveiling the Past: Integrating Picture Books, Community Voices, and Archives in Teaching Challenging Histories*** will equip educators with strategies for supporting students in investigating complex topics using primary sources and picture books.





LIBRARY OF CONGRESS PRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS DIVISION

TITLE: THE FIRST THANKSGIVING 1621 / J.L.G. FERRIS.

Ferris, Jean Leon Gerome, Artist. The first Thanksgiving/ J.L.G. Ferris. Massachusetts, ca. 1932. Cleveland, Ohio: The Foundation Press, Inc. Photograph. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2001699850/>.

Teacher Note: A meal shared between the “Pilgrims” and the Wampanoag people in 1621 has become a source of imagination. Many artists have tried to capture what this gathering may have looked like. Jean Leon Gerome Ferris painted The First Thanksgiving in 1912, nearly 300 years after the event took place.



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS PRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS DIVISION
TITLE: [SARAH JOSEPHA HALE, BUST, FULL, FACSIMILE SIGNATURE]
Sarah Josepha Hale, bust, full, facsimile signature. , 1880. Photograph.
<https://www.loc.gov/item/2018653369/>.

Sarah Josepha Hale is famous for campaigning to make Thanksgiving a national holiday.

private

Philadelphia, Sept. 28th 1863.

Hon. Abraham Lincoln -

President of the United States

Sir. -

Permit me, as Editor of the "Lodge's Book", to request a few minutes of your precious time, while laying before you a subject of deep interest to myself and - as I trust - even to the President of our Republic, of some importance. This subject is to have the day of our Ann - at Thanksgiving made a National and fixed Union Festival.

You may have observed that, for some years past, there has been an increasing interest felt in our land to have the Thanksgiving held on the same day, in all the States; it now needs National recognition and authoritative fixation only, to become permanently, an American custom and institution.

Enclosed are three papers (being printed there on easily read) which will make the idea and its progress clear and show also the popularity of the plan.

For the last fifteen years I have set forth this idea in the "Lodge's Book", and placed the papers before the Governors of all the States and Territories - also I have sent them to our Ministers abroad, and our Ministers to the heathen - and commanders in the Army. From the recipients I have received, uniformly the most kind approval. Two of these letters - one from Governor (now General) Banks and one from

26699 -

ABRAHAM LINCOLN PAPERS AT THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

TITLE: ABRAHAM LINCOLN PAPERS: SERIES 1. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE. 1833-1916: SARAH J. HALE TO ABRAHAM LINCOLN, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1863 (THANKSGIVING)

Lincoln, Abraham. Abraham Lincoln papers: Series 1. General Correspondence. 1833 to 1916: Sarah J. Hale to Abraham Lincoln, Monday, Thanksgiving. 1863. Manuscript/Mixed Material.

<https://www.loc.gov/item/mal2669900/>

Philadelphia, Sept. 28th 1863

Honorable Abraham Lincoln

President of the United States

Sir.-

Permit me, as Editress of the "Lady's Book", to request a few minutes of your precious time, while laying before you a subject of deep interest to myself and - as I trust -- even to the President of our Republic, of some importance. This subject is to have the day of our annual Thanksgiving made a National and fixed Union Festival.

You may have observed that, for some years past, there has been an increasing interest felt in our land to have the Thanksgiving held on the same day, in all the States; it now needs National recognition and authoritative fixation, only, to become permanently, an American custom and institution.

Enclosed are three papers (being printed these are easily read) which will make the idea and its progress clear and show also the popularity of the plan.

For the last fifteen years I have set forth this idea in the "Lady's Book", and placed the papers before the Governors of all the States and Territories -- also I have sent these to our Ministers abroad, and our Missionaries to the heathen -- and commanders in the Navy. From the recipients I have received, uniformly the most kind approval. Two of these letters, one from Governor (now General) Banks and one from Governor Morgan are enclosed; both gentlemen as you will see, have nobly aided to bring about the desired Thanksgiving Union.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN PAPERS AT THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

TITLE: ABRAHAM LINCOLN PAPERS: SERIES 1. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE. 1833-1916: SARAH J. HALE TO ABRAHAM LINCOLN, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1863 (THANKSGIVING)

Lincoln, Abraham. Abraham Lincoln papers: Series 1. General Correspondence. 1833 to 1916: Sarah J. Hale to Abraham Lincoln, Monday, Thanksgiving. 1863. Manuscript/Mixed Material.

<https://www.loc.gov/item/mal2669900/>.



FARM SECURITY ADMINISTRATION -
OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION (LIBRARY OF CONGRESS)
TITLE:NEFFSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA. THANKSGIVING DINNER AT THE HOUSE OF EARLE LANDIS

Collins, Marjory, photographer. Neffsville, Pennsylvania. Thanksgiving dinner at the house of Earle Landis.
Neffsville Pennsylvania Lancaster County United States, 1942. Nov. Photograph.
<https://www.loc.gov/item/2017840721/>.



CARNEGIE MUSEUM OF ART, PITTSBURGH
 TITLE: GROUP PORTRAIT OF WOMEN AND MEN AT DINNER PARTY, SEATED FROM LEFT: LORENA WILLIAMS, SAMUEL J. MCCALL CARVING TURKEY, HELEN LAWRENCE; STANDING: CHARLES ROSS, ESTHER YOUNG, ATTY. JOSEPH GIVENS, ALICE FARRIS, GEORGE LAWRENCE, AND LEO MCTURNER, IN LAWRENCE HOME, ANOTHER VERSION



THE WHITE HOUSE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

TITLE: PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY RECEIVES THANKSGIVING TURKEY AT WHITE HOUSE
Cecil Stoughton. White House Photographs. John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, Boston

TITLE: FIRST OFFICIAL TURKEY PARDON

George Bush Presidential Library and Museum, National Archives and Records Administration

Teacher Note: According to the White House Historical Association, Presidents John F. Kennedy and Ronald Reagan, along with First Ladies Thelma "Pat" Nixon and Rosalynn Carter, pardoned Thanksgiving turkeys. However, the modern turkey pardon did not become an annual tradition until the George H.W. Bush administration.