

# Thanksgiving Trivia

Pilgrims, turkey, and football. Twenty questions about the history, traditions, and fun facts behind...

Name / Team: .....

Score: .....

**1** In what year did the Pilgrims celebrate the first Thanksgiving with the Wampanoag people?

- A. 1607
- B. 1620
- C. 1621
- D. 1630

**2** What ship brought the Pilgrims to Plymouth?

- A. The Santa Maria
- B. The Mayflower
- C. The Nina
- D. The Speedwell

**3** Which US President made Thanksgiving a national holiday?

- A. George Washington
- B. Thomas Jefferson
- C. Abraham Lincoln
- D. Franklin Roosevelt

**4** What Native American people helped the Pilgrims survive their first winter?

- A. The Cherokee
- B. The Wampanoag
- C. The Iroquois
- D. The Sioux

**5** Approximately how many turkeys are consumed in the US on Thanksgiving each year?

- A. 20 million
- B. 46 million
- C. 75 million
- D. 100 million

**6** What department store sponsors the famous Thanksgiving Day parade in New York City?

- A. Bloomingdale's
- B. Macy's
- C. Saks Fifth Avenue
- D. Nordstrom

**7** What day of the week is Thanksgiving always celebrated on?

- A. Wednesday
- B. Thursday
- C. Friday
- D. It varies

**8** What is the name of the day after Thanksgiving, known as the biggest shopping day of the year?

- A. Cyber Monday
- B. Black Friday
- C. Super Saturday
- D. Doorbuster Day

**9** What side dish made from bread is a staple of most Thanksgiving dinners?

- A. Rolls
- B. Cornbread
- C. Stuffing (dressing)
- D. Biscuits

**10** Which NFL teams traditionally play on Thanksgiving Day?

- A. The Cowboys and the Patriots
- B. The Cowboys and the Lions
- C. The Bears and the Packers
- D. The Steelers and the Ravens

**11** What is the wobbly red side dish made from a canned berry that divides Thanksgiving tables?

- A. Cranberry sauce
- B. Cherry gelatin
- C. Beet salad
- D. Lingonberry jam

**12** What president pardons a turkey each year at the White House?

- A. The Vice President
- B. The President
- C. The Speaker of the House
- D. The Secretary of Agriculture

## Thanksgiving Trivia

(continued)

**13** What was probably NOT served at the first Thanksgiving in 1621?

- A. Venison
- B. Corn
- C. Pumpkin pie
- D. Seafood

**14** Approximately how far does the average American travel for Thanksgiving?

- A. 50 miles or less
- B. 100 miles
- C. Over 200 miles
- D. 500 miles

**15** What Thanksgiving tradition involves breaking a bone for good luck?

- A. Cracking the drumstick
- B. Breaking the wishbone
- C. Snapping the turkey leg
- D. Splitting the breastbone

**16** What state produces the most turkeys in the United States?

- A. Texas
- B. North Carolina
- C. Minnesota
- D. Arkansas

**17** What is the name of the Wampanoag man who spoke English and helped the Pilgrims?

- A. Massasoit
- B. Powhatan
- C. Squanto (Tisquantum)
- D. Samoset

**18** What dessert is the most popular at Thanksgiving dinner?

- A. Apple pie
- B. Pumpkin pie
- C. Pecan pie
- D. Sweet potato pie

**19** What TV event after the parade is a Thanksgiving tradition for millions of families?

- A. The Rose Parade
- B. The National Dog Show
- C. The Spelling Bee
- D. The Yule Log broadcast

**20** Canada also celebrates Thanksgiving. When is Canadian Thanksgiving?

- A. The same day as the US
- B. The second Monday in October
- C. The first Thursday in November
- D. December 1

# Thanksgiving Trivia — Answer Key

**1. C 1621**

The first Thanksgiving feast was held in the autumn of 1621 at Plymouth Colony, about a year after the Pilgrims arrived on the Mayflower.

**2. B The Mayflower**

The Mayflower carried 102 passengers from England to Plymouth, Massachusetts, in 1620. The Speedwell was supposed to make the journey too but leaked too much.

**3. C Abraham Lincoln**

Abraham Lincoln proclaimed Thanksgiving a national holiday in 1863, during the Civil War, largely due to the campaigning of writer Sarah Josepha Hale.

**4. B The Wampanoag**

The Wampanoag people, led by Chief Massasoit, taught the Pilgrims how to grow corn, fish, and survive in New England. Squanto served as a translator and guide.

**5. B 46 million**

Americans eat about 46 million turkeys on Thanksgiving Day alone, making it the single largest day for turkey consumption in the country.

**6. B Macy's**

The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade has been held annually since 1924. It features giant character balloons, floats, and marching bands along a 2.5-mile route.

**7. B Thursday**

Thanksgiving is always on the fourth Thursday of November. This was set by Congress in 1941 after Franklin Roosevelt controversially moved it earlier to extend the shopping season.

**8. B Black Friday**

Black Friday got its name in the 1960s from Philadelphia police who used it to describe the chaotic crowds of shoppers and tourists the day after Thanksgiving.

**9. C Stuffing (dressing)**

Stuffing (called dressing in the South when cooked outside the bird) is made from seasoned bread and is one of the most iconic Thanksgiving side dishes.

**10. B The Cowboys and the Lions**

The Detroit Lions have played on Thanksgiving since 1934, and the Dallas Cowboys since 1966. A third game was added in 2006 featuring rotating teams.

**11. A Cranberry sauce**

Cranberry sauce, especially the canned cylinder variety, is a Thanksgiving staple. About 80 million pounds of cranberries are consumed during Thanksgiving week.

**12. B The President**

The presidential turkey pardon became an annual tradition under George H.W. Bush in 1989, though presidents had informally spared turkeys for decades before.

**13. C Pumpkin pie**

Pumpkin pie requires an oven, sugar, and flour, which the Pilgrims did not have. The first Thanksgiving likely included venison, wildfowl, corn, shellfish, and squash.

**14. C Over 200 miles**

Thanksgiving is the busiest travel period in America. Over 55 million Americans travel 50+ miles for the holiday, with the average trip being over 200 miles.

**15. B Breaking the wishbone**

Two people each grab one end of the turkey's furcula (wishbone) and pull. Whoever gets the larger piece is said to have their wish granted.

**16. C Minnesota**

Minnesota is the largest turkey-producing state, raising about 40 million turkeys per year. North Carolina and Arkansas are second and third.

**17. C Squanto (Tisquantum)**

Squanto (Tisquantum) had been kidnapped and taken to Europe years earlier, where he learned English. He returned to find his village wiped out by disease and became the Pilgrims' guide.

**18. B Pumpkin pie**

Pumpkin pie is the most iconic Thanksgiving dessert. Over 50 million pumpkin pies are sold in the weeks before Thanksgiving.

**19. B The National Dog Show**

The National Dog Show airs on NBC immediately after the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and has become a beloved viewing tradition for millions of families.

**20. B The second Monday in October**

Canadian Thanksgiving is the second Monday in October, about six weeks before the American holiday. It celebrates the harvest season and has similar traditions but a separate history.