Thanksgiving Day—U.S. National Holiday

A feast is a big, special dinner. We celebrate Thanksgiving in November. On Thanksgiving, we share food with family and friends. The American Indians and Pilgrims shared food. Millions of people visit their families for Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving does not represent one religion. Thanksgiving does not have special gifts. All people in America can celebrate Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is not just for U.S. citizens.

Thanksgiving is for everybody.

New words

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Thanksgiving Day—U.S. National Holiday (continued)

For many Americans, Thanksgiving is a day to say "thank you" for the good things in your life.

For many Americans, Thanksgiving is a special time to share food with family and friends.

Did you have Thanksgiving dinner with an American family?

Did Thanksgiving surprise you?



Pumpkin pies and Thanksgiving dinner at the home of Mr. Timothy Levy Crouch, a Rogine Quaker living in Ledyard, Connecticut, in 1940. Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-USF34-042712-D.

Food, Food, Food

Discuss the questions with your teacher and classmates.

Do you like American food?

What American food was new to you?

What food do you miss from your country?

What special foods do you eat for special days?



One of the Crouch children looking to see if the "pudd'n" is ready for their Thanksgiving dinner. Ledyard, Connecticut, November 1940. Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-USF34-042422.

Turkeys and Pies



President Harry S. Truman receives a Thanksgiving turkey at the White House on November 16, 1948. Courtesy of the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum.



Thanksgiving turkey. Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-DIG-ggbain-11155.



Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-DIG-thc-5a48461.



Thanksgiving, 1919. Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-DIG-ggbain-00888.

Indian Pudding Recipe

- 3/4 cup yellow cornmeal
- 4 cups milk
- 1/2 cup molasses
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 2 tablespoons butter, melted
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ginger
- 1/2 cup milk
- Preheat oven to 300° F.

Indian Pudding is a traditional Thanksgiving dessert from Massachusetts.

- 1. Heat 4 cups of milk in a heavy sauce pan until tiny bubbles form around the edges of the milk.
- 2. Slowly blend in cornmeal and cook for 20 minutes, stirring often until thickened.
- 3. Butter a 2-quart baking dish. Combine molasses, beaten eggs, melted butter, salt, cinnamon, and ginger. Stir into milk and cornmeal mixture. Pour into baking dish.
- 4. Pour 1/2 cup milk into the baking dish, over the top of the mixture. Do not stir. Put baking dish in oven.
- 5. Bake for 2 hours. Remove from oven. Serve the Indian Pudding with vanilla ice cream or whipped cream.

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