

Summarizing Thanksgiving

10/6/2022 Length of Class: 50 minutes Level: High Intermediate/Advanced

Class ESAL 0570_02: There are 12 students in this class. Students come from a wide variety of nationalities and cultures.

Objective: S will learn to summarize articles. S will learn new vocabulary based on the topic of Thanksgiving.

Time	Stage	Aim	Problem/Solution	Procedure	Interaction	Material
20'	Read And Discuss	S will read an articles and discuss with their group what they thought was important	Some S may take control of the group conversation. T: circulate and make sure everyone is providing input.	1. Tell S they will be reading articles in a group and will discuss after everyone has read it. 2. arrange S into groups 3. hand out articles (one type of article per group)	T -> S explanation - S reading - SSSS discussion	Articles printed
20'	Summarization	S will have to summarize their article to others who were given diff. articles.	Time is limited so make sure everyone has a chance to summarize their article. S may try just rereading the article, encourage students to try summarize for their classmates.	1. Re-explain objective to S 2. count students ABCD in their group and move them into same letter groups. 3. Explain S are to summarize what they read and give a short/breif explanation of what their article was trying to say.	T -> S explanation - S speaking/summary - SSS discuss	*Q may be displayed during this stage in order to give students clues on what to discuss.
10'	Questions	After summarization Q will be put on the board to get students to think critically.	S may get off topic, allow unless not conducive to learning.	1. Display questions onto the screen. 2. Give S a few minutes to discuss their questions 3. Ask Ss what their group thought.	T -> S question SSS discussion S-> T answer	Q displayed via ELMO

Article 1: The History of Thanksgiving in Canada Where did the tradition come from? By: Alison Nagy - Oct 4 ,2018

Thanksgiving weekend. For many, this long weekend really kicks off the autumn season. People across the country will spend it raking leaves, harvesting, shutting down the family cabin, and hopefully eating a delicious meal surrounded by friends and family. But where did this tradition come from?

In 1621, the pilgrims at Plymouth Plantation, Massachusetts, held the first Thanksgiving in North America, giving thanks for the end to a drought and a bountiful harvest. Without the help of the Wampanoag, who shared planting, hunting, and fishing knowledge and techniques, the pilgrims would have died. Some records say the first official Thanksgiving likely predates this event by around fourteen years.

But let's try again — we're thinking of our neighbours to the south.

Believe it or not, Thanksgiving in Canada, or at least the land that would become Canada, has its own history, separate from our American counterparts.

Traditions of giving thanks long predate the arrival of European settlers in North America. First Nations across Turtle Island have traditions of thanksgiving for surviving winter and for receiving crops and game as a reward for their hard work. These traditions may include feasting, prayer, dance, potlatch, and other ceremonies, depending on the peoples giving thanks.

When it comes to European thanksgivings in Canada, we have a few tales to tell.

As the story goes, in 1578, English explorer Martin Frobisher and his crew gave thanks and communion was observed, either on land at Frobisher Bay, in present day Nunavut, or onboard a ship anchored there. The explorers dined on salt beef, biscuits, and mushy peas and gave thanks through Communion for their safe arrival in then Newfoundland. This is now accepted as the first "Canadian" Thanksgiving, forty-three years before the first "American" Thanksgiving.

Forty-eight years later on November 14, 1606, inhabitants of New France under Samuel de Champlain held huge feasts of thanksgiving between local Mi'kmaq and the French. Though not known at the time by the settlers, cranberries, rich in vitamin C, are credited with helping avoid scurvy. The neighbouring Mi'kmaq likely introduced the French to cranberries, or as they called them, *petites pommes rouges* (little red apples).

Champlain's feasts were more than an annual affair. To prevent the scurvy epidemic that had decimated the settlement at Île Sainte-Croix in past winters, the *Ordre de Bon Temps* (Order of Good Cheer) was founded, offering festive meals every few weeks. Medical treatises recommended better nutrition (more food) and entertainment to combat scurvy.

However, despite this history of uniquely Canadian thanksgivings, our modern concepts of Thanksgiving were influenced by our American neighbours. Foods that are associated with a "traditional" Thanksgiving, such as North American turkey, squash, and pumpkin, were introduced to citizens of Halifax in the 1750s by the United Empire Loyalists, who continued to spread this "traditional" fare to other parts of the country.

Today Canadian Thanksgiving is held on the second Monday of October every year, or at least it has been since Canadian Parliament declared it so on January 31, 1957. Before this, Thanksgiving in Canada had been held sporadically, often coinciding with other major events and anniversaries.

In 1879, Thanksgiving was officially declared a national holiday to be held on November 6th.

The most recent date change to the second Monday in October was largely a result of the first and second world wars, which we officially remember each year on November 11, Remembrance Day. This was so that the two holidays would not fall on the same weekend.

As Thanksgiving in Canada has historically been celebrated on several different dates, it is fitting that, even though it is observed on Monday, families are equally as likely to celebrate on Saturday or Sunday.

Most Canadians embraced the change of date to October, since that period better coincides with the actual completion of harvest in much of the country.

Parliament officially declares Thanksgiving as "a day of general thanksgiving to almighty God for the bountiful harvest with which Canada has been blessed." While this mandate for Thanksgiving may not be observed by all Canadians in its entirety, the ideas of being thankful, of spending time with family, and sharing a delicious meal still remain.

Article 2: Thanksgiving

By: BritishCouncil.org

Every autumn, Canadian and American families gather for a day centred around community, food and giving thanks – the day of Thanksgiving. Where did this holiday come from and how is it celebrated today?

The history of Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving combines the traditions of different groups of people. Travellers and migrants brought different religious traditions from Europe to the United States and Canada. Several celebrations are claimed as the first Thanksgiving. The best known is the celebration held by the pilgrims in what is now Plymouth, Massachusetts after their journey across the Atlantic Ocean on the famous Mayflower ship. Like the pilgrims, many groups held days of prayer, fasting or feasting to give thanks for successfully making the long boat journey. Later, settlers celebrated their successful harvest in a new land by holding feasts with their Native American neighbours. Over time, the Canadian and American traditions have become similar and developed into the modern holiday of Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving today

In Canada, Thanksgiving is celebrated on the second Monday in October. In the United States, it is on the fourth Thursday in November. Although its origins are religious, today, Thanksgiving is a largely secular holiday. For most Americans and Canadians, it is a day for coming together with family and friends to share a large meal. It is an occasion to spend time with loved ones and express gratitude for the year that has passed. In many households there is a tradition of everyone seated at the table sharing what they are most grateful for.

Thanksgiving food

Thanksgiving is also about food. Thanksgiving dinner traditionally includes roast turkey, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce and, for dessert, apple, pumpkin or pecan pies. Every family has its own recipes, sometimes secret recipes handed down through generations. Turkey, a bird native to North America, is the unofficial mascot of Thanksgiving, with roast turkey on the menu and turkey decorations on the wall. In the United States, a tradition of gifting turkeys to the President has more recently evolved into a humorous turkey 'pardoning'. At this light-hearted ceremony, the President issues an official pardon for one or two turkeys, saving them from being cooked for supper.

More than food: football, parades and traffic jams!

Beyond food and gratitude, there are some unexpected sides to the American and Canadian holiday. One of these is football. This popular sport is an important part of the holiday, when families gather around to cheer on local or national teams. American football and Canadian football are both similar to rugby, played primarily not with the feet but with the hands.

Parades are another common part of the festivities. In the United States, the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade takes place in New York City on the morning of Thanksgiving. It's one of the world's largest parades and is broadcast nationwide. A similar Thanksgiving parade happens in Canada as part of the Kitchener–Waterloo Oktoberfest, a multi-day autumn festival.

Unfortunately, heavy traffic is also common at Thanksgiving. In both countries, the week of Thanksgiving is one of the most popular travel times of the year, as everyone heads home to visit their extended family. So try to avoid any road trips if you're visiting North America during this holiday!

Article 3: Thanksgiving's roots in Canada can be found in Indigenous cultures and food, chef says. With the holiday's colonial undertones, 'there's a lot of appropriation with food'

By: Thandiwe Konguavi - Oct 11, 2021

Edmonton chef Scott Iserhoff hasn't always felt conflicted about Thanksgiving.

Like many Canadians, the holiday meant gathering with family and a turkey feast with trimmings. But as Iserhoff grew older, the founder of an Edmonton-based culinary business focusing on Indigenous food became more aware of the holiday's history.

It became increasingly difficult to ignore the holiday's colonial undertones: stories of the first pilgrims in the United States who were greeted by Indigenous people with dinner and help to survive — but also stories of the celebration of the ensuing slaughter of Indigenous people and taking of land, he said.

"I think now is the time to take that back," said Iserhoff, a Mushkego chef from Attawapiskat First Nation, located on the western shore of James Bay in northern Ontario.

His business, Pei Pei Chei Ow, offers guests the opportunity to learn about contemporary Indigenous food while also tasting bannock, stews and other dishes.

"Everything that's included in Thanksgiving, it's all Indigenous food," Iserhoff said. "You got the squash, you got the tubers, the potatoes, the mashed potatoes, the turkey, the corn ... they were here before settlers came, and that was a food source of ours."

Food 'appropriation' at Thanksgiving

Giving thanks and celebrating the harvest and changing seasons are also part of Indigenous cultures, he said.

But Indigenous contributions to Thanksgiving traditions are largely ignored today, Iserhoff said.

"Exploring food, there's a lot of appropriation with food, and a lot of people overlook that and turn it into being inspired," he said.

Critics are challenging magazines that publish features about Thanksgiving dinner with no representation of Indigenous chefs, Iserhoff said. "They're calling them out, and I think this is the time to do so. If there were more chefs doing it, we could see a change in narrative eventually."

Canadian Thanksgiving started in 1859 when Protestant leaders called on the colonial government to create a day for giving thanks.

As many Canadians gather this weekend to enjoy a feast with loved ones, some Indigenous households are reclaiming the holiday and practising Indigenous gratitude instead.

It's common for young Indigenous people to feel some discomfort toward Thanksgiving, said Jacqueline Romanow, who is Métis from the Red River Settlement area and chairs the Indigenous studies department at the University of Winnipeg.

"It supports the myth that this land was discovered. It creates this idea that the Indigenous people here just simply handed over everything to the new sort of arrivals, that there was no conflict, that it was a very peaceful and happy encounter — which, in fact, is the exact opposite of what happened," she said.

"Over half the children in care are Indigenous children. They're not going to be enjoying those feasts. I guess you can say it's like rubbing salt in the wound."

Like Iserhoff, Romanow says she believes that Thanksgiving should be reclaimed.

"Indigenous culture is so strong and powerful, and ... as Indigenous people — rather than just simply reject this sort of colonial idea of Thanksgiving — we have our own things to be thankful for, including our culture, our children, our families," she said.

"And obviously, feasting is really important. Sharing food is pretty fundamental to relationships in Indigenous communities, and it will still continue."

'One of the three founding nations'

Like the growing movement in the U.S. to replace Columbus Day — which happens to fall on Canada's Thanksgiving Day — with Indigenous Peoples' Day, Romanow said Thanksgiving in Canada should also be a time of recognizing First Nations.

On Friday, U.S. President Joe Biden issued the first presidential proclamation of Indigenous Peoples' Day, the most significant boost yet to efforts to re-focus the federal holiday.

Canada marked its first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on Sept. 30, an annual commemoration honouring the children who died while attending residential schools and those who are still affected by the legacy of the system.

But Romanow said residential schools are just a small part of what's happened to Indigenous people in Canada.

"I think that if the Canadian government is really sincere about changing the relationship with Indigenous Canadians, that this would be a start, that it isn't just Thanksgiving ... thanking Indigenous people and recognizing them, quite frankly, as one of the three founding nations of this country."

References:

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Critical Thinking Questions

1. Why do Canadians celebrate Thanksgiving?
2. How do Canadians usually celebrate Thanksgiving?
3. How has the food served during Thanksgiving changed over time?
4. Why do Indigenous people feel different about celebrating Thanksgiving?
5. Are you going to celebrate Thanksgiving? How?