

 **THANKSGIVING**© talkmor.com**A2–B1 • Reading and Vocabulary****Read the text. You do not need to celebrate Thanksgiving to discuss it.****Thanksgiving in the United States**

In the United States, Thanksgiving is celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November. Many people meet family members or friends and share a special meal. Foods may include turkey, potatoes, vegetables, corn, bread, and pumpkin pie, but menus vary. Some people travel long distances to be together. Others volunteer, watch parades or American football, or enjoy a quiet day at home. A common part of the holiday is expressing gratitude: noticing people, experiences, and opportunities that matter to us.

The holiday's history is more complicated than the familiar picture of a happy meal between English colonists and Native people. A harvest gathering took place at Plymouth in 1621 and included English colonists and Wampanoag people, but surviving accounts are limited. Indigenous communities had their own traditions of giving thanks and celebrating harvests long before Europeans arrived. Colonization brought land loss, violence, and lasting harm to many Native communities. Today, people understand and observe Thanksgiving in different ways; some Native people mark it as a National Day of Mourning.

A. Vocabulary in context

1. A tradition is a custom repeated over time. Write one tradition from the text.
2. What does gratitude mean?
3. In this text, what does colonization refer to?
4. Find a word that means “not noisy or busy.”

B. Check your understanding

1. On what day of the week is Thanksgiving celebrated in the United States?
2. Name three activities people might do on Thanksgiving.
3. Why does the text say the familiar story of 1621 is incomplete?
4. How might people's experiences of Thanksgiving differ?

C. Discuss with a partner

1. Why can a holiday mean different things to different people?
2. How can we learn about history while respecting people affected by it?

Teacher's Key

1 Answers vary. 2 Being thankful. 3 European control and settlement that harmed Indigenous communities. 4 quiet.

B: 1 Thursday. 2 Any three listed activities. 3 Surviving accounts are limited and the wider colonial history is often left out. 4 Traditions, family situations, cultural views, and historical experiences differ.