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Thanksgiving Trivia

75 questions · 8 rounds · 2026 edition

Split into teams of 4-6. Read each question twice and allow 30 seconds. One point per answer. The host answer key starts after the last round, so tear it off before you hand the pages out.

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Round 1: The first Thanksgiving

What actually happened at Plymouth in the autumn of 1621.

1. In what year was the harvest feast now called the first Thanksgiving?

2. Which ship brought the Pilgrims to America in 1620?

3. Who attended the 1621 feast?

4. How long did the first Thanksgiving last?

5. Where was it held?

6. What were the main dishes at the first Thanksgiving?

7. Which foods were almost certainly not on the 1621 menu?

8. Did the Pilgrims call their feast "Thanksgiving"?

Round 2: Thanksgiving history

Presidents, proclamations and the woman who lobbied for 17 years.

9. Which president issued the first national Thanksgiving proclamation, in 1789?

10. Which president made Thanksgiving an annual national holiday, in 1863?

11. Which magazine editor campaigned for 17 years for a national Thanksgiving?

12. In what year did Congress fix Thanksgiving as the fourth Thursday of November?

13. What was "Franksgiving"?

14. Which state was the first to adopt Thanksgiving as an annual holiday, in 1817?

15. When did the presidential turkey pardon become an official annual ceremony?

16. Which president spared a Thanksgiving turkey in 1963, saying "We'll just let this one grow"?

17. Which founding father refused to declare a national Thanksgiving while president?

18. True or false: Benjamin Franklin formally proposed the turkey as the national bird.

Round 3: Turkey and Thanksgiving food trivia

The Thanksgiving dinner round, from the turkey to the leftovers.

19. About how many turkeys do Americans eat on Thanksgiving?

20. Which U.S. state raises the most turkeys?

21. Which company created green bean casserole in 1955?

22. Which invention came from a surplus of 260 tons of leftover Thanksgiving turkey in 1953?

23. How much did the world's largest pumpkin pie weigh?

24. What is the tradition with the turkey's wishbone?

25. Can wild turkeys fly?

26. What is a male turkey called, and what is a female called?

27. What sound does only a male turkey make?

28. Which U.S. state grows the most cranberries?

29. Which U.S. state grows the most sweet potatoes?

30. Which pie do Americans most often name as their favorite Thanksgiving dessert?

31. Which day is the busiest of the year for plumbers?

Round 4: Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade trivia

2026 is the 100th parade. Here is how it started.

32. In what year was the first Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade?

33. What did the first parade feature instead of giant balloons?

34. Which character was the first giant balloon, in 1927?

35. Why is the 2026 parade the 100th, not the 103rd?

36. Which character has appeared as a parade balloon more times than any other?

37. Who was the first video game character to get a parade balloon, in 1993?

38. About how long is today's parade route?

39. In what year was the parade first broadcast on national television?

40. Which city holds the oldest Thanksgiving Day parade in the U.S.?

Round 5: Football and pop culture

Thanksgiving on TV, from the Lions to the Peanuts gang.

41. In what year were the first NFL games played on Thanksgiving?

42. Which NFL team has hosted a Thanksgiving game almost every year since 1934?

43. Which other team has hosted a Thanksgiving game every year since 1978?

44. When was the first college football game played on Thanksgiving?

45. In what year did *A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving* first air?

46. Which *Friends* episode is a flashback to every character's worst Thanksgiving?

47. In *Friends*, which character gets a turkey stuck on their head?

48. Which 2013 animated movie features two turkeys traveling back in time to take turkey off the menu?

49. Which 1987 comedy stars Steve Martin and John Candy trying to get home for Thanksgiving?

50. Which 18-minute Arlo Guthrie song is a Thanksgiving radio tradition?

Round 6: Unusual Thanksgiving traditions

Holiday traditions from Thanksgiving weekend: turkey trots, a pet raccoon and a town that postponed the holiday.

51. Which Connecticut town postponed Thanksgiving in 1705 because it had no molasses for pumpkin pies?
-
52. Which pet was President Calvin Coolidge sent to eat for Thanksgiving, but kept instead?
-
53. What is "Blackout Wednesday"?
-
54. Which city runs the oldest continuously held footrace in North America, a Thanksgiving turkey trot?
-
55. Where does the president usually hold the turkey pardon?
-
56. What is the horn-shaped basket overflowing with fruit and vegetables that symbolizes the Thanksgiving harvest?
-
57. What is "Friendsgiving"?
-
58. Which Saturday Night Live comedian first performed "The Thanksgiving Song" in 1992?
-
59. Which Australian territory celebrates Thanksgiving, a tradition brought by American whalers?
-

Round 7: Thanksgiving around the world

Harvest festivals and days of thanks from Canada to Korea.

60. When is Canadian Thanksgiving, and what date is it in 2026?
-
61. What is the Korean harvest festival where families honor their ancestors and share food?
-
62. What is the German harvest festival of thanks called?
-
63. Which West African country celebrates the harvest festival Homowo?
-
64. Which Indian harvest festival is celebrated in January, especially in Tamil Nadu?
-
65. Which Caribbean country celebrates Thanksgiving on October 25?
-
66. In Japan, what holiday on November 23 thanks workers?
-
67. Which African country, founded by freed American slaves, celebrates Thanksgiving in November?
-

68. Which harvest festival in China and Vietnam is celebrated with mooncakes?

Round 8: True or false and multiple choice

Fast tiebreakers. Read the options out loud.

69. Multiple choice: In what year did the first Thanksgiving take place? (a) 1620 (b) 1621 (c) 1622 (d) 1623

70. Multiple choice: How long did the first Thanksgiving last? (a) 1 day (b) 2 days (c) 3 days (d) a week

71. Multiple choice: What was the main meat at the first Thanksgiving? (a) Turkey (b) Venison (c) Ham (d) Lobster

72. True or false: Thanksgiving has always been on the fourth Thursday of November.

73. True or false: Canada celebrates Thanksgiving before the United States.

74. True or false: The Macy's parade has never been canceled.

75. True or false: Farm-raised turkeys can fly.

Host answer key

Keep this page away from the players.

Round 1: The first Thanksgiving

1. 1621. The first Thanksgiving feast was a three-day harvest celebration at Plymouth Colony.
2. The Mayflower, with 102 passengers. About half died in the first winter, so only around 50 Pilgrims were left for the first Thanksgiving celebration.
3. About 50 English colonists and roughly 90 Wampanoag men led by Massasoit. The Wampanoag are the Native American tribe whose land the Pilgrims had settled on.
4. Three days.
5. Plymouth Colony, in present-day Massachusetts.
6. Venison and wild fowl, with fish, corn and squash.
7. Pumpkin pie, mashed potatoes and cranberry sauce.
8. No. To them a day of thanksgiving was a religious day of prayer, not a feast.

Round 2: Thanksgiving history

9. George Washington. He declared Thursday, November 26, 1789, a day of public thanksgiving.
10. Abraham Lincoln, during the Civil War. In 1863 he declared Thanksgiving a national holiday on the last Thursday of November.
11. Sarah Josepha Hale, who also wrote "Mary Had a Little Lamb."
12. 1941.
13. Franklin D. Roosevelt's 1939 move of Thanksgiving a week earlier to lengthen the holiday shopping season.
14. New York.
15. 1989, under George H. W. Bush.
16. John F. Kennedy.
17. Thomas Jefferson. He believed a presidential day of prayer mixed church and state.
18. False. He praised the turkey over the bald eagle in a letter to his daughter, but never proposed it as the national bird.

Round 3: Turkey and Thanksgiving food trivia

19. Around 46 million.
20. Minnesota.
21. Campbell Soup Company.
22. The Swanson TV dinner, which turned leftover turkey into a frozen tray meal.
23. 3,699 pounds, baked in New Bremen, Ohio, in 2010.
24. Two people pull it apart, and whoever gets the bigger piece gets their wish (or good luck).
25. Yes. Wild turkeys can fly in short bursts at up to about 55 mph. Farm-raised turkeys are too heavy.
26. A tom (or gobbler), and a hen.
27. The gobble. Female turkeys don't gobble; they cluck, purr and yelp.
28. Wisconsin. A pound of fresh cranberries holds roughly 440 berries.
29. North Carolina.
30. Pumpkin pie.

31. The day after Thanksgiving, sometimes called "Brown Friday."

Round 4: Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade trivia

32. 1924.

33. Live animals borrowed from the Central Park Zoo, plus floats and bands.

34. Felix the Cat.

35. The parade was canceled from 1942 to 1944 during World War II.

36. Snoopy.

37. Sonic the Hedgehog.

38. About 2.5 miles, from the Upper West Side to Macy's Herald Square. It starts at 8:30 a.m. on Thanksgiving morning.

39. 1948.

40. Philadelphia. Its parade, started by Gimbels department store in 1920, is the oldest Thanksgiving parade in the country.

Round 5: Football and pop culture

41. 1920, the league's first season.

42. The Detroit Lions.

43. The Dallas Cowboys.

44. 1876, between Princeton and Yale.

45. 1973. Snoopy and Woodstock serve a Thanksgiving dinner of toast, popcorn, pretzels and jelly beans.

46. "The One with All the Thanksgivings."

47. Monica.

48. *Free Birds*.

49. *Planes, Trains and Automobiles*.

50. "Alice's Restaurant."

Round 6: Unusual Thanksgiving traditions

51. Colchester.

52. A raccoon, which he named Rebecca.

53. The night before Thanksgiving, one of the busiest bar nights of the year.

54. Buffalo, New York, since 1896.

55. At the White House, often in the Rose Garden.

56. A cornucopia, or "horn of plenty."

57. A Thanksgiving meal shared with friends instead of family, usually on a different day.

58. Adam Sandler.

59. Norfolk Island.

Round 7: Thanksgiving around the world

60. Canadian Thanksgiving is celebrated on the second Monday in October. In 2026 it is October 12.

61. Chuseok.

62. Erntedankfest.

63. Ghana.

64. Pongal.

- 65. Grenada.
- 66. Labor Thanksgiving Day (Kinrō Kansha no Hi).
- 67. Liberia.
- 68. The Mid-Autumn Festival.

Round 8: True or false and multiple choice

- 69. (b) 1621.
- 70. (c) 3 days.
- 71. (b) Venison.
- 72. False. Lincoln set it as the last Thursday; Congress fixed the fourth Thursday in 1941.
- 73. True. Canadian Thanksgiving is in October.
- 74. False. It was canceled from 1942 to 1944.
- 75. False. Wild turkeys can, but farm-raised turkeys are too heavy.

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