

Name:

Date:

AMERICAN VS. CANADIAN THANKSGIVING

The United States and Canada have many traditions in common when it comes to Thanksgiving. Food, family time, and giving thanks are some of them. However, there are some traditions in Canada that are quite different than that of the American celebration.

Both Canada and the United States keep **thankfulness** at the center of their celebrations. Families and friends gather together for meals and reflect on all of their blessings. Both nations prepare meals of turkey, stuffing, potatoes, cranberry sauce, and pumpkin pies. Americans and Canadians alike enjoy watching football on Thanksgiving. They both also use decorations such as cornucopias, pumpkins, corn, wheat sheaves, and other harvest items. In addition, both have parades with floats and performances to celebrate the day.



A typical Thanksgiving will include a turkey.

This is largely where the similarities end. In the United States, Thanksgiving is held on the fourth Thursday in November. It is observed in all fifty states. Most people get a four-day weekend (Thursday-Sunday) to celebrate. Many people also have their Thanksgiving meals on Thursday. The holiday's **origins** root back to the Pilgrims' first successful harvest in 1621 after coming to America on the *Mayflower* in 1620.

In Canada, Thanksgiving is observed on the second Monday in October. This is because Canada is farther north. That makes the harvest earlier for them. It is not actually a national holiday, as it is optional in some provinces. For those who do **observe** the holiday, they get a three-day weekend on Saturday through Monday. Most Canadians have their Thanksgiving meals on either Sunday or Monday. The holiday began as a religious feast to give thanks for a plentiful harvest. The first Canadian Thanksgiving was celebrated in 1578, a whopping 43 years before the Pilgrims even landed in Plymouth!

In the United States, Thanksgiving is also associated with massive shopping and sales. Stores typically offer large discounts and open early on Friday morning. People will line up for hours to be the first ones through the doors to get "doorbuster" sales. This day is called Black Friday. More recently, Cyber Monday has been introduced, as well, where huge sales take place online. Canada, however, does not typically have these massive sales surrounding their Thanksgiving celebration. That being said, Canadians happily participate in the American Black Friday and Cyber Monday events.

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Directions: Read the passage. Then, answer the questions. When finished, use your answers here to help you color the mystery grid.

1ST READ QUESTIONS

1	Which is NOT a similarity between the American and Canadian Thanksgiving?	They both celebrate thankfulness. LIGHT GREEN	Both celebrate Thanksgiving as national holidays. LIGHT BLUE	Both celebrate with large meals. WHITE
2	“The holiday’s origins root back to the Pilgrims’ first successful harvest...” Which best states the meaning of origins as used in the sentence above?	The first stage of existence ORANGE	The last of its kind BLUE	The result of the first Thanksgiving RED
3	What is the meaning of the word observe as used in the passage?	To see, watch, or notice RED	To state by way of comment ORANGE	To celebrate LIGHT BROWN
4	Which best states the original reason for the holiday of Thanksgiving?	To eat lots of food with those you love RED	To celebrate a successful harvest ORANGE	To show thankfulness for a great year BLUE
5	Which statement best describes the main idea of the passage?	Thanksgiving in America is celebrated the same way as Thanksgiving in Canada. LIGHT BROWN	Thanksgiving is a time to give thanks for all that we have. ORANGE	While there are many similarities between Thanksgiving in America and Canada, there are also differences. DARK BROWN

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6	<p>In the passage, the author states, "However, there are some traditions in Canada that are quite different than that of the American celebration."</p> <p>Which detail from the passage supports this statement?</p>	<p>"Families and friends gather together for meals and reflect on all of their blessings."</p> <p>ORANGE</p>	<p>They "have parades with floats and performances to celebrate the day."</p> <p>BLUE</p>	<p>"The first Canadian Thanksgiving was celebrated in 1578."</p> <p>RED</p>
7	<p>Using the affixes to help you, which best states the meaning of the word thankfulness as used in the passage?</p>	<p>The state of being full of thanks</p> <p>DARK BROWN</p>	<p>To thank everyone who may have helped you</p> <p>RED</p>	<p>To be filled with affection</p> <p>LIGHT BROWN</p>
8	<p>Which type of text structure is this passage written in?</p>	<p>Cause & Effect</p> <p>ORANGE</p>	<p>Compare & Contrast</p> <p>LIGHT BROWN</p>	<p>Problem & Solution</p> <p>BLACK</p>
9	<p>What do you think was the author's purpose of writing the passage?</p>	<p>To entertain the reader with stories about Thanksgiving</p> <p>YELLOW</p>	<p>To persuade the reader to start celebrating Thanksgiving</p> <p>LIGHT BLUE</p>	<p>To inform the reader about the similarities and differences between two countries who celebrate Thanksgiving</p> <p>BLACK</p>
10	<p>Which conclusion could you draw about Black Friday based on the information in the passage?</p>	<p>People believe that Black Friday takes away from the true spirit of Thanksgiving.</p> <p>DARK BROWN</p>	<p>Black Friday is a popular day for people to get holiday shopping done.</p> <p>YELLOW</p>	<p>Black Friday is a day celebrated by all Americans.</p> <p>LIGHT BLUE</p>

