

HOLIDAYS AND TRADITIONS IN ENGLISH SPEAKING COUNTRIES

THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving is a **national holiday** celebrated in the **USA, Canada**, Liberia and some Carribean countries on the **fourth Thursday of November**.



The WEDNESDAY before

Millions of people **travel to see their families** because they want to spend thanksgiving together. **Airports are full, flights are late, the roads are packed with cars**, there is **traffic jam** everywhere. This part is usually not much fun.

Thanksgiving THURSDAY

Morning: The **turkey goes to the oven** and the cook prepares a big meal. In some families, **each person brings a different dish**, so there is **a lot of food**. 90% of Americans have turkey on Thanksgiving. Turkeys hate Thanksgiving!



Around 10am: The **parades** start. The most famous parade is **the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York**. (Macy's = New York's famous department store) There are **a lot of marching bands** and **floats** (alegorické vozy s maskami) and balloons that look like cartoon characters. You can watch it on television.



Around 4pm: The **big Thanksgiving dinner** starts. **Turkey, mashed potatoes, cranberry sause** and other goodies are on the table.

All afternoon: On Thanksgiving, **the National Football League (NFL)** teams play. There are two or

three games. **Everyone** is so **stuffed with turkey** that they often fall asleep in front of TV – except the person who has to do the dishes!

Black Friday

On Friday There is more American Football. This time the amateur university league teams play. But **the biggest event**. On Friday is not football, it is **shopping**. The Friday after Thanksgiving is when the **Christmas shopping season begins**. There are **big sales in every shop**. So meanwhile the men are home watching football, the **ladies are shopping, shopping, shopping!** This day is called **Black Friday**, because all the stores will be „in the black“ (=in the black numbers/to have money in the bank= být v plusu).

History

The first Thanksgiving was in 1621, when **the Pilgrim fathers** (the first English religious [riliđžs]settlers (křesťanští kolonisté)/ colonists) **had a big festival to celebrate their first good harvest** (sklizeň/ úrodu). The local Native Americans came



too, and the party lasted for three days. Now that is a Thanksgiving.

TASK I

Match each Thanksgiving activity to the correct day. Which activities are extra?

Wednesday	Thanksgiving	Black
Before	Thursday	Friday

- a) Roast a turkey b) Pick apples c) Travel home
d) Shop for Xmas presents e) Watch American football on TV
f) Go Trick or Treating g) Go to the Macy's parade



TASK II

Talk about Thanksgiving When do people celebrate it? How? Why?
What do people do the day before/ on Thanksgiving Day/ on so called Black Friday?

OTHER SPECIAL OCCASIONS PEOPLE CELEBRATE

All Saints' Day Christmas Easter Father's Day Halloween
Mother's Day New Year's Eve St Nicholas's Day
Valentine's Day etc.

People in GB and USA celebrate **Christmas** on the **25th of December**. They decorate their Xmas trees, the evening before Xmas, on the **24th (so called Xmas Eve)**, they have Xmas dinner together with their family, Xmas **turkey, in the morning** of the 25th they unwrap/**open presents**.

Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday after the first spring full moon.

People celebrate **the resurrection of Jesus**, it is a Christian/ **religious holiday**, Abroad noone whips/ beats women like in the Czech Republic, **children have Easter hunts**, they look for hidden **chocolate eggs and bunnies**, **people go to churches**, all people have fun.

On **Mother's or Father's Days** children give presents or thank you cards to their parents. Mother's Day is celebrated on the 12th May, Father's on 16th June.

Valentine's Day is celebrated **on the 14th of February**. In the Czech Republic it is rather a commercial day, when shops sell flowers and little red souvenirs. Abroad people send cards and messages to people they love. **You can secretly send a card to a person you love, signed only „Yours, Valentine“**. In some countries, Halloween is also known as All Saint's Eve/ Den Svatých/Dušičky.

VOCABULARY

Superstition = pověra	an oven [ovn]= trouba
Superstitious = pověřčivý	packed with = přeplněný
To celebrate = oslavovat	sales = slevy/výprodeje
Celebration = oslava	stuffed [staft]= přečpaný
To wrap/ unwrap [rép]= zabalit/rozbalit	harvest = sklizeň/ úroda
To decorate the Xmas tree = zdobit stromeček	instead of throwing them away=
To spend lots of money = utratit kopu peněz	místo toho aby se vyhodily
On Xmas Day/ At Xmas = o vánocích	sunflower = slunečnice
To wear a costume = mít na sobě kostým	coal = uhlí
Fancy dress = maškarní kostým	pumpkin = dýně
A fancy party = maškarní	to carve [kár]v]= vyřezávat
Mashed potatoes [mešt]= bramborová kaše	carved = vyřezaný
Turkey = krocan	candles = svíčky
Cranberry sauce = brusinková omáčka	sundown = západ sluníčka
Parade = průvod	to pass on/ pass away = zemřít
Is celebrated on.. slaví se v..nějaký den	turnip = tuřín
Traffic jam = dopravní zácpa	wandering = bloudící
Resting place = místo k odpočinku	lantern [lent@'n]= lucerna

HALLOWEEN

Halloween is a **national holiday**, a Celtic festival first celebrated in **Ireland, Scotland** and the Isle of Man, later in **most Christian** [kryščn](křesťanský) **countries**, on the **31st of October**.

Jack-o'-lantern

For many people in North America, it is difficult to imagine Halloween without **pumpkins carved into jack-o'-lanterns**. The tradition has its roots in the **Celtic holiday at the end of the Celtic year** which started at sundown on October the 31st and ends at sundown on November 1st. This was **the time to honour [anr] all loved ones that had passed out** (na počest všech milovaných, co zemřeli).

The traditional jack-o'-lantern was carved from **turnips and burning coal** was put inside for light. Those lanterns **were put on porches** [póřčí] veranda **or in windows to welcome the spirits of deceased ones** [dysíst] zesnulých but also **to protect against bad spirits**. When the first European [juropíjen] settlers came to America, **they found pumpkins larger and easier to carve**. Since that time, **candles have replaced coal** and the pumpkin jack-o'-lantern is still the most important symbol of Halloween.

The origins of the name

An Irish legend tells of a **farmer called Jack, who managed to catch the devil** and made him **promise that he would never take Jack into hell**. When Jack died, **he was not accepted to heaven**, but because of the devil's promise, **he couldn't go to hell either**. So **he had to endlessly wander the Earth**. As he needed light, he carved out a turnip, put a candle inside it, and began his wandering and **searching for a resting place**. He is **known as Jack of the Lantern** or Jack-o'-lantern.

Or maybe, another story is, the term jack-o'-lantern originally meant [ment] simply **a night watchman** (a person who guards a place at night), or man with a lantern. Later, it also referred to the natural light sometimes seen over marshes [máršís] močály – wet muddy grounds - at night.

Funny pumpkin facts

- You can salt and roast pumpkin seeds (like sunflower seeds) instead of throwing them away.
- Pumpkins are traditionally carved with triangle noses like Michael Jackson. That is why some people call them Jacko Lanterns.
- In Britain „pumpkin“ is a slang word for a person with red hair, equivalent to „carrot/top“ in America.





TASK I

Retell the story of Jack-o'-lantern

How did people celebrate Halloween in the old times?

What do they do now?

What is the origin of the holiday? Why do people celebrate it?

Do you know any other popular holidays?

PHRASES

Flights are late. Lety jsou zpožděny.
Roads are packed with cars. Silnice jsou přeplněné auty.
The cook prepares a big meal. Kuchař připraví velké jídlo.
Each person brings a different dish. Každý člověk přinese jiný pokrm.
Americans celebrate Thanksgiving on the fourth Thursday in November.
Američani slaví Díkuvzdání čtvrtý čtvrtek v listopadu.
The biggest event of the day is shopping. Největší událost dne je nákup.
There are big sales. Jsou tu velké slevy/ výprodeje.
The day is called Black Friday. Dnu se říká Černý pátek.
It is celebrated on the 14th of February. Slaví se 14. února.
People decorate Christmas trees. Lidé zdobí vánoční stromečky.
It was carved from turnips. Byly vyřezané z tuřínu.
These lanterns were put on porches. Tyto lucerny byly položeny na terasu.
Burning coal was put inside. Dovnitř bylo dáno hořící uhlí.
They were put into windows to protect from bad spirits. Byly dané do oken, aby chránily proti zlým duchům.
Despite the legend.. navzdory legendě
They found pumpkins larger and easier to carve. Považovali dýně za větší a jednodušší k vyřezávání.
You can salt them and roast. Můžete je osolit a opéct.
An Irish legend tells of.. Irská legenda vypráví o..
A person who guards a place at night. Člověk, který chrání místo v noci.



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PUMPKIN SOUP

A recipe

Match

Put the instructions
Into correct order,
match them with
the pictures.



Eat the soup with garlic bread
and sour cream, (soya sauce) etc.

Fry them all in a pan until it starts
to smell nice in the kitchen

Slice [slájs] the vegetables
(potatoes, carrots, pumpkin,
onion and a clove of garlic)

Season with salt, pepper, soup
herbs, maggi cube etc.

Put it into a pot with a litre of
boiling water and boil until the
vegetables are tender/done

Mix it to make the soup thick

Podobný postup jako u bramboračky



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