



Student A - Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is a popular celebration in Canada and the US. In both countries, it's a time to celebrate the **harvest** and say thanks for all the good things in life. In the US, it is also a time when people celebrate the arrival of British **pilgrims**, who crossed the ocean to start a new life during the 17th century.

In Canada, people celebrate Thanksgiving on the second Monday of October, but in the US it takes place over a month later, on the fourth Thursday of November. People say that Canadians celebrate Thanksgiving earlier than Americans because they are further north and so the autumn harvest happens earlier.

To celebrate Thanksgiving, families meet together and prepare a delicious **feast**, often with roast turkey and **pumpkin** dishes. In both countries, there are also sports events and **parades** which many people watch. As it was originally a religious celebration, many people also go to church and it's common for families to share what they are thankful for as they sit around the dinner table.

Black Friday, which is celebrated the day after Thanksgiving in the US, is a day when shops have incredible **discounts** on lots of products. Originally just a US tradition, now shops around the world celebrate Black Friday.

Activity 1

Share what you read about Thanksgiving with your partner and then decide if these statements are about Thanksgiving or Loi Krathong or both.

1. It's celebrated on a different date each year
2. Many people watch a football match on the same day as the celebration
3. People light candles as part of the celebration
4. People watch parades
5. On the next day, many people go shopping
6. It was originally a religious celebration

Activity 2

Read the definitions below to your partner and write the words they tell you.

Then, listen to your partner's definitions and tell them the correct word **in bold** from your text.

1. Objects which are made by people, not machines
2. An activity people do when they sit quietly and think about life
3. Men who are very religious and live in a religious group
4. The part of a tree growing out from the ground
5. An adjective meaning rubbish won't have a bad effect on the environment
6. Aromatic material, often burned for religious celebrations

Student B - Loi Krathong

Loi Krathong is a festival which takes place every autumn in Thailand. It's celebrated on the same day as the full moon in November and is a celebration of the end of the rainy season in the country.

In some areas of Thailand, the celebration lasts for five days with different events happening, such as donations to local **monks**, shows with traditional dance and music, fireworks and street markets with local **handicrafts**.

The festival has religious origins and it's a time when people give thanks to the water spirits for the rain they sent. For religious groups, it's also a time of **meditation**.

Part of the celebration involves making a *loi krathong* to send down the river. The *loi krathong* can be made from banana tree **trunk**, plants or bread. Unfortunately, many people make them with plastic which is bad for the environment as they aren't **biodegradable**. As people send their *loi krathong* down the river, they make a wish. Some people also put a little bit of their hair or a fingernail in the *loi krathong* as they believe this helps them release their negative thoughts. They also put a candle, three **incense sticks** and often a coin on the *loi krathong*.

Activity 1

Share what you read about Loi Krathong with your partner and then decide if these statements are about Thanksgiving or Loi Krathong or both.

1. It's celebrated on a different date each year
2. Many people watch a football match on the same day as the celebration
3. People light candles as part of the celebration
4. People watch parades
5. On the next day, many people go shopping
6. It was originally a religious celebration

Activity 2

Listen to your partner's definitions and tell them the correct word **in bold** from your text. Then, read the definitions below to your partner and write the words they tell you.

1. Money off items, either in shops or online
2. The time of year when farmers collect vegetables and other plants
3. A large orange vegetable, often used during Halloween celebrations
4. A big meal, with lots of delicious food
5. People who travel a long distance, sometimes for a religious belief
6. Events involving people walking in the streets, often with music and costumes