

## Holiday History

### Thanksgiving

#### Outline:

1. Sound building with classic stereotype thanksgiving.
2. Actual history behind origin
3. Modern day traditions surrounding the holiday
4. Interview students about thanksgiving (INTEGRATED THROUGHOUT)
  - a. What things do you think of when I say Thanksgiving?
  - b. What is the history of Thanksgiving?
  - c. How do you celebrate Thanksgiving? (Traditions)
  - d. What do different members of your family do during Thanksgiving?
  - e. What do you eat/ what is your favorite food?

-Mimie  
-Hannah  
-Wil's Dad  
-Eli  
-Mike(?)  
-Frau Becker

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#### Script:

1621. A cold autumn morning, but the bustling of communion between the surviving members of the Mayflower and the local Wampanoag tribe cuts through the crisp air. They share a feast in joyous harmony, celebrating each other's company and traditions. With the Native Americans lending a hand to the struggling colonists, the bountiful harvest is enjoyed and thanks are given for the blessing in their lives

- INCLUDE CLIPS FROM INTERVIEWS

Hate to break it to you, but this idealized meeting between foreign pilgrims and the Native Americans stems from continuous erasure of the Native American experience. But I don't blame you - from popular media such as Charlie Brown [AUDIO CLIP] to Macy's

Commented [1]: copyright issues?

Thanksgiving Day Parade [AUDIO CLIP?], the American public has been taught a flawed history of Thanksgiving.

I'm Kayla Gaerte for Holiday History. Today we'll be visiting the glutinous American Thanksgiving - the history, traditions, and more.

- INCLUDE CLIPS FROM INTERVIEWS

Thanksgiving happens on the 4th Thursday of every November and is a staple American holiday, but as mentioned before, the real "Thanksgiving" wasn't all smooth sailing. The primarily accepted *first* Thanksgiving was a celebratory feast for the first successful corn harvest organized by Governor William Bradford. Inviting Native American allies, including the Wampanoag chief Massasoit, a pact was created between the two groups.

But after years of white immigration into Wampanoag lands and the introduction of numerous diseases which decimated the tribe's population, the fragile agreements of the feast shattered into the beginnings of a war.

After the execution of two Native American murderers, Wampanoag warriors responded by embarking on a series of raids, prompted the New England Confederation of Colonies to declare war in 1675. Led by Massasoit's son, Metacomet, Springfield, Massachusetts was in flames.

Once the Wampanoag were defeated by the white settlers, Metacomet's head was placed on a spike on display for 25 years after in Plymouth. Talk about holiday centerpieces.

So how does one of the most loved American holidays go from war to turkey? It all has to do with what Americans believe Thanksgiving to be. We don't think about the cultural conflicts because we would rather be celebrating and eating way too much food.

- INCLUDE CLIPS FROM INTERVIEWS

From family dinner to the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, this November holiday is well known for feel-good family fun. We have our traditions that seem so distant from the holiday's origin, but the answer lies in American society. One major factor includes the sociological aspects, one of which is the fact that Thanksgiving serves to reinforce gender roles.

- INCLUDE CLIPS FROM INTERVIEWS

Think about it - commonly it's the women cooking the meal and the men playing football or carving the turkey. While not applicable to every home, the holiday provides another avenue for people to feel satisfied with social norms. Another thing to consider is the idea of overindulgence. What's more American than excess? Overeating and abundance have pride associated with them, but especially on this holiday. The overall experience of Thanksgiving could be called an American rite of passage and is most definitely a celebration of our culture. So with all things considered, the societal importance of Thanksgiving overshadows the historical bloodshed.

- INCLUDE CLIPS FROM INTERVIEWS

And now the big question: what's for dinner? The original Thanksgiving served a large list of things:

- Turkey was served and other fowl such as geese, duck, and swans.
- Five deer, courtesy of the Wampanoag.
- Vegetables like onions, beans, lettuce, spinach, cabbage, potatoes, carrots and corn.
- Fruits included blueberries, plums, grapes, gooseberries, raspberries, and a fruit still found on our Thanksgiving tables today: cranberries.

**Commented [2]:** can you phrase questions in such a way (subtly) to find out whether this happens with Carmel students? Maybe you could send out a google form to the station to get some real data?

- Seafood such as lobster, bass, clams and oysters might also have been part of the feast.

Today's most common foods fall close to the original flavors. Mashed potatoes, green beans, stuffing, turkey, cranberry sauce, corn, rolls, mac and cheese, ham. My mouth is watering just thinking about it all. Part of the fun includes personal family traditions...

- INCLUDE CLIPS FROM INTERVIEWS

I hope you enjoyed your bite-sized lesson over Thanksgiving. So now when you're around the dinner table with the family you see once a year, you can tell them what really went down four hundred years ago in Plymouth.

Holiday History was brought to you by Kayla Gaerte for 91.3 WHJE.

**Commented [3]:** looks good - this could be fab with some quality interviews - give yourself plenty of time for this and try to have a variety of subjects - not radio kids, some adults etc

Cain, Áine. "The True Story behind Thanksgiving Is a Bloody Struggle That Decimated the Population and Ended with a Head on a Stick." *Business Insider*, Business Insider, 20 Nov. 2017, [www.businessinsider.com/history-of-thanksgiving-2017-11](http://www.businessinsider.com/history-of-thanksgiving-2017-11).

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