

Video Teaching Notes: Report Units 10–12

Thanksgiving

Report Summary

Topic: The Report is about the American holiday of Thanksgiving. It gives information about the history of Thanksgiving, and how people celebrate it today.

Preparation: Ask some questions, *What's your favorite national holiday? How do you celebrate it? Do you know of any national holidays in different countries? What are they?*

Check students understand these words: *decorations, ornament, pumpkin, squash, stuffing* (food), *sweet potato, turkey*

Background: Macy's Thanksgiving's Day Parade is a famous institution in the American calendar. It's an annual parade given by the department store Macy's for Thanksgiving. The tradition started in 1924 and it's one of the most famous parades in the U.S. There are parades, marching bands, famous guests, live music, colorful costumes, and thousands of balloons. The route of the parade has changed over the years but it always takes place in Manhattan. The parade finishes with the arrival of Santa Claus to mark the beginning of the Christmas season. More than 44 million people watch the parade on television every year.

Before You Watch

Read the questions with the class and elicit answers from individual students.

ANSWER

Students' own answers.

Comprehension Check

- Watch the Report. Choose the correct answers.
Pre-watching: Go through the questions with the students.
 - When do the American people celebrate Thanksgiving?
 - How do the American people celebrate Thanksgiving?
 - What do the McGrath family usually do on Thanksgiving?



Play the whole Report. Students choose the correct answers. Check their answers with the Comprehension Check.

ANSWERS

2. c 3. b

- Watch the Report again. Put the statements in the order you hear.
Pre-watching: Ask students to number the statements in the order they hear. Check their answers.



Play the Report again to check answers. Pause after each statement.

ANSWERS

- In the U.S., people say that the tradition comes from what they call "the first Thanksgiving."
- Today, people in the U.S. imitate this first Thanksgiving every year.

- There's something for everyone to do and it's important that the entire family helps each other.
- Katie is in the kitchen, and she's preparing the traditional Thanksgiving meal.
- At the end of the meal, when no one can eat anything else, everyone relaxes.
- Watch the Report again. Circle T (true) or F (false).
Pre-watching: Ask students to read the statements and circle T (true) or F (false) before watching the Report again.



Play the Report again to check answers. Pause after each statement.

ANSWERS

2. T 3. F 4. T 5. T

- Watch the Report again. Complete the summary with the words below.
Pre-watching: Ask students to read the summary and write the words before watching the Report again.



Play the Report again to check answers. Pause after each statement.

ANSWERS

2. 1621 3. England 4. day 5. turkey 6. pumpkin

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY Draw the chart below on the board. Elicit some suggestions for the third column and practice saying them with the class. Divide the class into pairs. Each student completes their own grid and takes turns to practice making statements with their partner. When they have finished, students share some of their ideas. Write the best ones on the board.

I'm My uncle is My brother is That girl is Our neighbour is My cousin is	someone who	speaks Italian. has a mustache. works in the corner store. ...
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Language Check

- Look at the chart.
Then watch the Language Check.

Indefinite pronouns: *something, nothing, and anything*

There's **something** for everyone to do

At the end of the meal, when no one can eat **anything** else, everyone relaxes.

Relative clauses: *who*

... a group of religious pilgrims, **who** sailed to America from England, had a huge feast.

Pre-watching: Review the grammar points by writing *something, nothing, and anything* on the board. Make statements with the words e.g. *I saw something outside the window*. Remind students that we use *something* and *nothing* in affirmative statements and *anything* in

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questions and negative statements. Practice with more statements.

Revise relative clauses with *who* by writing a prompt on the board and eliciting the answer from the class, e.g. *My friend has a brother who ... (rides a motorcycle)*. Practice with more statements. Remind students that you can also use that when talking about people.



Play the Language Check and pause when examples of the language appear. Ask students to listen and repeat.

6. Complete the statements with *something*, *nothing*, or *anything*.

Ask students to complete the statements with *something*, *nothing*, or *anything*.

Go through the answers with the class.

ANSWERS

2. nothing 3. something 4. anything 5. something
6. nothing

7. Match the statement halves.

Ask students to match the statement halves.

Go through the answers with the class.

ANSWERS

2. c 3. b 4. f 5. a 6. d

About You!

8. Answer the questions about you.

Read the questions with the class and elicit answers from individual students.

ANSWER

Students' own answers.

SCRIPT

Every year, on the fourth Thursday of November, families all over the United States celebrate Thanksgiving. People usually spend the day with their families, eating lots of food and taking part in a variety of celebrations. But where does this tradition come from?

In the U.S., people say that the tradition comes from what they call "the first Thanksgiving."

In 1621, some of the earliest settlers in the United States – a group of religious pilgrims who sailed to America from England – had a huge feast. They wanted to celebrate their successful harvest and invited the local Native Americans, who helped them catch and grow food.

Today, people in the U.S. imitate this first Thanksgiving every year. Like the original pilgrims, they take the day off work, invite family and friends to their homes, and share a large meal. It's a traditional American holiday.

Ron: It's uniquely American, Thanksgiving. It's the most American holiday

Susan: It's my favorite holiday because everybody celebrates it, I can invite anybody to my house for Thanksgiving that might not have a place to go. And the other thing is it has nothing to do with religion, it has to do with America, and celebrating the fruits of harvest and everything else that we are thankful for on that day.

The McGrath family are getting ready for their Thanksgiving dinner. There's something for everyone to do, and it's important that the entire family helps each other.

Kevin and his mom Katie are setting the table. They decorate the table with special Thanksgiving ornaments that they make themselves. They also put up homemade decorations all over the house.

Once the decorations are ready, it's time to start cooking! Katie is in the kitchen, and she's preparing the traditional Thanksgiving meal. She's making mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, squash, and stuffing for the most important part of the meal – the turkey.

When the meal is almost ready, the guests start arriving. They wish each other a happy holiday and chat about the year.

For the next few hours, everyone sits down, eats, and talks to each other. When the main course is over, it's time for dessert, and almost everyone's favorite Thanksgiving dessert is pumpkin pie – a delicious tart made from pumpkin.

At the end of the meal, when no one can eat anything else, everyone relaxes.

Like many celebrations, Thanksgiving has a lot of different traditions.

Mark: One of the traditions we have is of course Thanksgiving is we have the parade in the morning, so we get to watch that, and in the afternoon there are football games so that's always great to sit down and watch your favorite team playing football on Thanksgiving.

The day ends with all the family together. It's a perfect chance to enjoy each other's company and share memories of past Thanksgivings.

John: My favorite Thanksgiving memory ... in 1986 my father took my brother and I into New York City for the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade, and so we got to see all the floats, and the balloons, and everything like that. It was really great.

But most of all, it's a chance to leave everyday problems behind and give thanks for the year that's passed.

Mary: Forget the traffic, forget how many calories we're going to eat that day. We'll fix that problem tomorrow. But the joy of just being together and stopping what you're doing, from life, from your iPads to all your electronics. It's just nice to sit and talk on the couch. We never have that opportunity.