

November 26

First National Thanksgiving Proclamation

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The Pilgrims in the Colonies first celebrated Thanksgiving in 1621, giving thanks for the abundant food supply and help from their new friends the Native Americans. Another Thanksgiving in 1777 celebrated victory over the British.

President George Washington issued a proclamation in 1789, calling for "Thursday, 26 November next, [to] be a day of public thanksgiving and prayer." He called upon everyone to give thanks for the successful end of the war; for the new government; for the tranquility, the union, and the plenty enjoyed by all. President Washington directed citizens to plead for continued blessings upon the country and its people.

This proclamation was apparently lost for over 100 years. It is believed that it was probably left behind when the government moved from New York to Washington DC, or that it was mixed in with some other papers and discarded. It was located at an auction sale in a New York art gallery and was bought for \$300. It is now preserved and housed in the Library of Congress in Washington DC.

Response

In what way might this proclamation have influenced the date of our traditional Thanksgiving?

Fascinating Factoid: The magazine editor, Sarah Josepha Hale, was instrumental in getting President Lincoln to establish a national Thanksgiving holiday.

Word Play

Make an acrostic by placing letters in the blanks before and/or after the letters in *Thanksgiving*. The words you use should relate to Thanksgiving.

T _____
 _____ **H** _____
 _____ **A** _____
_____ **N** _____
 _____ **K** _____
 _____ **S** _____
 _____ **G** _____
 _____ **I** _____
 _____ **V** _____
 _____ **I** _____
 _____ **N** _____
 _____ **G** _____

Other Events This Day

- First lion exhibited in America (1716)
- First meteor photograph (1885)



Activities

- Write about the things you are thankful for in your life, and write about the things you should be thankful for because you are an American.
- Write a menu for your ideal Thanksgiving dinner. Choose one item and explain how it is prepared.

Word Play Answer Key *(cont.)*

November Answers *(cont.)*

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14. naturally
15. orally
16. penicillin
17. quill
18. rally
19. silly
20. tally
21. usually
22. valley
23. willow
24. no word for x
25. yellow
26. zillion

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1. Wayne, Wayne, go away and come again another day.
2. Jamaica good grade on your test?
3. Anita ride to school.
4. Juana come out and play?

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Answers will vary.

Possible Answers:

T U R K E Y
T H A N K S
C R A N B E R R I E S
S T U F F I N G
P U M P K I N S
Y A M S
G R A T I T U D E
F E A S T I N G
G R A V Y
P I L G R I M S
C O R N
G I V I N G

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dynamite

detonator

Other answers will vary.

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1. \$9,500
2. \$14,500
3. \$14,500
4. \$24,000
5. \$14,500

6. \$29,000

7. \$21,000

8. \$19,500

9. \$22,500

10. \$18,000

11. \$ 4,500

12. \$13,000

13. \$13,000

14. \$22,500

15. \$17,500

16. \$16,000

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George—volleyball

Jenny—softball

Tommy—basketball

Mary—soccer

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Sam

Missouri

Iowa

articles

steamboat

Twain

name

entitled

down

novels

storytelling

grew

when

newspaper

river

December Answers

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Answers will vary.

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1. Corning
2. Company
3. poured
4. temperature
5. Fahrenheit
6. diameter
7. telescope

8. mold

9. months

10. California

11. conventional

12. astronomers

13. before

14. operational

15. world

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Answers will vary.

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1. no—H

2. custom—S

3. first—A

4. always—A

5. yummy—S

6. traditional—S

7. custom—S

8. giving—A

9. there—H

10. came—A

11. plentiful—S

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Answers will vary.

Page 168

Answers will vary.

Page 169

1. day
2. work
3. other
4. by
5. to
6. in

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1. firey
2. jewelery
3. restuarant
4. supersede
5. calander
6. foriegn
7. useage
8. twelvth
9. potatos
10. existance