

Thanksgiving



Ideas Collected by
Jean Roberts
With Thanks to
Primary Teachers Everywhere!

Thanksgiving Poems

The Turkey Shuffle

To the tune of Turkey in the Straw (sort of!):

You shuffle to the left, *(2 steps to left)*
You shuffle to the right, *(2 steps to right)*
You heel and toe *(stick out right heel, then point right toe)*
And scratch with all your might. *(scratch like a chicken with right foot)*
You flap your turkey wings, *(thumbs under armpit, flap bent arms)*
And your head goes bobble, bobble. *(nod head twice)*
You turn around and then you say, *(turn around)*
Gobble, gobble, gobble!

Turkey, turkey
Gobble, gobble.
Eat too much and
Waddle, waddle.



One Fat Turkey

One fat turkey went strutting by
He shook his feathers and winked his eye,
He flapped his wings and his head gave a wobble,
And he looked at me and said "Gobble, gobble, gobble!"

Turkey Time

Thanksgiving Day will soon be here.
It comes around but once a year.
If I could only have my way,
We'd have Thanksgiving every day!

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is a special time
When we should stop and think
About the good things in our lives
Besides the food and the drink.

We're thankful for our homes and friends
And loving families.
There's much more to Thanksgiving Day
Than "pass the turkey, please."

Albuquerque Turkey

(sung to the tune of "Clementine")

Albuquerque is a turkey
And he's feathered and he's fine
And he wobbles and he gobbles
And he's absolutely mine.
He's the best pet that you can get..
Better than a dog or cat.
He's my Albuquerque turkey
And I'm awfully proud of that.

He once told me , very frankly,
He preferred to be my pet,
Not the main course at my dinner,
And I told him not to fret.
My Albuquerque turkey
Is so happy in his bed,
'Cause for our Thanksgiving dinner...
We had scrambled eggs instead.

The Albuquerque Turkey can be changed to the name of your town, if you wish. You can also brainstorm favourite foods to substitute in the last line.

I met a turkey gobbler
When I went out to play.
"Mr. Turkey Gobbler,
How are you today?"
"Gobble, gobble, gobble,
Thanks I can not say,
Don't ask me such a question
On Thanksgiving Day!"

Thanksgiving's A Wonderful Thing

"My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean)

My uncle is eating the drumstick,
My auntie is chewing the wing,
My cousin is nibbling the stuffing,
Thanksgiving's a wonderful thing.

My daddy loves candied potatoes,
My mother, the cranberry ring,
My brother is covered with gravy,
Thanksgiving's a wonderful thing.

Colours

Pumpkin orange and roast turkey brown
Are Thanksgiving colours all over town
With corn pudding yellow, cranberry red,
Salad green, and golden bread.
Look out the window and you will see
Thanksgiving colours upon the trees.
I wonder how the trees are able
To have colours like a
Thanksgiving table!

A time for hoping...
for the best.
May all people soon be free.

A time for sharing...
what we have.
That's how it's meant to be.



Turkey

Turkey in the barnyard,
What does he say?
Gobble,
Gobble,
Gobble,
Gobble all day.

Turkey on the table,
What do you say?
Yummy,
Yummy,
Yummy,
Yummy all day.

Turkey in my tummy,
What do I say?
I
ate
too
much
turkey
ON THANKSGIVING DAY!



Turkey Trouble

We cooked turkey nice and hot,
nice and hot, nice and hot.
We cooked turkey nice and hot,
on Thanksgiving Day!

We eat turkey a whole lot,
a whole lot, a whole lot.
We eat turkey a whole lot,
on Thanksgiving Day!

The turkey is a funny bird
Its head goes bobble-bobble;
And all he knows is just one word...
And that is GOBBLE-GOBBLE!

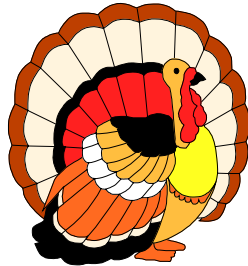
My name is Tom Turkey
I'm afraid as I can be.
I'm wearing my disguise
So you won't catch me.

Thankful Poem

There are many things I am thankful for,
I can find them near and far.
There are many things I am thankful for,
Let me tell you what they are.
I am thankful for the sun.
I am thankful for the trees.
I am thankful for my friends.
And I'm thankful to be me!

My Turkey

I have a turkey, big and fat
He spreads his wings
And walks like that
His daily corn he would not miss
And when he walks,
He sounds like this,
Gobble, Gobble, Gobble!



Thank You

Thank you are the words we say
Not just on Thanksgiving Day
Thank you are two magic words
Say them loud so they are heard!

Gobble Says the Bird

If You're Happy and You Know It
Gobble gobble, gobble gobble
says the bird
Gobble gobble, gobble gobble
says the bird
Mr. Turkey gobble gobbles
And his feet go wobble wobble
Gobble gobble gobble gobble
Says the bird.

Mr. Turkey

I am Mr. Turkey,
Big and fat.
On my tail are feathers,
What do you think of that?
When I walk I wobble,
And when I talk I gobble!

Turkey Dance

Let's talk turkey!
What a walk it's got...
Strut about, strut about,
Do the turkey trot!

Let's be thankful for this day
For our friends and for our play
Let's give thanks for you and me
And our home and family .

Five Little Turkeys

Five little turkeys standing at the door,
One waddled off, and then there were four.
Four little turkeys sitting near a tree,
One waddled off , and then there were three.
Three little turkeys with nothing to do,
One waddled off, and then there were two.
Two little turkeys in the morning sun,
One waddled off, and then there was one.
One little turkey better run away,
For soon it will be Thanksgiving Day.

The 12 Hours of Thanksgiving

"On the _____ hour of Thanksgiving,
my mother made for me:
12 tasty turkeys, 11 luscious lobsters, 10 bags
of popcorn, 9 squares of cornbread, 8 bowls
of berries, 7 ears of sweet corn, 6 cups of
green peas, 5 pumpkin pies, 4 buttered yams,
3 cooked clams, 2 mugs of milk and a scoop of
vanilla ice cream!"

Thanksgiving Art

Corn Paintings

Let children use corncobs and/or husks from corn to paint with. When the corn cob is dipped into paint and then rolled on paper it makes interesting patterns. Cut the cob across and dip in paint - it makes a flower pattern!



Turkey Tracks

"Paint each child's hand. Paint the palm brown. Paint the thumb yellow. Paint each finger a different colour (red, orange, brown, etc.). Help the child print his/her hand on paper with the fingers and thumb outstretched. Allow to dry and then add details with markers.

Add an eye, beak, and wattle to the head (thumb). Add details to the feathers (fingers). Add a wing to the body (palm). Add a wing to the body (palm). Add feet beneath the turkey's body. *Gobble - Gobble - Gobble!*"

A Cornucopia of Thankfulness

"Hang a paper cornucopia on the bulletin board. Have the children draw a picture of something they are thankful for. You might want to brainstorm ideas first—food, parents, their bike... If need be, label it for them. Hang the pictures around the cornucopia."

Coffee Filter Turkeys

Do a project for Thanksgiving using coffee filters. Fold the filter in half, then in half again. The children take markers and colour pie-shaped stripes from the point to the outer edge in bright colours (not black or brown). Colour heavily and brightly. Next, dip the folded filter into a shallow pan of water. Leave it in about 5 seconds. Unfold the filter and lay it on newspaper to dry. It will dry quite quickly. Cut away one quarter of the filter. The filter makes the tail, so the missing quarter is downwards and centered.

Make the body, head and legs out of brown paper and attach them to the filter which makes the feathers. When hung in the window the tails are like suncatchers.

<http://www.kinderplans.com/content.cfm?pageid=176>

Thanksgiving Quilts

"I do a Thanksgiving quilt. Each child gets a square with a border around it and a design. On a couple of the rectangles he prints things he is thankful for. The rest of the pattern is coloured brightly. When the squares are put together it is attractive!"

Turkey Tails

"I do this every year! I made the front view of a turkey, about 2 and a half feet tall, and I put it in the middle of a bulletin board. I've laminated this so I can use it year after year. I send home a cut paper feather (I get two out of one piece of 9 x 12 construction paper) with a note telling parents to help their child decorate this feather. Anything goes....colours, markers, paint, fabric, buttons, beans, real feathers, etc. I also tell them they can glue it to a piece of cardboard to make it stronger, if necessary. Then as the kids bring them back, I put them up around my turkey for the tail. It always turns out so interesting and colourful.

"Have the student draw a picture or write something they are very thankful for and put those on the turkey tail. You could trace each child's foot (without the shoe on...but with the sock on...) and the toes become the top of the feather... then decorate or write on these for the tail feather."

Go to

<http://www.first-school.ws/activities/crafts/animals/birds/turkeyhands.htm>
to find turkey templates that you can print to make with handprints for the tails.

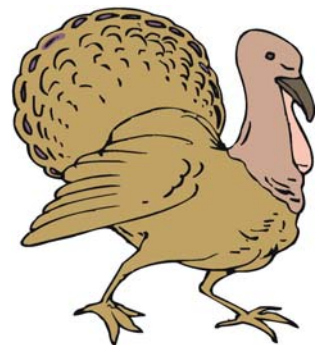
"Paint the child's hand three different colours. Paint brown on the palm, red on the fingers and orange on the thumb. The palm is the body of the turkey, the fingers are the feathers and the thumb is the beak. Print these on yellow construction paper. When they are dry add a beak and feet."

Thanksgiving Quilts

"Brainstorm a class list of things for which your students are thankful. Give each student with a 9" by 9" square of coloured felt. Have students create an interesting autumn or Thanksgiving quilt square. They can draw and cut out pictures or they can bring items from home including photographs. They could choose to cut out words or phrases using felt and fabric scraps. Encourage students to be as creative and inventive as possible. When each student has completed their quilt square you can sew it together or use fabric glue to adhere it to a large piece of felt or burlap. Children will enjoy the quilt all year long!"

Thanksgiving Turkey

"Stuff a brown lunch bag with scrap paper so that it appears full. Lay the bag on its side. Twist tie the bag closed leaving about an inch left to the top of the bag. This becomes the turkey's tail. Fold the opening of the bag back towards the twist tie and glue or staple brightly coloured construction paper tail feathers on this part. The part that is normally the bottom of the bag becomes the chest of the turkey. Fold a piece of red construction paper and place the beak/wattle part of the head on the fold. I added a little extra space at the neck to make tabs. Fold the tabs back and glue to the chest part of the paper bag. Add paper feet to the bottom. These make great centerpieces for the Thanksgiving table!"



Thanksgiving Dinner

"As a class we brainstormed a list of foods you have on Thanksgiving. I drew a simple picture of the food and we wrote the word next to it.

"In the computer lab (although you could have them hand write this) each child typed a list of the foods they wanted to put on their plates.

"Back in the classroom we used construction paper and cut out turkey, peas, carrots, stuffing, etc. (we used a crumpled up paper towel to make 3-D mashed potatoes with yellow butter on top). The kids glued all of the foods they made onto a paper plate and then cut and pasted their printed lists to label the foods.

"Each child then made a placemat out of a large piece of construction paper. I glued the paper plate to the placemat and then glued a napkin and a plastic fork to it as well. It looks like they are sitting down to a delicious meal.

"On the top they added a dictated paragraph (which I typed to save time) that told how they would make a turkey dinner. They simply filled in the blanks: I would get a ___ pound turkey from _____. I think it would cost _____. When I get home I will _____ (student tells how they would prepare to cook the turkey and for how long).

"They are adorable and make a great bulletin board!"

Decorate a paper classroom tree with colourful leaves, each one stating something that one of your students is thankful for this Thanksgiving.

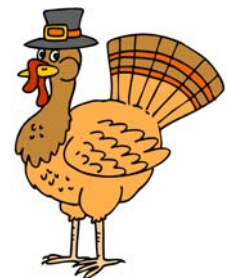
"The children coloured a small paper plate brown. Then we traced their hands on a piece of construction paper. This formed the feathers. Then we glued the 'feathers' and a precut turkey shaped head onto the small paper plate. The hand shape formed the tail feathers. (Alternatively, you could use a thumb shape for the head, and four spreading fingers for feathers and no paper plate). Then we discussed what we were thankful for. They came up with some very deep and sincere things to be thankful for. We wrote what they were thankful for on the tail feathers of the turkey."

Handprint Turkeys

Paint the child's palm and thumb brown and each finger a different colour. press the hand down on paper with the fingers outspread for tail feathers - the thumb for the neck and the palm as the body. When dry, put a red fingerprint for the turkey's wattle. Use orange marker to make beak and feet and black marker for eyes. Add this poem beneath the turkey handprint:

This isn't just a turkey,
As anyone can see.
I made it with my little hand
Which is a part of me.

It comes with lots of love
Especially to say:
I hope you have a very
Happy Thanksgiving Day!



Turkey Tails

"I made the front view of a turkey with brown paper, about 2 and a half feet tall, and I put it in the middle of a bulletin board. I've laminated this so I can use it year after year. I send home a cut paper feather (I get two out of one piece of 12 x 18 white construction paper) with a note telling parents to help their child decorate this feather. Anything goes....colours, markers, paint, fabric, buttons, beans, real feathers, etc. I also tell them they can glue it to a piece of cardboard to make it stronger, if necessary. Then as the kids bring them back, I put them up around my turkey for the tail. It always turns out so interesting and colourful.

Loop Turkeys

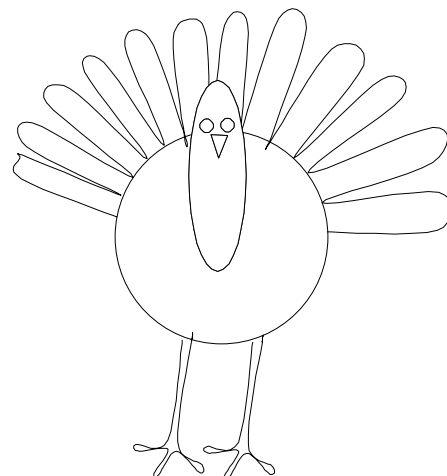
- "Cut a strip of brown construction paper 18" x 2" , make a circle and glue.
- Cut a 9" x 2" strip of brown, make a circle and glue.
- Glue the two brown circles together (I place the seams together) and you have the body and head.
- Cut 6 strips (18 x 2) in a variety of colours for the feathers. These are glued with the ends together so they form tear drop shapes.
- Glue the feather shapes to the body starting about 1/3 of the way around the body circle from the head so the rounded part of the feather points toward the head. The next feather gets glued right under it and so on.
- A small diamond of yellow folded in half makes a beak. Glue the fold to the front of the head. Glue paper eyes above beak. A red 'wiggle shape' glued under the beak makes a wattle.
- For legs take a piece of yellow yarn about 8 inches long and tie a small piece of yellow to each end. This strange yarn goes through the body circle so a foot hangs on either side of the turkey. Tape in place.

When gluing the circles and feathers they need to hold the pieces until they are **FIRMLY** glued. I have my students count to 100. They actually **DO** it and I haven't had a turkey fall apart yet! I know this sounds strange, but they turn out great and look wonderful hanging from my ceiling."

A Paper Plate Turkey

Make a paper plate turkey. Colour or paint a small paper plate brown. Trace hands onto bright yellow, orange and red paper and cut them out. These are the tail feathers - glue them behind the plate so the fingers stick up above the rim. Cut a slim oval about 3 inches (8 cm) long from brown paper and put the turkey's eyes and beak at one end and glue it onto the paper plate. Draw and cut out feet and glue them behind the plate.

Note: Pardon my computer drawing, but maybe you get the idea.....



Pine Cone Turkeys

"If you have access to pine cones you could make pine cone turkeys. We did this every year and my students used them as centerpieces at their Thanksgiving dinner tables. They are quite easy. Each student gets one pine cone, 5 or 6 different colours of construction paper for feathers (they can these cut out and make feathers themselves), brown construction paper for the head and feet, 1 small red piece for the waddle, 1 small square for the beak and 2 'googlie' eyes.

"Before they start putting on the feathers they need to find out where their pine cone sits well. Otherwise after everything is on they will tip over.

"The children need to use a glue that is immediately tacky so that the bits will stay where the children place them."

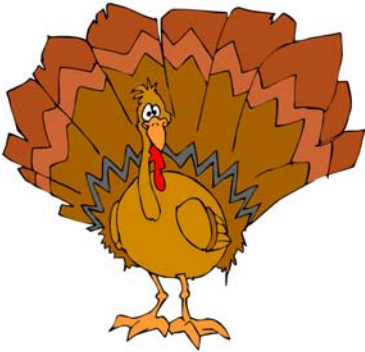
More Turkeys!

"We do a turkey art activity, but I try to make it educational too. I first read a true book about turkeys, and then we discuss their habitat. The children draw and colour a picture of a farm, or woods or grassy area for wild turkeys. I talk about horizon line and perspective a little bit with this. (About as much as I know about it!) Then they choose three pieces of coloured paper I have cut 3 by 8 inches. (I cut a variety of colours so they are not all the same.) Each of these are fan-folded. I staple one end of each, and we spread out the other end. These are glued beside each other, first one to the second one, second one to the third one. It makes about a half circle. These make the tail feathers. I have them make their own turkey body to glue in front, and this is glued down over the staples. The back of the 'fan' is glued to the habitat drawing. They have to place their hand on this for awhile to get the folded edges to stay glued down while the glue is drying. It makes a neat three-dimensional picture, and they don't all end up looking alike."

"I give my class a coffee filter and a set of watercolour paints. Be sure to put newspaper or paper towel under the filter when they are painting. The paint bleeds and makes a really nice feather look.) The children paint stripes of colour from the center out on the coffee filters. Then they can cut out turkey parts: a head, body, (one small circle and one larger, from brown,) legs (two yellow rectangles), feet (yellow triangles), beak (yellow diamond), red wattle, etc. to glue on after the filter dries. Glue the bigger brown circle at the bottom of the filter, the smaller one at the bottom of the big one. Glue the legs and feet from under the bottom of the filter. Draw black eyes on the smaller head circle. They look really cute and each is very different!"



Thanksgiving Bulletin Boards



Some titles for bulletin boards before Thanksgiving using turkeys: 'Strut On In', 'Stuffed With.....'.

For a Thanksgiving bulletin board, give each child a photocopied feather pattern. They take it home and the family decorates it with whatever they want and cuts it out. They may mount it on tag if they wish to make it sturdier. When the feathers are returned, put them on the tail of a large turkey body.

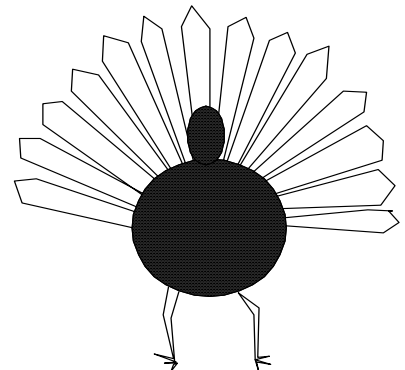
"Last year for October I titled my bulletin board 'Gobble Up Some Good Books' and we made turkeys holding books as if they were reading. We made the turkeys out of construction paper and what makes each one unique is that the feathers were made by tracing the children's hands and cutting them out. We used 3 right hands and 3 left hands in all colours. Then with the feet instead of making them lie flat I bent them and glued them so they would be sticking out. To the feet, I then glued a small piece of folded paper that looked like a book. We also wrote the title of each student's favourite book on their book cover. It really turned out cute!"

A Cornucopia of Good Work - Hang a cornucopia with fruit on a bulletin board. Hang students work around the board.

Let's Talk Turkey..... - Have students make turkeys out of paper plates. They can cut out coloured feathers from construction paper. Add eyes, beaks, and legs.

Each child can cut a turkey body and then the class can go out and collect autumn leaves, especially ones that are long and narrow, and glue the leaves on for a colourful tail.

Make a large turkey's body by cutting a circle from brown butcher paper. Staple men's ties out like a fan around the body circle for tail feathers. Add a neck and head. Cut out eyes, a beak and wattles (teach that great word to your class!) and add them to the turkey. Finally give him long thin legs and turkey feet.



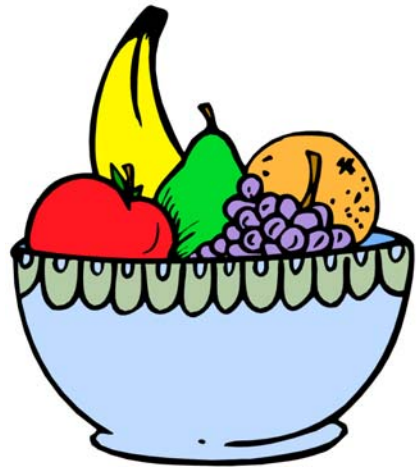
See the parent section for more bulletin board ideas....

Food for Thanksgiving

Sharing Stew

"I sent a note home to my parents asking for different vegetables and I provided ground hamburger myself. We used my individual electric burner and a big pot. After browning the hamburger, we added the veggies (after the children helped to cut them up with plastic knives), a little beef bouillon, some spices and some water. We just let it cook until the veggies were done. It was quick and easy. Best of all, the kids loved it!"

Make a fruit salad. Bring in one or two of many different kinds of fruit. This is a very good language experience, as you pass each around and ask how it feels, how it smells, how it looks, etc., and elicit interesting words. Then everyone gets a taste and other pieces are added to the salad.



Stone Soup for Thanksgiving

"Read the book *Stone Soup*. For Thanksgiving, my class brought in vegetables to add to my own homemade version of Stone Soup. It was so popular that my students asked me if we could make it again. It's very simple -- the students bring in a vegetable - carrots, cabbage, onions, celery, etc. Begin with a rock, and make a big production of putting it in the pot. I add some bouillon cubes secretly and water -- and simmer for several hours. Add some bell peppers to it - it adds lots of flavour."

Stone Soup

This is a favourite book by Marcia Brown. Stone Soup is the story about three hungry soldiers who come to a small village in search for food and a place to sleep. The town is poor, and the people hide the food so the soldiers can't have any. The soldiers then show the villagers how to make stone soup. The stone soup begins with a stone and only needs a few other things in order to make it superb.

The students can each bring in an item needed for the soup. They can bring potatoes, carrots, onions, garlic, tomatoes, ground beef, beef bouillon, macaroni or rice, and celery. Act out the story. Assign your students different parts and have them add the ingredients to the pot. Cook the soup and serve with bread!

Food for the Feast

"We make butter in little baby food jars. We put whipping cream in the jars and the kids shake them until butter forms. I usually put on jazzy music so they shake with rhythm - it seems to make the time go faster! Add a bit of salt when it is done."

"We talk a bit about cranberries and how you can tell they are ripe by bouncing them. We'll do some bouncing and graph the number of ripe ones and not so ripe ones. Try to get the video 'Cranberry Bounce' ..it's fabulous! It shows life on a cranberry farm and shows how they flood the field to harvest their crop...and of course they have a wonderful song about how cranberries that are ripe bounce! Try putting cranberries in a glass jar and then have the kids predict what will happen when you add water to the jar....it's fun!"



Pumpkin Pie in a Baggie

Pour $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of milk into a small ziplock baggie.

Add 1 tbs. of vanilla pudding mix. Add 1 tbs. of the canned pumpkin pie mix into the baggie as well.

Close the ziplock sandwich baggie tightly. The students mix the ingredients in the bag by squeezing gently until the texture is smooth and thick - about three minutes.

Carefully snip off one bottom corner of the baggie with scissors. Each child will then squeeze out the pumpkin pie pudding into the pie crust, graham cracker crumb crust or onto a plate. Top with whipped cream, cinnamon, or graham cracker crumbs.

Pumpkin Fluff

"We make Pumpkin Fluff with cool whip and canned pumpkin pie mix. We crush graham crackers for topping. It is delicious and the kids love it."

Pumpkin Pie in a Cup

Mix a 30 oz. can of pumpkin pie filling with 16 oz. of cool- whip.

Put a layer of graham cracker crumbs in a small dish, a spoonful of the pumpkin mixture and a dab of whipped cream on top.

It tastes like pumpkin pie!



Curriculum Connections

"How about stressing the 'thankful' part? There's a wonderful picture book called *I Am Thankful For* (by Janie Schmidt) and it's so simple that I copy the format and the children make their own books. You could send thank-you notes to the people in the school who do things for the class...the custodian, the secretary, etc. (You cover some curriculum in B.C. if you do this because Grade Ones need to know the roles of people within a school). We also looked at cranberries and made cranberry jelly. The kids could take a small baby food jar of it home to share at their Thanksgiving table."

"My favourite writing activity for Thanksgiving is our turkey recipes. I do a lesson on using ordinal numbers for steps and then they write their recipe, using 'first', 'second', 'third', etc. The word map prior to writing includes temperature and time so I get 'cook at 40 degrees for 6 minutes and then add gravy' as an example. I bind them together into a class recipe book and the parents always love them!"

Eight days before the holiday post a large turkey on the bulletin board with 8 removable feathers. Number the feathers from 1 to 8, and key them to special activities:

1. Make a list of Thanksgiving dinner foods, one for each letter of the alphabet.
2. Read a Thanksgiving story.
3. Write a thank-you note.
4. Decode a Thanksgiving message.
5. Write a story about a surprising Thanksgiving visitor.
6. Make table decorations.
7. Make a list of 20 things that you are thankful for.
8. Have a Thanksgiving treat.



Turkey Talk

Use turkeys to teach a lesson on quotation marks. Have the students make construction paper turkeys and glue them onto large pieces of paper. Then they print something they think a turkey would say about Thanksgiving. Glue elbow macaroni around the words the turkey speaks.

Thanksgiving Vocabulary: Thanksgiving feast thankful family friends friendship dinner food turkey corn stuffing gravy pumpkin pie celebrate thank you giving sharing family, etc.

Research the origins of Thanksgiving. Why is the Canadian Thanksgiving celebrated much earlier than the U.S. one?

Turkey Glyphs

Each child colours an individual turkey that tells a lot about his Thanksgiving dinner. On the turkey's body the child can write some things he is thankful for.

Here is the key:

Head

orange - eating Thanksgiving dinner at your house

red - eating Thanksgiving dinner somewhere else

Body

dark brown - likes dark meat

light brown body - likes light meat

yellow body - doesn't like turkey

Wattle

red - likes gravy, orange - doesn't like gravy

Beak

orange - having guests for dinner

yellow - not having guests for dinner

Feathers - use only the colours that are true about you

red - likes cranberries

green - likes green beans

yellow - likes corn

dark brown - likes stuffing

light brown - likes mashed potatoes

blue - likes buns

orange - likes pumpkin pie



And Another

"I made turkey body patterns, heads, beaks, feet and feather patterns from tag. The kids traced the patterns on the correct coloured construction paper and cut them out and assembled them.

1. For the head - How long do you read each day? 0-10 min. (brown), 10-20 min. (orange), 20 or more (red)
2. For the beak - How do you like to read? by yourself (orange), with a friend (yellow), or your parents read to you (brown)
3. For the feet. What do you prefer to read? fact(red), fiction (orange) One girl really couldn't decide as she reads both consistently so she made one foot red and the other orange!
4. For the body - Would you like to receive a book as a gift? yes (dark brown), no (light brown)
5. They could choose the feather colours from orange, red, and yellow construction paper. On the feathers they wrote the titles of their favourite books."

Another Turkey Glyph

"Last year for Open House I chose to do a turkey glyph with my students and their parents. I liked it because it was educational (math), fun, and my bulletin board was done in the blink of an eye. Cut enough templates and construction paper so that parents can make their own!

Materials:

turkey head and body template cut out of heavy stock (shaped sort of like a rounded boot)
half or full sheets of light brown and dark brown construction paper for the head and body
precut rectangular pieces of construction paper in orange, green, red, yellow, brown and light brown for the feathers
precut smaller rectangular pieces of red, yellow and orange construction paper for the feet and wattle
precut small sized orange squares of construction paper for the beak

"I introduced the activity with a book, but I don't remember which. Perhaps *Gracias, the Thanksgiving Turkey*. I hung up a poster of the glyph and a turkey I'd made to represent me. We read the poster together and the students answered a couple of questions about me to check their comprehension. (Do I like mashed potatoes? How do you know?) Then we passed out the body templates and paper and began. I introduced the next step when I saw most people were ready for it. With the parents helping their kids cut, colour, trace, etc., it went beautifully. As the turkeys were finished, we stapled them to our bulletin board. All in all, the activity took about an hour. If I were to do anything differently, I might consider making templates for the feathers. I had expected my students to free-cut the feathers (basically trim off the corners of the rectangles). Some did, but just as many used my model to trace the feathers, because they wanted their turkeys to have nice, even feathers.

Here's the glyph:

Body - dark brown if you like turkey, light brown if you do not like turkey
Beak - open beak if you like mashed potatoes, closed beak if you don't like mashed potatoes
Eyes (draw) - open if you will eat dessert on Thanksgiving, closed if you will not
Feet - yellow if you will have company for dinner, orange if you will not
Wattle - red if you like gravy, orange if you do not like gravy
Feathers - On Thanksgiving I like to eat - cranberries - red pumpkin pie - orange
green beans - green corn - yellow stuffing - brown sweet potatoes - light brown

"I did turkey glyphs with my class last year. When they were finished, I put them up on a bulletin board with the directions, and headed the board *We're all turkeys as you can see...Read my glyph, can you learn about me?*

Instead of the plain white paper and having them colour it according to the glyph, try using construction paper, real feathers, wiggly eyes, etc. They come out VERY cute!"

Parent Connections

Two or three weeks before Thanksgiving send home a turkey outline on brown construction paper. Send a letter that asks the family to give the turkey a disguise so he can avoid being caught for Thanksgiving dinner. Dress him up like a fireman, Superman or a ballerina, for example.

Another idea is to ask the families to decorate the turkey. They could use real feathers, glitter, etc.

Students in Grade Two or Three can write a story about how their turkey manages to escape!



"I send home a construction paper turkey and ask everyone to disguise the turkey, however they want, so he won't get caught for dinner. I ask the families to disguise him as a different animal or character. They can use any items they want to decorate him. I ask them to be returned a week before Thanksgiving so we can display them. I take digital pictures and display them on the class website for everyone to see. They are a big hit!"

My name is Tom Turkey and I look swell -
I'm wearing my disguise so I hope you won't tell!



"About three weeks before Thanksgiving my class take home their Tom Turkey cutouts. During the next week they will decorate/disguise their Tom Turkey, write a story about what the disguise is and why they chose it, and present to their classmates when they return it. Then they go up on a bulletin board for the two weeks before Thanksgiving. Some of the families go all out decorating their turkeys, and disguise them in really clever ways! He is disguised, of course, because he doesn't want to become Thanksgiving dinner...."

"Send home a big cut-out of a turkey feather made out of tag with each student. Send directions explaining to cover the feather with anything they want - macaroni, feathers, magazine cut-outs, strips of paper, stickers, leaves, wrapping paper, tissue paper, photographs, anything they can imagine. Draw a large body of a turkey on the overhead and cut it out. Staple the different feathers they brought in behind your body to make a magnificent turkey."



Poems and Pies

Invite all your parents and friends for a special hour! Teach your children some poems ('Albuquerque Turkey' could be one choice) for autumn, Thanksgiving or Hallowe'en, and ask parents to bring pies if they can. It could also be pizza..... The children can perform in groups, individually and/or as a class, and then everyone can have pie and juice. Teachers who have done this rave about the reception it gets - the parents love it and it isn't a lot of work. Try it!



"Each of my kids had their poem printed on a slice of 'pie' made of cardboard which they had decorated to resemble a particular kind of pie. After reading their poem aloud, they placed their slice on a table, forming many pies. This was our integration with fractions/math. All children came in costume and everyone went to the lunch area to enjoy real pies that parents had baked with the children at school the day before. I think this was more meaningful than parents just bringing food from home. Our parents went all out and had fruit salad, coffee, drinks, etc. and supplied all the paper goods. Children had made laminated placemats and took them home to use at their own Thanksgiving tables. A good time was had by all!"

"We've held a Pies and Poems Celebration for the last 2 years and have received an overwhelming response from family members and faculty alike.

Last year we had more kinds of pies (and cookies too!) than you can imagine. Grandparents, younger siblings, and aunts/uncles came as well - it is just far enough into the school year for our students to 'show off' their new found skills in memorizing poems and chants. It was a great photo opportunity for the family as well - a perfect way to start the holiday season. This is one annual event I already have booked into my plan book.

"Both Grade One classes learned several songs and poems about Thanksgiving. Early in October we started teaching our children some poems and songs for Thanksgiving. Some were funny and some were 'educational'. Our classes learned one song and one poem that were the same so we could recite them as a group. We made hats and decorations. We sent a note home to parents inviting them to come to the celebration. On the bottom of the note was a form to sign and return, telling us how many were planning to attend and if they were interested in bringing a pie, and what kind? The response was overwhelming! We put on a pot of coffee and mixed a bowl of punch. What a success!!!! A large lunch table was set up and covered with chart paper. It was soon COVERED with every kind of pie imaginable. We set up chairs on one side of the room to hold the 60+ parents and grandparents who attended. The students walked in and took turns performing their poems and songs. After the last song they said, "Thank you all for coming, now let's eat PIE!" Each student escorted their parents to the table to get a piece of pie (which they ate standing or sitting all over the room). The parents and grandparents loved it! We plan to do it again this year."

Odds and Ends

Websites:

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/thanksgiving/>
Lots of art ideas.....

<http://www.edhelper.com/Thanksgiving.htm>
Lots of ideas and printables!

<http://www.spacestation42.com/pt/turkey/turkey.html>

Print this and have the students assemble it. This is a good project for Grade 2 or 3 students.

<http://www.geocities.com/mrshogueclass/Lessons/turkeyglyph.html>
Here's a printable Thanksgiving glyph.

<http://www.abcteach.com/directory/seasonalholidays/thanksgiving/>

<http://teachers.net/gazette/NOV02/printable.html>

A Thanksgiving Mini-Theme

1. The first day do the 'Know' and 'Want to Know' sections of a KWL chart. What do the children already know about Thanksgiving? What would they like to know? This gives the unit a good starting point, and may take you off in different directions - researching the origins of this day, etc.

2. Talk about being thankful. What are we thankful for? Do all children have the things that your students have?

3. Thanksgiving is in the autumn. Why? Discuss the harvest and farmers. What crops are harvested in the fall?

<http://www.fastq.com/~jbpratt/education/sstudies/us/thanks.html>

<http://www.atozteacherstuff.com/Themes/Thanksgiving/>

