

# Fun Facts: Thanksgiving Day - 4th Thursday of November



## TEACHING GUIDE

### About Fun Facts

Fun Facts are student-friendly handouts that tie statistics from the Census Bureau to holidays, anniversaries, and other observances. These fact sheets—although originally created for teachers to use in classrooms are easily adapted for use at home to keep kids entertained and learning. They are designed to be used at varying grade levels and across different subjects.

### Using Thanksgiving Day Fun Facts in the Classroom and at Home

Teachers and parents/caregivers should give students time to read and digest the information in the Thanksgiving Day Fun Facts handout. Below is a list of ideas for using the fact sheet with students at any and all grade levels:

#### Any Grade Level

**Discussion.** Potential discussion questions include:

- What surprises you about the information in the Fun Facts handout?
- What questions do you have about the information in the Fun Facts handout?

## Elementary School Level

**Creative writing exercise.** Based on information in the Fun Facts handout and what students have learned in previous grades, students could write about what they imagine the first Thanksgiving looked like. An adult could lead a discussion about the students' ideas and share his or her own ideas to focus on what is similar and different. During this discussion, an adult could dispel any myths about the first Thanksgiving.

**A delicious pie chart.** Students can review the data in the "Food for the Big Feast" section of the Fun Facts handout. Then, they could ask family members and friends what their favorite foods are. With the help of an adult, students can use tally marks to record each person's response and use the information collected to create a pie chart.

## Middle School Level

**Community focus.** Students could look closely at the states called out in the Fun Facts handout for being forecasted to raise the most turkeys. Then, students could participate in a discussion with an adult about the type of things they think their state produces (without consulting any resources). Students could brainstorm a list of possibilities based on what they already know, such as their state slogan, billboards they've seen in the area, local festivals they've attended, etc. Teachers or parents/caregivers could then have students rank the items on their list based on which they think is produced the most. After that, students could verify their answers through research.

**Turkey towns and cranberry counties.** Using the following link <[https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=0600000US4201916920,4212116944\\_1600000US0477415,2276685,3768740,4873964&tid=DECENNIALPL2020.P1&hidePreview=true](https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=0600000US4201916920,4212116944_1600000US0477415,2276685,3768740,4873964&tid=DECENNIALPL2020.P1&hidePreview=true)>, students could conduct research on the population of their city, town or county and see how it compares to one of the places from the Fun Facts handout. Hint: Select the GEO tab at the top of the screen to add the city, town, or county of your choice. Then, students can discuss their findings with a partner.

## High School Level

**Holiday marketing.** As noted in the Fun Facts, President Franklin Roosevelt said that Thanksgiving should always be celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November to encourage earlier holiday shopping. Students could analyze two holiday advertisements and discuss with an adult how holiday marketing has changed in their lifetime. Then, students could compare and contrast the two advertisements and identify the goals of each.

**Environmental analysis.** Why do some states produce more cranberries than other states? Students could research the process of harvesting cranberries, then create a list of what conditions are needed to grow cranberries and draw conclusions on the environment that best sustains cranberry growth. Afterward, students could discuss what surprised or interested them.