

Table of Contents

Page 2

“Celebrating Thanksgiving”
Reading Comprehension
Passage

Pages 3 - 11

Scavenger Hunt: Comparing
and Contrasting Activity
(Answer Key Included)

Pages 12 - 17

Reading Comprehension
Questions (Answer Key and
Rubric Included)

Pages 18 - 21

Venn Diagrams

Celebrating Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is a holiday that is celebrated in both the United States and Canada. Although these 2 countries have many similar Thanksgiving traditions, there are several important differences.

Canadian Thanksgiving

It is widely believed that the first Canadian Thanksgiving was celebrated by Martin Frobisher in 1578. He had been exploring Canada in search of a sea route that would connect the Atlantic Ocean and the Pacific Ocean. He never found it, but when he arrived in Newfoundland (an island in Canada), he and his crew gave thanks for their safe travels and celebrated with a meal.

Thanksgiving is a National Holiday for all of Canada except Atlantic Canada (the 4 provinces that border the Atlantic Ocean), where it is optional. It is celebrated on the 2nd Monday in October, giving most Canadians a 3 day weekend.

Canadians traditionally celebrate Thanksgiving by gathering with family and having a feast that includes foods like turkey, stuffing, corn, cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes, and pumpkin pie. After the meal, many Canadians will relax by watching football, while others like to enjoy the beautiful fall weather with a hike. The next day (a Tuesday), the break is over and Canadians go back to work.

American (United States) Thanksgiving

The first American Thanksgiving was celebrated in 1621 by Pilgrims and members of the Wampanoag tribe. The Pilgrims had survived a tough year thanks to the Wampanoag, and wanted to give thanks for their survival and a good harvest. They celebrated with a 3 day feast.

Since then, Thanksgiving has become a National Holiday, celebrated by all of the United States. American Thanksgiving always occurs on the fourth Thursday in November, giving most Americans a 4 day weekend.

Americans usually celebrate the holiday with food, family, and football. Many Americans travel long distances to be with family and have a feast that is similar to Canadians, with turkey taking center stage. A variety of pies, including pumpkin pie, are eaten for dessert.

The day after Thanksgiving, known to Americans as “Black Friday,” is an important shopping day in the United States. On Black Friday, many stores and shopping centers offer huge sales, and MANY people go shopping to take advantage of these sales. This usually marks the beginning of the Christmas season in America.

Although the Thanksgiving traditions of America and Canada are somewhat different, the important parts remain the same – to give thanks with family by celebrating with a feast.

Comparing and Contrasting

2 Thanksgivings:

Scavenger Hunt

Instructions

1. Cut out the statement cards (pages 5 – 10).
2. Scatter the statement cards throughout the room.
3. Have students read the passage “Celebrating Thanksgiving (page 2).
4. Have individuals or partners find the statement cards around the room.
5. When students find a card, have them record the statement in the correct column on their recording sheet (page 4).
6. Students continue until they have found and recorded all the statements on the cards.

Answer Key on Page 11

First
Thanksgiving
in 1578

First
Thanksgiving
in 1621

Celebrate
by eating
turkey

Watch
football

First
Thanksgiving
celebrated
by Martin
Frobisher
and his crew

First
Thanksgiving
celebrated
by Pilgrims
and
Wampanoag
tribe

Have a 3
day weekend
to celebrate

Have a 4 day
weekend to
celebrate

Celebrate
by giving
thanks

Eat pumpkin
pie for
dessert

Go back to
work the day
after
Thanksgiving

Go shopping
the day after
Thanksgiving

First

Thanksgiving
celebrated in
Newfoundland

First

Thanksgiving
celebrated
in Plymouth

Celebrate
with family

Have a feast
to celebrate
Thanksgiving

National
Holiday for
most of the
country

National
Holiday for
all of the
country

Celebrated
on Monday

Celebrated
on Thursday

Celebrated
in the fall

The First
Thanksgiving
celebrated
staying safe

Celebrated
in October

Celebrated
in November

Celebrating Thanksgiving: Scavenger Hunt

ANSWER KEY

Find the statement cards hidden around the room. Use the information from "Celebrating Thanksgiving" to decide where in the chart below each statement belongs, and then write it in the correct column. There are 24 cards total!

Canadian Thanksgiving	Thanksgiving: Both Countries	United States Thanksgiving
First Thanksgiving in 1578	Celebrate by eating turkey	First Thanksgiving in 1621
First Thanksgiving celebrated with Martin Frobisher and his crew	Watch football	First Thanksgiving celebrated with Pilgrims and Wampanoag tribe
Have a 3 day weekend to celebrate	Celebrate by giving thanks	Have a 4 day weekend to celebrate
Go back to work the day after Thanksgiving	Eat pumpkin pie for dessert	Go shopping the day after Thanksgiving
First Thanksgiving celebrated in Newfoundland	Celebrate with family	First Thanksgiving celebrated in Plymouth
National Holiday for most of the country	Have a feast to celebrate Thanksgiving	National holiday for all of the country
Celebrated on Monday	Celebrated in the fall	Celebrated on Thursday
Celebrated in October	The first Thanksgiving celebrated staying safe.	Celebrated in November

Celebrating Thanksgiving: Comprehension Questions

After students read the “Celebrating Thanksgiving” reading passage (page 2), have students answer the questions on pages 13 – 14. This can be done in addition to the scavenger hunt.

An answer key has been provided (pages 15 – 16). However, the last 5 questions are higher level thinking questions, and there is not one correct answer for these questions. A grading rubric has provided for you to use instead of an answer key if you would like (page 17).

Celebrating Thanksgiving: Reading Comprehension Questions

1. According to the passage, who celebrated Thanksgiving first, the Canadians or the Americans? Give evidence from the passage.

2. Describe the first Thanksgiving celebration in Canada.

3. According to the passage, what do most Canadians do the day after Thanksgiving?

4. According to the passage, why did the people of the first American Thanksgiving want to celebrate?

5. According to the passage, what is "Black Friday?"

Celebrating Thanksgiving: Reading Comprehension Questions

6. What text feature could have been added to the reading passage to help you understand the information better?

7. What questions do you still have about how Canadians or Americans celebrate Thanksgiving? Write at least 2 questions.

8. Were the headings helpful in understanding this reading passage? Why or why not?

9. What would be a better title for this reading passage?

10. Would you rather celebrate Thanksgiving with the Americans or Canadians? Support your answer with details from the passage.

Celebrating Thanksgiving: Reading Comprehension Questions

1. According to the passage, who celebrated Thanksgiving first, the Canadians or the Americans? Give evidence from the passage.

According to the passage, the Canadians celebrated Thanksgiving first.

Martin Frobisher and his crew celebrated in 1578, while the first American Thanksgiving was in 1621.

2. Describe the first Thanksgiving celebration in Canada.

The first Canadian Thanksgiving was a meal that Martin Frobisher and his crew had as a celebration of safe travels.

3. According to the passage, what do most Canadians do the day after Thanksgiving?

Since Canadian Thanksgiving is on a Monday, most Canadians go back to work the day after Thanksgiving.

4. According to the passage, why did the people of the first American Thanksgiving want to celebrate?

For the first American Thanksgiving, the Pilgrims wanted to celebrate surviving a difficult year and give thanks for a good harvest.

5. According to the passage, what is "Black Friday?"

Black Friday is the day after American Thanksgiving. Many stores offer big sales and many people go shopping. It is considered the beginning of the Christmas season.

Celebrating Thanksgiving: Reading Comprehension Questions

6. What text feature could have been added to the reading passage to help you understand the information better?

Answers will vary.

7. What questions do you still have about how Canadians or Americans celebrate Thanksgiving? Write at least 2 questions.

Answers will vary.

8. Were the headings helpful in understanding this reading passage? Why or why not?

Answers will vary.

9. What would be a better title for this reading passage?

Answers will vary.

10. Would you rather celebrate Thanksgiving with the Americans or Canadians? Support your answer with details from the passage.

Answers will vary.

Reading Comprehension Questions: Rubric

Student Name: _____

3 points

2 points

1 point

<u>Completeness</u>	All of the required questions were completed.	Most of the required questions were completed.	Few of the required questions were completed.
<u>Accuracy of Content</u>	All of the information was accurate. The student used evidence from the text to defend their answers.	Most of the information was accurate. The student sometimes used evidence from the text to defend their answers.	The student's answers are inaccurate and there is little evidence from the text.
<u>Quality of Content</u>	The student's answers were thoughtful. The student supported their answers with logical and interesting details.	The student's answers were expected. The student supported their answers with predictable details.	The student's answers lacked thoughtfulness and details. The student answered with the minimum required.
<u>Conventions</u>	There are very few errors in spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and grammar.	There are several errors in spelling, capitalization, punctuation, or grammar.	There are many errors in spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and grammar. Because of these errors, the answers are very difficult to read.

Total Points out of 12:

Comparing and Contrasting

2 Thanksgivings:

Venn Diagrams

This activity requires students to think about how their own Thanksgiving compares with America's or Canada's versions of Thanksgiving.

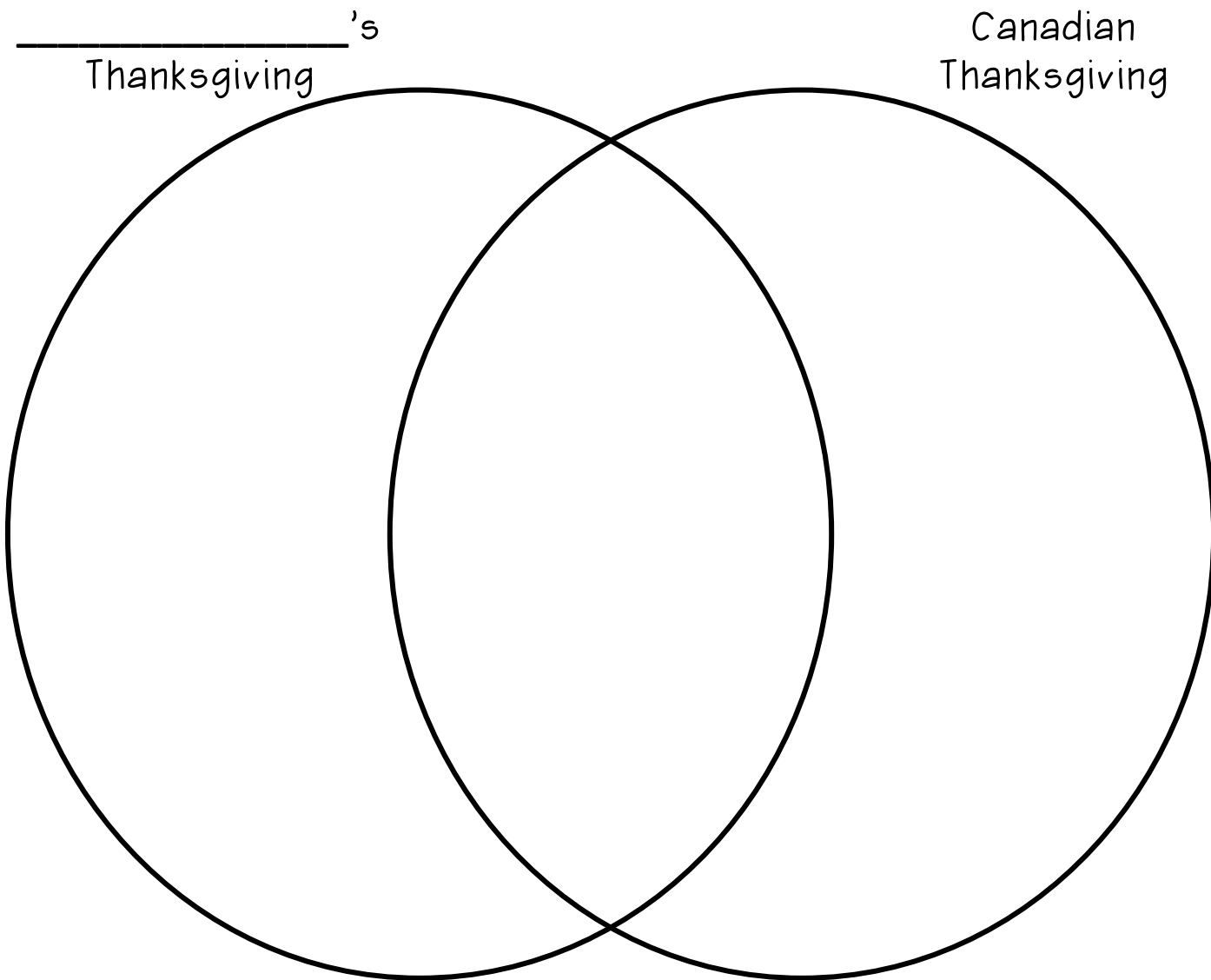
After reading the "Celebrating Thanksgiving" reading passage, students can use the Venn Diagrams provided to compare and contrast their own family's Thanksgiving traditions with the typical American or Canadian Thanksgiving traditions.

This can be used in addition to the scavenger hunt and reading comprehension questions.

An answer key is not provided for these activities because answers will be entirely dependent on the student. You may use the rubric on page 17 to help you grade.

Celebrating Thanksgiving: Venn Diagram

Think about how your Thanksgiving compares with the traditions of Canadian Thanksgiving. Use the Venn Diagram below to compare and contrast the 2 Thanksgivings. Then, write a short paragraph explaining the most important similarities and differences.

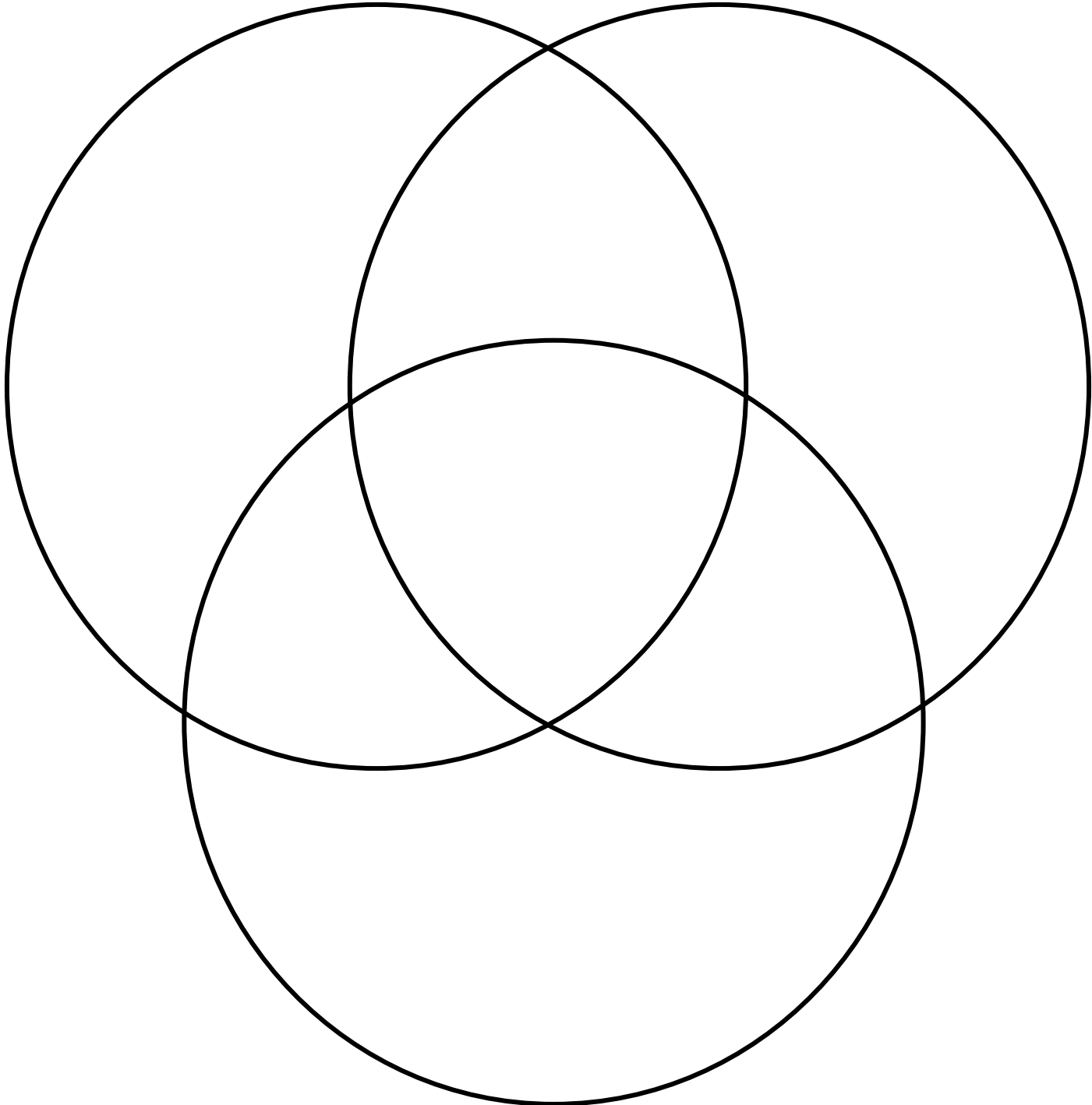


Celebrating Thanksgiving: Venn Diagram

Think about how your Thanksgiving compares with the traditions of Canadian and American Thanksgivings. Use the Venn Diagram below to compare and contrast the 3 Thanksgivings.

Canadian Thanksgiving

American Thanksgiving



_____ 's Thanksgiving