



LESSON PLAN

GRADE

3-5

SUBJECT

History

LESSON

TOPIC

Thanksgiving

DATE

LESSON FOCUS AND GOALS

The History of Thanksgiving

MATERIALS NEEDED

- 3-2-1 graphic organizer
- Pencil

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Identify the differences between the first Thanksgiving and today's traditions
- Explore how traditions change over time

STRUCTURE / ACTIVITY

Hook:

- Start with a whole-class Thanksgiving mind map. On the board, write "Thanksgiving" in the center, and invite students to share words or ideas that come to mind. Encourage them to think beyond food and consider historical events, family traditions, feelings, and other associations.

Lesson:

- View ["History of Thanksgiving for Kids" by Bedtime History](#)
- Students will watch and fill in 3-2-1 graphic organizer.
- Students can then pair and share and/or share with the whole class. Discussion points could include comparing the first Thanksgiving to today's traditional Thanksgiving celebrations, including their own family's tradition; or how traditions can change over time.

EXTENSION OPPORTUNITY

- View ["Debunking Myths: Columbus, Leif Erikson, and the First Thanksgiving" by Wonderscape](#)
- Compare and contrast the recounting of the first Thanksgiving according to Bedtime History and Wonderscape

CURRICULUM

- C3 frameworks standards:
 - D2.His.9.3-5: Summarize how different kinds of historical sources are used to explain events in the past.
 - D2.His.10.3-5: Compare information provided by different historical sources about the past.
- Common Core ELA standards:
 - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.6 / RI.4.6 / RI.5.6: Distinguish their own point of view from that of the author of a text.
 - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.9 / RI.4.9 / RI.5.9: Compare and contrast the most important points and key details presented in two texts on the same topic.
 - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.3.1 / SL.4.1 / SL.5.1