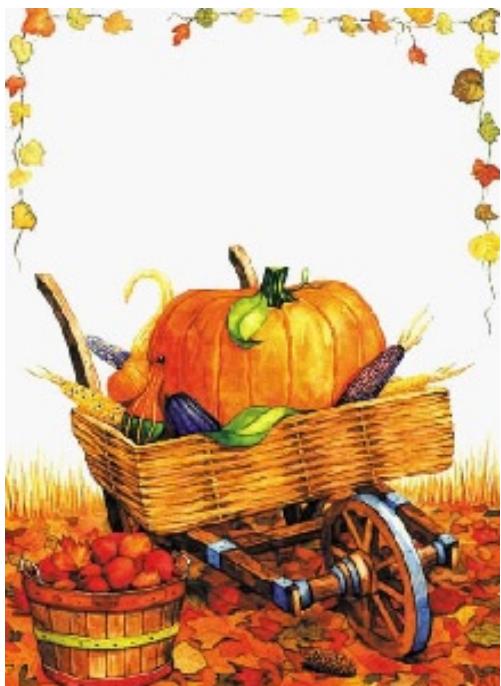


¡Celebremos noviembre!

(Let's celebrate November!)



**¡Feliz Día de
Acción de Gracias!**



¡Feliz Día de los Veteranos!



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The History of Thanksgiving and its Celebrations

Throughout history mankind has celebrated the bountiful harvest with thanksgiving ceremonies.

Before the establishment of formal religions many ancient farmers believed that their crops contained spirits which caused the crops to grow and die. Many believed that these spirits would be released when the crops were harvested and they had to be destroyed or they would take revenge on the farmers who harvested them. Some of the harvest festivals celebrated the defeat of these spirits.

Harvest festivals and thanksgiving celebrations were held by the ancient Greeks, the Romans, the Hebrews, the Chinese, and the Egyptians.



The Greeks

The ancient Greeks worshipped many gods and goddesses. Their goddess of corn (actually all grains) was **Demeter** who was honored at the festival of **Thesmophoria** held each autumn.

On the first day of the festival married women (possibly connecting childbearing and the raising of crops) would build leafy shelters and furnish them with couches made with plants. On the second day they fasted. On the third day a feast was held and offerings to the goddess Demeter were made - gifts of seed corn, cakes, fruit, and pigs. It was hoped that Demeter's gratitude would grant them a good harvest.





The Romans

The Romans also celebrated a harvest festival called Cerelia, which honored **Ceres** their goddess of corn (from which the word cereal comes). The festival was held each year on October 4th and offerings of the first fruits of the harvest and pigs were offered to Ceres. Their celebration included music, parades, games, sports, and a thanksgiving feast.



The Chinese

The ancient Chinese celebrated their harvest festival, **Chung Ch'ui**, with the full moon that fell on the 15th day of the 8th month. This day was considered the birthday of the moon and special "moon cakes", round and yellow like the moon, would be baked. Each cake was stamped with the picture of a rabbit - as it was a rabbit, not a man, which the Chinese saw on the face of the moon.

The families ate a thanksgiving meal and feasted on roasted pig, harvested fruits and the "moon cakes". It was believed that during the three day festival flowers would fall from the moon and those who saw them would be rewarded with good fortune.

According to legend Chung Ch'ui also gave thanks for another special occasion. China had been conquered by enemy armies who took control of the Chinese homes and food. The Chinese found themselves homeless and with no food. Many starved. In order to free themselves they decided to attack the invaders.

The women baked special moon cakes which were distributed to every family. In each cake was a secret message which contained the time for the attack. When the time came the invaders were surprised and easily defeated. Every year moon cakes are eaten in memory of this victory.





The Hebrews

Jewish families also celebrate a harvest festival called **Sukkoth**. Taking place each autumn, Sukkoth has been celebrated for over 3000 years.

Sukkoth is known by two names - **Hag ha Succot** - the Feast of the Tabernacles and **Hag ha Asif** - the Feast of Ingathering. Sukkoth begins on the 15th day of the Hebrew month of Tishri, five days after [Yom Kippur](#) the most solemn day of the Jewish year.

Sukkoth is named for the huts (succots) that Moses and the Israelites lived in as they wandered the desert for 40 years before they reached the Promised Land. These huts were made of branches and were easy to assemble, take apart, and carry as the Israelites wandered through the desert.

When celebrating Sukkoth, which lasts for eight days, the Jewish people build small huts of branches which recall the tabernacles of their ancestors. These huts are constructed as temporary shelters, as the branches are not driven into the ground and the roof is covered with foliage which is spaced to let the light in. Inside the huts are hung fruits and vegetables, including apples, grapes, corn, and pomegranates. On the first two nights of Sukkoth, families eat their meals in the huts under the evening sky.



The Egyptians

The ancient Egyptians celebrated their harvest festival in honor of **Min**, their god of vegetation and fertility. The festival was held in the springtime, the Egyptian's harvest season.

The festival of Min featured a parade in which the Pharaoh took part. After the parade a great feast was held. Music, dancing, and sports were also part of the celebration.

When the Egyptian farmers harvested their corn, they wept and pretended to be grief-stricken. This was to deceive the spirit which they believed lived in the corn. They feared the spirit would become angry when the farmers cut down the corn where it lived.



Thanksgiving in The United States



In 1621, after a hard and devastating first year in the New World the Pilgrim's fall harvest was very successful and plentiful. There was corn, fruits, vegetables, along with fish which was packed in salt, and meat that was smoke cured over fires. They found they had enough food to put away for the winter.

The Pilgrims had beaten the odds. They built homes in the wilderness, they raised enough crops to keep them alive during the long coming winter, and they were at peace with their Indian neighbors. Their Governor, William Bradford, proclaimed a day of thanksgiving that was to be shared by all the colonists and the neighboring Native American Indians.

The custom of an annually celebrated thanksgiving, held after the harvest, continued through the years. During the American Revolution (late 1770's) a day of national thanksgiving was suggested by the Continental Congress.

In 1817 New York State adopted Thanksgiving Day as an annual custom. By the middle of the 19th century many other states also celebrated a Thanksgiving Day. In 1863 President Abraham Lincoln appointed a national day of thanksgiving. Since then each president has issued a Thanksgiving Day proclamation, usually designating the fourth Thursday of each November as the holiday.



Thanksgiving in Canada

Thanksgiving in Canada is celebrated on the second Monday in October. Observance of the day began in 1879. Thanksgiving in Canada has generally thought to come from three traditions.

European farmers in Europe held celebrations at harvest time to give thanks for their good fortune of a good harvest and abundance of food. They would often fill a curved goat's horn with fruits and grains. This was known as a cornucopia or horn of good plenty. When Europeans came to Canada it is thought to have become an influence on the Canadian Thanksgiving tradition.





Thanksgiving in Canada...

Around 1578 English navigator Martin Frobisher held a ceremony, in what is now called the province of Newfoundland to give thanks for surviving his journey there. Other settlers later arrived and continued these “thankful” ceremonies. This was also thought to be an influence on the Canadian Thanksgiving tradition.

The third influence happened in 1621 in what was to become the United States. Pilgrims celebrated their first harvest in the “New World”. Around 1750 this celebration of harvest was brought to Nova Scotia by American settlers from the south. At the same time, French settlers arriving were also holding feasts of “thanksgiving.” These celebrations and offerings of “Thanks” influenced the Canadian Thanksgiving.

In 1879 Canadian Parliament declared November 6th a day of Thanksgiving and a national holiday. Over the years the date of Thanksgiving changed several times until on January 31st, 1957 Parliament proclaimed.....*“that the 2nd Monday in October”.....“be a Day of General Thanksgiving to Almighty God for the bountiful harvest with which Canada has been blessed.”*

Canada has a shorter growing season and their harvest is sooner than in the US - therefore Thanksgiving celebrations need to be earlier to celebrate the harvest time.





Thanksgiving Activities: Games, Crafts, Songs & Recipes

Thanksgiving Activities/Games

With so many school parties so close together the endless need to find something new and creative can be difficult. We here at Kids Domain would like to provide you with some ideas that may make your job just a little bit easier.

Whether you are planning a party for preschoolers or older grades most games/activities can be adapted with a bit of creativity, and can also work at family gatherings.

GAMES WITH A MESSAGE

Gratitude Grab Bag

Make up cards, some that say “THANKSGIVING” and others that have a picture on them (no words) of things children may be thankful for. Each child takes a turn reaching into the bag and pulling out a card. If the card says “THANKSGIVING” the child should express something or someone they are thankful for (parents, teachers, pet, favorite food, etc..) If they pull out a picture they show it to all and then express why we should be thankful for that item (food, clothes, trees, grass, stores, cars, etc.). This game is especially fun for preschoolers and their expressions of gratitude are priceless. Jot them down and give a list to the parents or post for all to read.

Circle of Praise

Set the children in a circle and tell them that you are grateful for each one of them. Each of them possesses a unique personality that offers diversity as well as fun to the class. If your class is small enough, the teacher may want to tell one praiseworthy thing about each child. After you have finished, explain that each of them is going to have the opportunity to express something they particularly like about the person on their left and the person on their right. Just go one direction if time does not permit to go both ways. Remind them to be thoughtful about what they say... so and so is friendly to everyone, always follows through, is truthful, accepts people for who they are, has a great smile, etc.



More Games:

Thanksgiving Mission

This is a two part project.

First, have the children make a piece of stationery with their art supplies. These can be as simple as tracing their hand for a sweet background or more elaborate if time permits.

Second, have each child write a note/letter of “THANKS” to someone in their family and leave it on that person's pillow Thanksgiving morning. Children could also be encouraged to do a kind deed along with leaving the note, such as: make that person's bed, set the table, tell them that they love them. Kids can look forward to reporting on their “THANKSGIVING MISSION” when they return to school.

Brainstorm

Each person has before them a blank sheet of paper and sharpened pencil. Set a timer, according to what you think is best (two minutes max). Tell the children that when you say “GO” they should write down everything they can think of that can be explained in two words or less. When the timer goes off they each count how many they have. The person with the most should read their list and for every word that's the same, each person should cross it off their list. It's fun to see what's on every person's list and what is unique to different individuals. Open it up to discussion and if you choose, give a prize to the person who has the most unique answers.

Word Find

Take a Thanksgiving related word such as: Thanksgiving, Mayflower, Cornucopia, etc. and find as many little words as possible within before the timer runs out.

Example: Cornucopia Words: corn, pin, no, arc, car, nip, cop, cup, on, or, rap...

Example: Mayflower Words: May, flower, flow, flare, lay, low, fear, ear, owe, fly, rye, wear, row...

Bean Toss

You will need: Three to five dry beans per student chair, large bowl or tin pie plate

Have children divide into two teams. Each child is given five beans. On your mark the children will take a seat in a chair that is set a distance from the bowl, and try to throw their beans, one at a time, into the bowl. The team with the most beans in the bowl at the end of the relay wins.

The age and skill level of your class determines how far the chair is from the bowl and how deep or shallow the bowl is.





Thanksgiving Twenty Questions

Teacher start by choosing a thanksgiving related person, place, or thing. The teacher says, "I'm thinking of something." The children try to guess what it is by asking no more than twenty questions that can be answered "YES", "NO", or "I DON'T KNOW." The student who guesses correctly is next.

Clue

Teacher thinks of person, place, or thing. Teacher gives a clue. Begin at one end of the room and work your way around allowing each student to take a turn guessing until one student solves the case. The student who solves the case goes next.

Example: Corn Clue: I'm thinking of something yellow. Clue: It's a vegetable. Clue: Some people like to pop it.

Clues should be appropriate for the knowledge of the children playing.

Thanksgiving Dinner

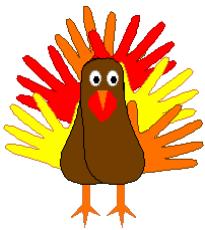
Players sit in a circle. The first player starts by saying, "At Thanksgiving dinner I like to eat turkey." The next player must repeat "At Thanksgiving dinner I like to eat turkey..." and add another dish. This continues all the way around the circle with each student reciting the dishes in the exact order they have been given and then adding a new one. If a student makes a mistake they slide out of the circle and the game continues. The person left who can perfectly recite the Thanksgiving menu wins.

Grateful for Everyone

Put chairs in a circle with one less chair than there are players. One person says, "I'm grateful for people with blue eyes." Everyone with blue eyes stands up and changes places. While everyone's scurrying, for a chair the teacher takes one away. The person left standing is out and the last person to sit down goes next..."I'm grateful for everyone who's wearing tennis shoes." Repeat.

Games from: <http://www.first-school.ws/>





Thanksgiving crafts



Turkey Ornaments

A fun way to add color to your Thanksgiving gathering.

For each one:

1", 2" and 3" x 6" colorful cotton fabrics for tail (cut upper long edges with pinking shears)

Walnut in shell for body

3" of sisal rope

Scraps of red and yellow felt

Dried corn husk, fabric or paper for wings

Black fine-point marker

12" thin dowel or skewer

Mod Podge glue; brush; glue gun

Pinking shears; aluminum foil; drill (optional)

BRUSH Mod Podge on fabrics, working over foil. Stack fabrics with largest on bottom, side and lower edges matching. Coat front lightly again with Mod Podge. Let dry.

FOLD tail accordion-style in 3/8"-wide pleats. Hot-glue pleats together at bottom, inserting top of dowel (**or** drill hole and glue dowel into bottom of walnut, which will be the body).

FOLD 3/4" end of rope forward and glue to form head and neck.

CUT a 1/4" x 1 1/2" strip of red felt for wattle. Glue to front of head. Add small yellow-felt diamond for beak. Dot black eyes on rope above wattle.

HOT-GLUE walnut, with pointed end up, to front of tail. Glue neck/head to front of walnut. Cut two 1 1/2"-long diamond shapes for wings from husk, fabric or paper. Glue to sides. Insert turkey in a vase or potted plant.



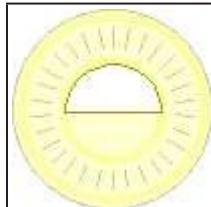
Thankful Wreath of Leaves

This wreath makes a great Autumn or Thanksgiving decoration.

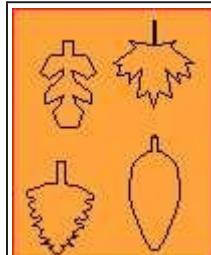


Supplies needed:

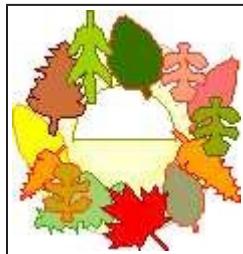
- A plain white paper plate
- Construction paper (orange, red, yellow, brown, and other earth tones)
- Crayons or markers
- Scissors
- Glue or a glue stick



Cut a half circle out of the center of a plain paper plate. This will hold the leaves.



Cut out a lot of leaves from construction paper. Draw the leaf veins if you wish. If you'd like, you can use the enclosed leaf templates.



Glue the leaves all around the rim of the paper plate.





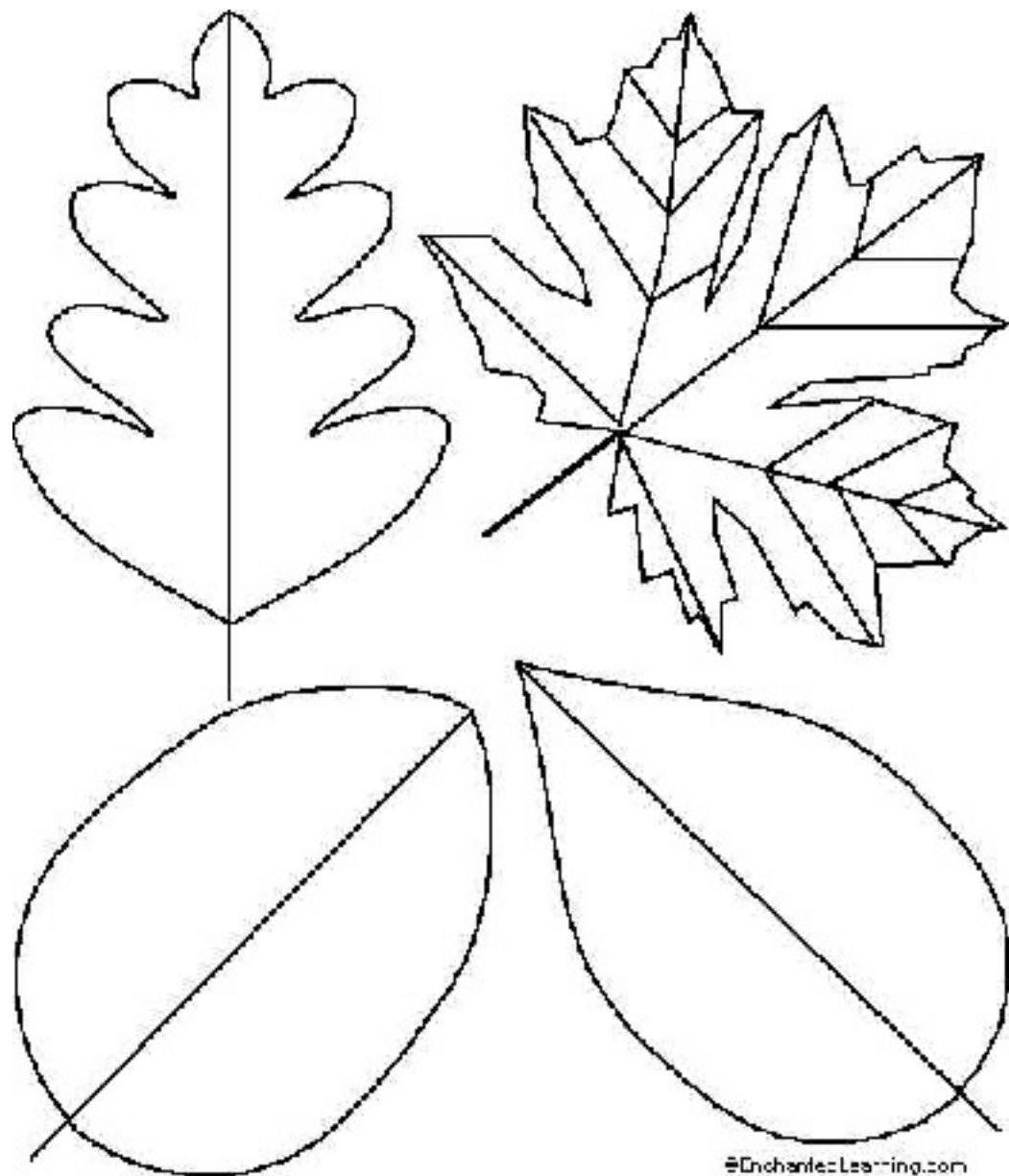
In the lower center of the wreath, write, "I am thankful for," and then let the child write or draw what they are thankful for.

Put the child's name on the wreath (or let them sign it).

For variations on this wreath: instead of using leaves, use cut-out handprints of the child, tissue paper baking cups or torn-up scraps of paper. **Thanks to Weston Elementary for this great idea.**

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Turkey Windsock

A cute Thanksgiving decoration idea shared by Carrie.

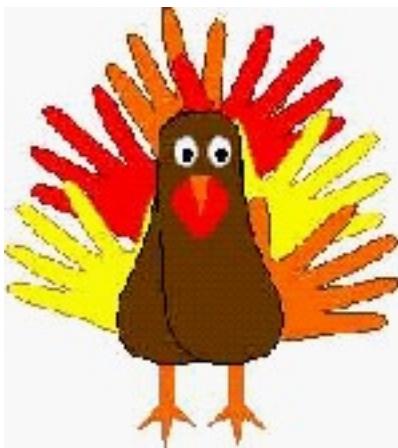
Materials Needed:

- Orange, green, and maroon streamers
- 12 x 18 brown construction paper
- 9 x 12 piece of construction paper ---cut into fourths (4 1/2 x 6 inches)
- Large wiggly eyes
- Various colors of construction paper for feathers
- Glue and/or tape
- Crayons/markers

Instructions:

1. Cut the 12 x 18 brown construction paper in half lengthwise (into 2 - 6 x 18 strips).
2. Form paper strip into a tube and tape.
3. Round the corners of a 4 1/2 x 6 piece of brown construction paper to make the head of the turkey. Make the face with crayons and add wiggly eyes and a paper beak.
4. Glue to tube
5. Make feathers from various colors of construction paper and glue to back of tube.
6. Tape streamer strips to inside of tube.



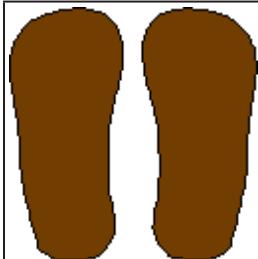


Hand and Foot Turkey Craft

This cute turkey is made from your child's hand prints and footprints, cut out of construction paper. It makes a very nice Thanksgiving decoration.

Supplies:

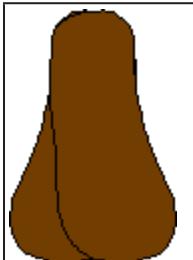
- Brown, red, orange and yellow construction paper
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Glue
- Googly eyes (optional)



Trace around the child's feet using brown construction paper. These two pieces will be the turkey's body.



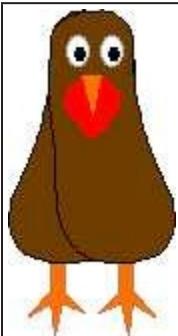
Trace around the child's hands using red, orange, and yellow construction paper. These 6 pieces will be the turkey's feathers.



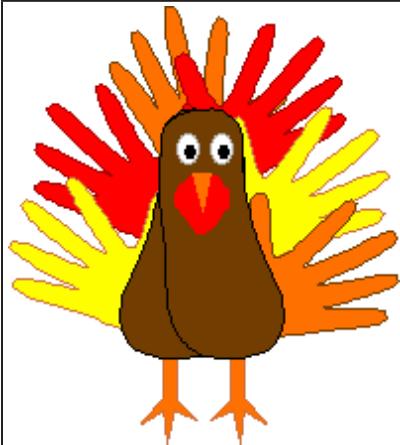
Glue the two footprints together to make the turkey's body. (The heels make the head area.)



Hand & foot Turkey Craft



Cut out a round wattle and an orange beak. Glue the wattle, beak, and googly eyes (or paper eyes) to the turkey's head. Make two legs from paper and glue them to the back of the body (or use pipe cleaners and tape them to the back).



Glue the handprint "feathers" to the back of the turkey. You can now decorate your house for Thanksgiving with these cute turkeys. Don't forget to put the child's name and age on the back of the turkey.

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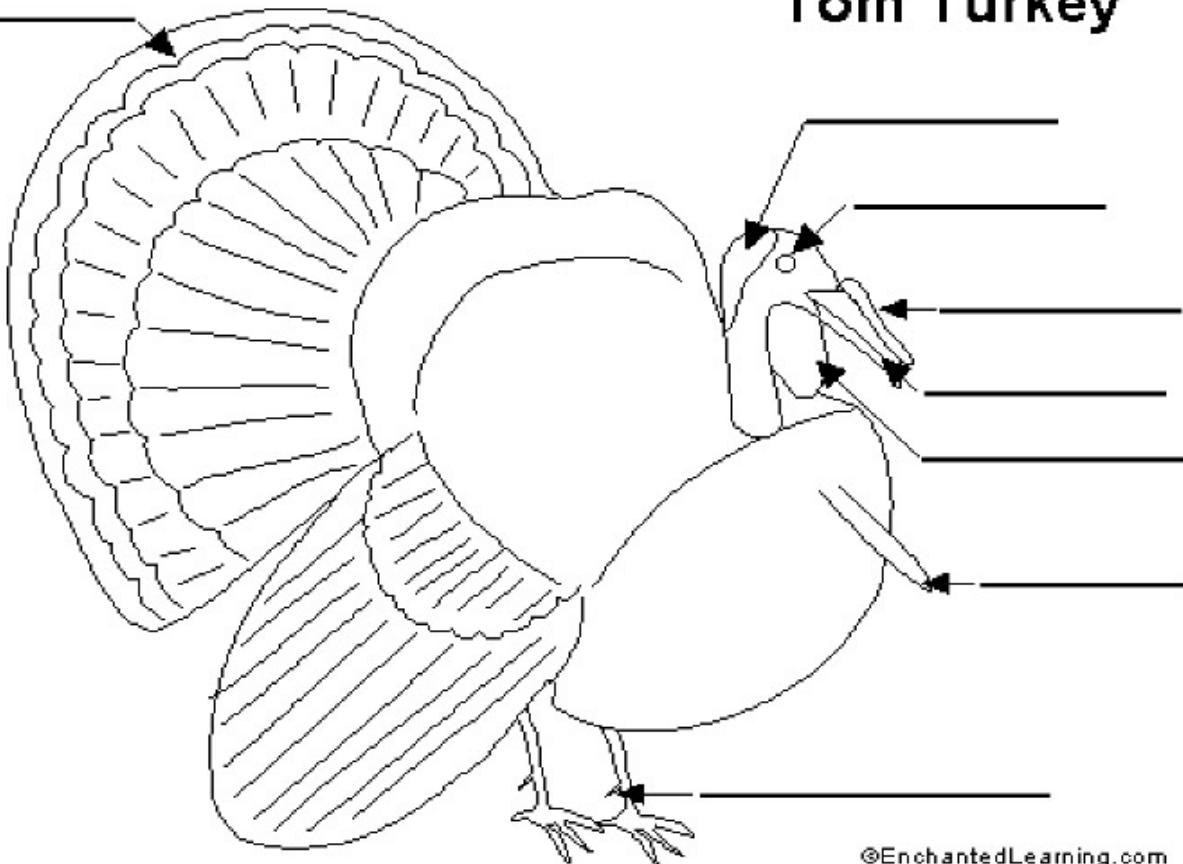


Name _____ Date _____

Label the Turkey

Read the definitions below, then label the turkey diagram.

Tom Turkey



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beard - Male turkeys (and a few females) have a bundle of long, thin, dark feather on the chest, called a beard.

bill - Turkeys have a hard, pointed bill (also called the beak) which they use to get food. They eat insects, worms, fruit, seeds, acorns, grains, slugs, snails, and many other foods

caruncle - The reddish-pink fleshy growth on the head and upper neck of the turkey.

eye - Turkeys have two eyes and excellent vision.

snood - The flap of skin that grows from the base of the turkey's bill and hangs over the bill.

spur on leg - Male turkeys have a spike above each foot.

tail fan - The long, colorful tail feathers of the turkey.

wattle - Bright red skin that hangs from a turkey's neck.



Answer Key

Tail fan

Tom Turkey

Caruncle

Eye

Snood

Bill

Wattle

Beard

Spur on leg

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Thank you Certificates:

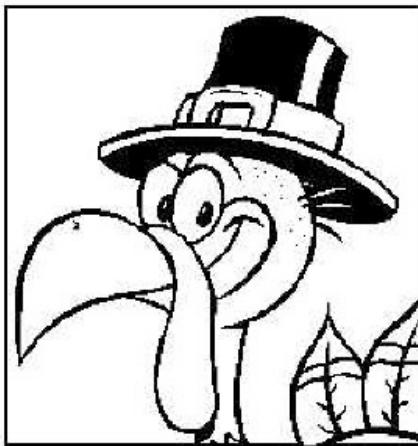


RJW 11/97

Thank you,

for

Thank you!



RJW 11/97

Not Just for Kids! (<http://www.night.net>





Thanksgiving Songs

Over the River (Thanksgiving Day)

Over the river and through the wood
To Grandfather's house we go.
The horse knows the way
To carry the sleigh
Through white and drifted snow.

Over the river and through the wood --
Oh, how the wind does blow!
It stings the toes
And bites the nose,
As over the ground we go.

Over the river and through the wood
To have a first-rate play.
Hear the bells ring,
Ting-a-ling-ling!
Hurrah for Thanksgiving Day!

Over the river and through the wood,
Trot fast, my dapple gray!
Spring over the ground
Like a hunting hound,
For this is Thanksgiving Day.

Over the river and through the wood,
And straight through the barnyard
gate.
We seem to go
Extremely slow --
It is so hard to wait!

Over the river and through the wood --
Now Grandmother's cap I spy!
Hurrah for fun!
Is the pudding done?
Hurrah for the pumpkin pie!





Ha, Ha, Turkey in the Straw

(sung to “Skip to My Lou”)

Turkey in the brown straw, ha, ha, ha,
Turkey in the brown straw, ha, ha, ha,
Turkey in the brown straw, ha, ha, ha.
Turkey in the straw, my darling.

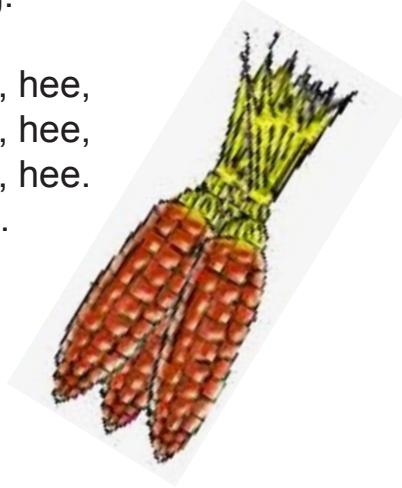
Turkey in the white snow, ho, ho, ho,
Turkey in the white snow, ho, ho, ho,
Turkey in the white snow, ho, ho, ho.
Turkey in the snow, my darling.

Turkey in the blue sky, hi, hi, hi,
Turkey in the blue sky, hi, hi, hi,
Turkey in the blue sky, hi, hi, hi.
Turkey in the sky, my darling.

Turkey in the red barn, harn, harn, harn,
Turkey in the red barn, harn, harn, harn,
Turkey in the red barn, harn, harn, harn.
Turkey in the barn, my darling.

Turkey in the yellow corn, horn, horn, horn,
Turkey in the yellow corn, horn, horn, horn,
Turkey in the yellow corn, horn, horn, horn.
Turkey in the corn, my darling.

Turkey in the green tree, hee, hee, hee,
Turkey in the green tree, hee, hee, hee,
Turkey in the green tree, hee, hee, hee.
Turkey in the tree, my darling.



More songs:

God's Blessings

(Sung to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star")

We are thankful for the ways
That God's blessed us all today.
Thanks for moms and dads so dear.
Thanks for food and clothes we wear.
We are thankful for the ways



We are Thankful

(Sung to the tune of "Are you Sleeping?")

For our, for our food
We are thankful, we are thankful,
That God's blessed us all today.
And our many blessings,
And our many blessings,
Thank you Lord, Thank you Lord.

If You're Thankful and You Know It

(Sung to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It")

If you're thankful and you know it, clap your hands.
If you're thankful and you know it, clap you're hands.
If you're thankful and you know it,
Then your face will surely show it.
If you're thankful and you know it, clap your hands.

If you're thankful and you know it, stomp your feet.
If you're thankful and you know it, stomp your feet.
If you're thankful and you know it,
Then your face will surely show it.
If you're thankful and you know it, stomp your feet.

If you're thankful and you know it, shout I am!.
If you're thankful and you know it, shout I am!.
If you're thankful and you know it,
Then your face will surely show it.
If you're thankful and you know it, shout I am!

If you're thankful and you know it, do all three.
If you're thankful and you know it, clap you're hands.
If you're thankful and you know it,
Then your face will surely show it.
If you're thankful and you know it, clap your hands.



All Things Bright and Beautiful

~Cecil Frances Alexander

He made their glowing colors,

He made their tiny wings.

The purple-headed mountain,

The river running by,

The sunset, and the morning,

That brightens up the sky;

The cold wind in the winter,

The pleasant summer sun,

The ripe fruits in the garden,

He made them every one.

He gave us eyes to see them,

And lips that we might tell,

How great is God Almighty,

Who has made all things well.



Poems:



An Autumn Greeting

"Come," said the Wind to the Leaves one day.

"Come over the meadow and we will play.

Put on your dresses of red and gold.

For summer is gone and the days grow cold."



I Am Thankful

I am thankful for pets

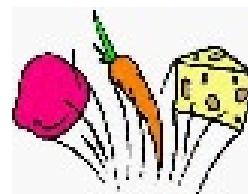
I am thankful for school

I am thankful when I
can swim in a pool.



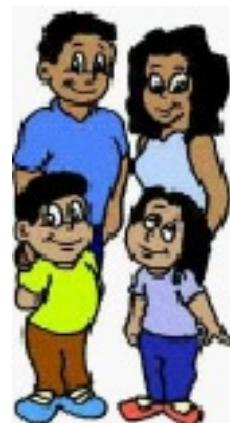
I am thankful for home
and the food that I eat.

I am thankful for all
the new friends that I meet.



I am thankful for health
and for my family.

I'm especially thankful
that I am just me!



The Migration of the Grey Squirrels

~William Howitt

When in my youth I traveled
Throughout each north country,
Many a strange thing did I hear,
And many a strange thing to see.



But nothing was there pleased me more
Than when, in autumn brown,
I came, in the depths of the pathless woods,
To the grey squirrels' town.

There were hundreds that in the hollow boles
Of the old, old trees did dwell,
And laid up store, hard by their door,
Of the sweet mast as it fell.

But soon the hungry wild swine came,
And with thievish snouts dug up
Their buried treasure, and left them not
So much as an acorn cup.

Then did they chatter in angry mood,
And one and all decree,
Into the forests of rich stone-pine
Over hill and dale to flee.

Over hill and dale, over hill and dale,
For many a league they went,
Like a troop of undaunted travelers
Governed by one consent.



But the hawk and the eagle, and peering owl,
Did dreadfully pursue;
And the further the grey squirrels went,
The more their perils grew;
When lo! to cut off their pilgrimage,
A broad stream lay in view.

But then did each wondrous creature show
His cunning and bravery;
With a piece of the pine-bark in his mouth,
Unto the stream came he;

And boldly his little bark he launched,
Without the least delay;
His busy tail was his upright sail,
And he merrily steered away.

Never was there a lovelier sight
Than that grey squirrels' fleet;
And with anxious eyes I watched to see
What fortune it would meet.

Soon had they reached the rough mild-stream,
And ever and anon
I grieved to behold some bark wrecked,
And its little steersman gone.

But the main fleet stoutly held across;
I saw them leap to shore;
They entered the woods with a cry of joy,
For their perilous march was o'er.



Bulletin Board Idea

A Child's Thanksgiving Tree

by Amanda Formaro

Family Corner.com Magazine, Inc.

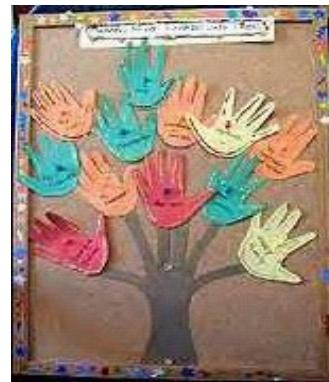
(adapted for classroom use)



Just mentioning the word "Thanksgiving" often conjures up memories for many. Traditions are relived and new ones are born on this joyous holiday. You could easily do this fun and simple activity in your classroom with your children and have a very personal and attractive bulletin board as well.

To make your own Thanksgiving Tree you will need the following materials:

- sheet of white poster board
- pencil
- tempera paint, markers or crayons
- construction paper in red, yellow and orange
- markers
- scissors
- glue or tape
- glitter glue (optional)



Variation: This project can also be easily adapted to a cork board (see photo) by simply using colored push pins to match the leaves. (You may want to use the pattern included in the thankful wreath) Use brown construction paper to make the tree trunk. You may draw the tree trunk freehand.

At the top of the poster board, entitle your tree " ____ Grade's Thanksgiving Tree."

With a pencil on poster board, draw a basic tree with a branch for each child in your classroom (if your class is small).

Using tempera paint, markers, or crayons color the tree trunk brown. On red, orange, green and yellow construction paper, trace 10 copies of each child's hand. Cut out and give each child their "leaves."

Each child writes one thing that they are thankful for on each leaf. You may decorate the leaves with glitter glue if you like. Next, tape or glue the leaves onto their designated branches.

Hint: Make the base ahead of time for quick start up.

If you want to give it a Spanish flair you could make the title "**Damos gracias**" (We give thanks)



Thanksgiving Recipes for kids

Oreo Turkeys

Ingredients:

- Oreo cookies
- candy corn
- malted milk balls
- icing (not whipped)

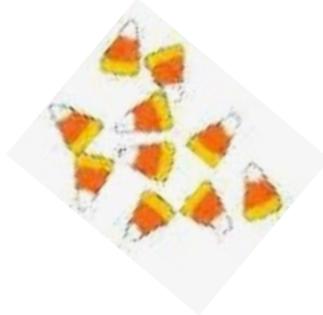


Open one Oreo cookie and place one part, icing side up (eat the other half). Add a bit of icing as glue, and stand another Oreo up on it (this is your turkey body). Spread one side half of the standing Oreo cookie w/ icing, and attach 5-6 pieces of candy corn....fanned out like turkey feathers. Add a malted milk ball to the top of the other side, for head. An additional piece of candy corn can be used for a waddle (or a red M&M). Add candy pumpkins for effect....and create your own little turkey farm!

Microwave Cookie Candy Turkeys

Ingredients:

- 12 Chocolate candy stars
- 12 Caramels, unwrapped
- 12 Scalloped chocolate-frosted shortbread cookies
- 12 Pieces candy corn



MICROWAVE DIRECTIONS: To make each turkey, place chocolate star, point-side up, on work surface. Place one caramel on microwave-safe waxed paper, microwave on HIGH for 5-10 seconds or just until slightly softened. Place softened caramel on tip of chocolate star, pressing down so they stick together. To make the tail, press chocolate cookie, striped side facing forward, firmly against the soft caramel to stand upright. Press candy corn on top of caramel to resemble a turkey's beak.

Makes 12 cookies/decorations.



Graham Cracker Turkeys

Children should be supervised around hot ovens and kitchen appliances!

Note: As in all recipes, results can vary depending on humidity, conditions, etc. Please try any recipe out before attempting in a group setting.

This project is rated AVERAGE to do.

What You Need

1/4 cup unsweetened frozen apple juice concentrate
1/4 cup vegetable oil
1 sliced banana
1 tsp. Vanilla
1 tsp. Cinnamon
1 cup graham flour *
1 cup whole-wheat flour
1 tsp. Baking soda
1/2 tsp. Salt
Turkey shaped cookie cutter



* Graham Flour is a kind of flour, just like the more common wheat flour. If you can't find it in your supermarket, try calling health food stores.

How To Make It

1. Combine apple juice, oil, banana, vanilla, and cinnamon in a blender.
2. In a large bowl, mix together graham flour, whole-wheat flour, baking soda, and salt.
3. Add apple juice mixture to flour mixture and stir thoroughly.
4. Roll out the dough on a floured surface and cut out with turkey shaped cookie cutter.
5. Use a fork to poke holes for eyes and feathers.
6. Bake at 350 degrees Fahrenheit for 8 minutes.

Yield: Makes 2 to 3 dozen cookies



Quick Edible Thanksgiving Turkeys

They would make great treats to send for classroom parties or for children to make at their classroom parties. Make enough to decorate your Thanksgiving table with one at each place setting. Parental supervision is recommended.

This project is rated EASY to do.

What You Need

- 2 Double stuffed Oreos (Halloween ones or regular white)
- Candy corn
- Raisinettes
- Plate



How To Make It

1. Open one Oreo. The half that has the filling will be the base for your turkey to stand on.
2. Eat the other piece, if desired.
3. Place the other Oreo on the filling standing upright. This is your turkey body.
4. Carefully place 5 candy corns into the filling on the upright Oreo. These are the feathers.
5. Place a Raisinette in front of the turkey body. This is the head.
6. Place on your table as a decoration, or gobble it right up!

Tips

These are really easy. My kids were able to help (even my 4 year old). We made these for treats for her preschool class, and they went over very well. They take only minutes to make.



El Día de los Veteranos

VETERANS DAY: HOW IT WAS NAMED

“A Soldier Known But to God”

In 1921, an American Soldier-his name “known but to God” was buried on a Virginia hillside overlooking the Potomac River and the city of Washington. The Arlington National Cemetery burial site of this unknown World War I soldier became the personification of dignity and reverence for America’s veterans. Similar ceremonies occurred earlier in England and France where an “unknown soldier” was buried in each nation’s highest place of honor (in England, Westminster Abbey; in France, the Arc de Triomphe).

These memorial gestures all took place on November 11, giving universal recognition to the celebrated ending of World War I hostilities at 11 a.m., November 11, 1918 (the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month). The day became known as “Armistice Day.”

Armistice Day officially received its name in America in 1926 through a Congressional resolution. It became a national holiday 12 years later by similar Congressional action.

If the idealistic hope had been realized that World War I was “The War to end all wars,” November 11 might still be called Armistice Day. But shortly after the holiday was proclaimed, World War II broke out in Europe and shattered the dream. Sixteen and one-half million Americans took part. Four hundred and six thousand died. The families and friends of these dead longed for a way to honor their memory.

“To Honor Veterans of All Wars”

An answer to the dilemma of how to pay tribute to those who had served in the latest great war, came in a proposal made by Representative Edwin K. Rees of Kansas: Change Armistice Day to Veterans Day, and make this an occasion to honor those who have served America in all wars. President Eisenhower, in 1954, signed the bill proclaiming November 11 as Veterans Day, and he called for Americans everywhere to rededicate themselves to the cause of peace.

On May 30, 1958, two more unidentified American war dead were brought to Arlington Cemetery from overseas and interred in the plaza beside their Comrade of World War I. One was killed in World War II, the other in Korea. A law passed in 1973 provided for the interment of an unknown American who lost his life in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam era. For several years no qualifying remains were discovered so a memorial plaque was placed in the Amphitheater’s Memorial Display Room. On Memorial Day 1984, however, the Unknown Serviceman from that conflict was placed “In Honored Glory” alongside his fellow countrymen. To honor these men, symbolic of all Americans who gave their lives in all wars, an Army honor guard, The 3d United States Infantry (The Old Guard), keeps day and night vigil.

Articles taken from Prairie Wheeler October 1997





Activities for Veterans Day

Veterans Day activities afford the schools and the local community an excellent opportunity to produce a variety of cooperative programs. Participation by patriotic organizations can enhance the projects suggested in this guide.

1. Indoor Ceremony

Depending on the facilities available, an indoor assembly program can provide a most meaningful tribute to Veterans Day. The scope of such a program may be large enough to permit invitations to the community at large. The following ceremony outline with prepared Veterans Day remarks represents a typical one-hour program.

Prelude and Posting of Colors-As the audience enters to be seated, a school or community musical organization may offer several appropriate selections. A procession and posting of colors is always a stirring event. Local veterans service organizations often participate in such programs with their impressive array of banners and flags.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and National Anthem-The program chairperson, school principal or student body president should invite the audience to stand and join in the Pledge of Allegiance and singing of the National Anthem.

Introductory Remarks-The tone for the program may be set by appropriate introductory remarks lasting several minutes. The following remarks may be used or, if desired, the President's Veterans Day Proclamation may be read.

Today there is, and perhaps there always will be, conflict in the world. But the United States fortunately enjoys peace and freedom.

Like other things of great value, this security did not come cheaply. Part of the cost has already been paid by Americans who answered the call to military duty when their country needed them. They served in 11 wars from the Revolution to the Persian Gulf, earning the special distinction "veteran."

But another part of freedom's cost must continue to be paid long after the guns have been silenced. This debt is owed America's veterans.

Some need their country's help, even as their country once needed theirs, to readjust, to recover from wounds or to overcome hardships of age and infirmity. Most need and ask nothing in repayment of their sacrifices.



Activities for Veterans Day...

Let us continue to help those veterans in need with the greatest possible compassion and efficiency. To the rest, since they ask no special help, we can best pay tribute this day by recognizing what they have achieved and joining them in their resolve to keep America strong and free.

Special Musical Selection-A band or choral group should offer one of the more impressive patriotic selections available.

Introduction of Guests-Dignitaries selected as special guests may include local government officials, school alumni with distinguished military service, veterans from the community who represent different periods of service and faculty members who are veterans.

Principal Speaker-Your principal speaker should be invited far enough in advance to allow adequate preparation for your program.

Student Essay or Reading-In school programs, student body participation may be increased by including in the program various presentations by individual pupils. Selected essays from school-wide competition may be offered by the student-author. A reading of a well-known patriotic address by an American president or famous military hero by a talented student can be effective. There are a number of published musicals/narratives which could add greatly to your program.

Moment of Silence-Taps-While Veterans Day is typically a tribute to America's living veterans, it is always appropriate to include a moment of respect for those who gave their lives for their country. The signing of the World War I Armistice took place in a railway coach near the battle zone in France. The bugles sounded "cease firing" and the hostilities ended, marking a most significant moment in world history. Although 11 a.m. remains a traditional hour for this type of tribute, a moment of silence is appropriate at any point in the program. This may be followed by an instrumental or vocal rendition of "Taps."

Closing-Accompanied by appropriate music, assembled colors should be retired. Then the audience may file out.

2. Flag Raising Ceremony

Weather permitting, outdoor flag-raising ceremonies permit group participation in an event which by its routine usually escapes attention. Such a ceremony, although brief, should include the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of the National Anthem. A special guest may participate. (You might want to refer students to flag etiquette.)



3. Musical Programs

Veterans Day offers excellent opportunity for school or community musical organizations to display their talents. A midday concert at the school or at a central location in the community may be especially dedicated to Veterans Day. An innovative program might include selections known to have been popular during America's wars.

4. Poster Contest

The creative talents of students can be encouraged through participation in a school-wide Veterans Day poster contest. Winners should be appropriately recognized and awarded certificates. Local newspapers should be invited to photograph the winning entries.

5. School Newspaper Activity

Feature stories on Veterans Day can be developed by the staff of school publications. Publish a roster of faculty members who are veterans. Describe other Veterans Day activities in individual classrooms.

6. Library Activities

School or community libraries can prepare lists of recommended reading material suitable for Veterans Day. An appropriate display of book jackets or a special shelf containing selected publications can be used to call attention to the project.

7. Football Games

Veterans Day is observed at the time of the year when schools and clubs are engaged in football competition. The presentation of the colors and playing of the National Anthem may be keyed to Veterans Day by an appropriate public address announcement. Half-time presentations by school bands also afford an ideal opportunity to offer special patriotic selections and marching routines. Card section displays are another popular device that may be used to visually recognize Veterans Day.

8. School Cafeteria Activities

Patriotic decorations in school dining areas would add a colorful tribute to Veterans Day. Create special menu items such as decorated cupcakes or cookies.

9. Historical Groups

Veterans Day programs may be given added importance in your school or community through appropriate cooperation with local historical organizations. In many areas, these patriotic groups have organized period uniformed flag bearers, fife and drum corps and other marching and musical units. There are many ways these colorful performers may be part of a dignified program.



Activities for Veterans Day....

10. The Department of Veterans Affairs

Local VA facilities-medical centers, regional benefits offices, and national cemeteries-are ready sources of information and speakers for Veterans Day programs. They can also provide contact with local veterans service organizations and arrange visits, tours and other special programs for students. To contact your local VA facilities, look under Department of Veterans Affairs in the Federal Government listings in the local telephone directory.

11. Suggested Classroom Activities:

Smaller school units can also develop meaningful programs which can personally involve every student. Activities which are entertaining as well as instructive are sure to attract the interest of younger children.

Veterans Day themes can be included in writing assignments. First person accounts of military service of a relative or friend can help develop narrative skills. Assign students to investigate the various benefits offered to veterans by government agencies. Write about veterans who are receiving educational benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs. Describe various veterans memorials which may be located nearby.

The colorful and varied uniforms worn by members of the armed forces throughout our history offer students of all ages ideal subjects to draw and paint. Elementary school children enjoy opportunities to create and exhibit costume items. Making colored construction paper hats representing various military eras is a modest and effective way of interesting pupils in Veterans Day subjects. The official emblems and seals of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard can be portrayed by students in a variety of methods, such as mosaics, applique, decoupage, as well as the traditional painting and drawing approaches.

Ask students to research and list all their known relatives who served in the Armed Forces. Since more than 30 percent of the United States population is comprised of veterans, their dependents and survivors, most students should be able to contribute something.

Courtesy of : <http://www1.va.gov/pubaff/celebAm/acts4vd.html>



Veterans Day Crafts

These Veteran's Day crafts projects are for preschool, kindergarten and elementary school children. The crafts use materials found around the house, like paper, cardboard, boxes, string, crayons, paint, glue, etc.

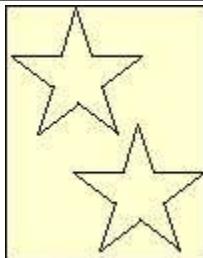


Stand-Alone Star Craft

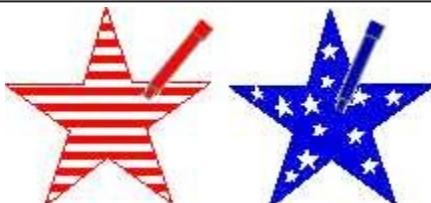
This 3-dimensional star decoration is made from two paper stars that are interlaced. These stars stand by themselves on a table, and make a great patriotic or Christmas decoration.

Supplies:

- Printer (optional)
- Stiff paper (like card stock, oaktag or thin cardboard) or Styrofoam meat trays
- Scissors
- Crayons or markers (optional)



Two paper stars are needed to make one 3-dimensional star. Either draw two identical stars on a piece of stiff paper or use the enclosed star template.



Decorate the two stars (if you like) on both sides, then cut them out.



Make one slit in each star. On one star, the slit goes from an inner corner to the center point of the star; on the other star, the slit goes from an outer corner to the center point.



Stand Alone Star



Slip the two stars together through the slits you just cut. For stability, you may have to tape the stars a bit where they meet at the slits.



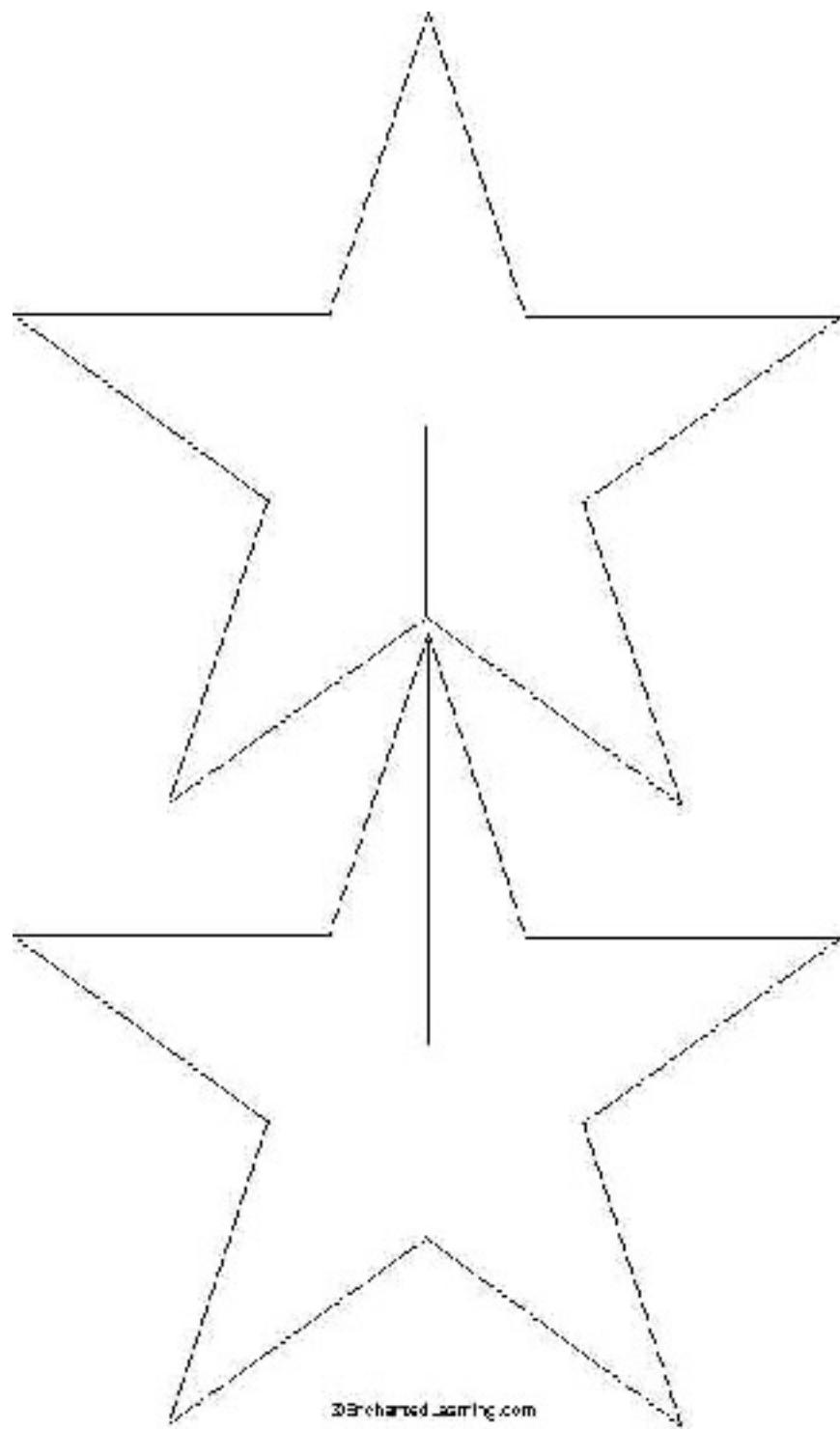
You now have a great three-dimensional star decoration that stands by itself on a table.

Enchantedlearning.com

Spanish Connection: The word for star is "estrella" (ehs-treh-yah). You could also ask the students, ¿De qué color es la estrella? (Deh keh koh-lohr ehs lah ehs-treh-yah) What color is the star,? and use this opportunity to review the colors- rojo, blanco, azul.

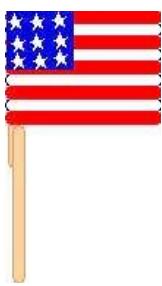


star template



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Craft Stick Flag Craft

This is a simple-to-make US flag made from craft sticks. Since this tiny flag does not have the correct number of stars and stripes, explain to the children that the real US flag has 13 red and white stripes (that represent the original 13 colonies) and 50 stars (that represent the 50 US states).

Supplies needed:

- 9 craft sticks
- Red and white acrylic paint
- Brushes
- Blue construction paper
- Glue
- Either white paper or a white gel pen

	<p>Paint five craft sticks red and four craft sticks white. Let them dry.</p> <p>Glue them together in an alternating pattern by gluing them to one craft stick (on the right side) and two broken craft sticks (in the middle and on the left side).</p>	
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	<p>Cut a small square of blue construction paper. Either draw a lot of white stars on the blue paper using a white gel pen, or cut and glue tiny white stars onto the blue paper.</p>
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	<p>When the glue has set, turn the flag over. Glue on the square of blue construction paper and glue another craft stick to the long craft stick on the back. Let the glue set.</p> <p>You now have a little US flag to celebrate July Fourth, Veterans Day, Memorial Day, Presidents Day, or any other day.</p>
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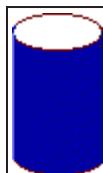


Patriotic Wind Sock Craft

You can make a patriotic wind sock from an oatmeal box, construction paper, string, and crepe paper streamers.

Supplies needed:

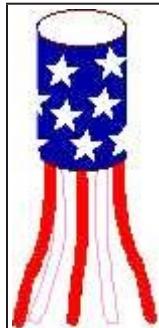
- A cylindrical cardboard oatmeal box
- Construction paper (blue and white)
- Red and white crepe paper streamers
- Glue
- String
- Scissors
- Hole punch



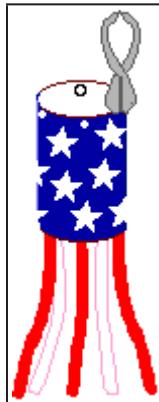
Cut the bottom off a cylindrical cardboard oatmeal box.



Cover the box with blue construction paper and then glue on white construction paper stars.



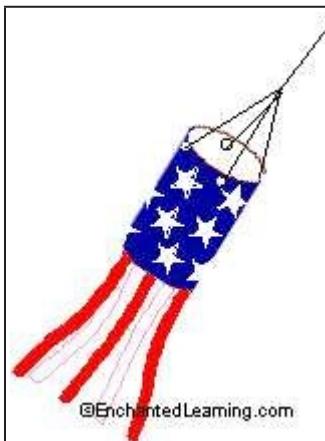
Cut some red and white crepe paper streamers and glue or staple them to one end of the wind sock.



Punch four holes along the top of the wind sock.



Patriotic Windsock



Cut two pieces of string about a foot long. Tie the strings to the wind sock (tie the opposite ends of a string to holes on opposite sides of the cylinder).

Tie a longer piece of string to the smaller pieces - you'll hang the wind sock from this piece of string.

Hang your patriotic wind sock from your window or porch.





"The Star-Spangled Banner" (from Family Education.com)

The lyrics to "The Star-Spangled Banner" are particularly poignant and meaningful during this time of national mourning and pride. Be sure you and your kids know the words to this anthem that has brought courage and hope to so many during dark times.

Lyrics, by Francis Scott Key:

First Verse

Oh, say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, thro' the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watch'd, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air
Gave proof thro' the night that our flag was still there.
Oh, say, does that Star-Spangled Banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

Second Verse

On the shore dimly seen, thro' the mists of the deep,
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,
As it fitfully blows half conceals, half discloses?
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,
In full glory reflected, now shines in the stream;
'Tis the Star-Spangled Banner, Oh long may it wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Third Verse

And where is that band who so vauntingly swore
That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion
A home and a country should leave us no more?
Their blood has wash'd out their foul footstep's pollution.
No refuge could save the hireling and slave
From the terror of flight or the gloom of the grave,
And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Fourth Verse

Oh, thus be it ever when free men shall stand
Between their loved homes and the war's desolation!
Blest with vict'ry and peace, may the heav'n rescued land
Praise the Pow'r that hath made and preserved us a nation!
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
And this be our motto, "In God is our trust"
And the Star-Spangled Banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!



Poem:

We Stood For Freedom

We stood for freedom just like you
And loved the flag you cherish too

Our uniforms felt great to wear
You know the feel, and how you care

In step we marched, the cadence way
The same is true with you today

Oh how we tried to do our best
As you do now, from test to test

How young we were and proud to be
Defenders of true liberty

So many thoughts bind soldiers well
The facts may change, not how we jell

Each soldier past, and you now here
Do share what will not disappear

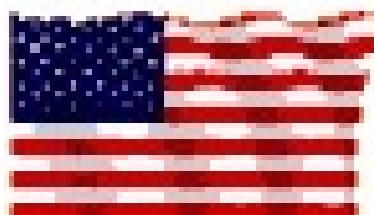
One thought now comes, straight from my heart
For soldiers home, who've done their part

I'm honored to have served with you
May Godly peace, help get you through

And now I'll end with a request
Do ponder this, while home at rest

America, respect our day
Each veteran, helped freedom stay

Roger J. Robicheau 2002





FLAG ETIQUETTE:

Here are some tips to make sure your tribute is a respectful one:

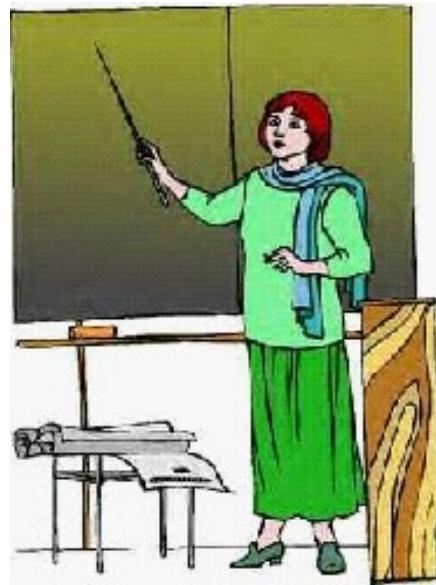
1. Display the flag only between sunrise and sunset on buildings and stationary flag staffs. The flag may be displayed for twenty-four hours if illuminated in darkness.
2. Do not display the flag in inclement weather.
3. Whether displaying the flag vertically or horizontally, make sure the canton of stars is visible on the upper left-hand side.
4. Do not let the flag touch the ground. An unusable flag that is damaged and worn and can no longer be displayed, should be destroyed in a dignified way by burning.
5. When not on display, the flag should be respectfully folded into a triangle, symbolizing the tricorn hats worn by colonial soldiers in the Revolutionary War.



Good Teaching: The Top Ten Requirements

by Richard Leblanc, York University, Ontario

This article appeared in The Teaching Professor after Professor Leblanc won a Seymour Schulich Award for Teaching Excellence.



One. Good teaching is as much about passion as it is about reason. It's about not only motivating students to learn, but teaching them how to learn, and doing so in a manner that is relevant, meaningful, and memorable. It's about caring for your craft, having a passion for it, and conveying that passion to everyone, most importantly to your students.

Two. Good teaching is about substance and treating students as consumers of knowledge. It's about doing your best to keep on top of your field, reading sources, inside and outside of your areas of expertise, and being at the leading edge as often as possible. But knowledge is not confined to scholarly journals. Good teaching is also about bridging the gap between theory and practice. It's about leaving the ivory tower and immersing oneself in the field, talking to, consulting with, and assisting practitioners, and liaising with their communities.

Three. Good teaching is about listening, questioning, being responsive and remembering that each student and class is different. It's about eliciting responses and developing the oral communication skills of the quiet students. It's about pushing students to excel; at the same time, it's being human, respecting others, and being professional at all times.

Four. Good teaching is about not always having a fixed agenda and being rigid, but being flexible, fluid, experimenting, and having the confidence to react and adjust to changing circumstances. It's about getting only 10 percent of what you wanted to do in a class done and still feeling good. It's about deviating from the course syllabus or lecture schedule easily when there is more and better learning elsewhere. Good teaching is about the creative balance between being an authoritarian dictator on the one hand and a pushover on the other.

Five. Good teaching is also about style. Should good teaching be entertaining? You bet! Does this mean that it lacks in substance? Not a chance! Effective teaching is not about being locked with both hands glued to a podium or having your eyes fixated on a slide projector while you drone on. Good teachers work the room and every student in it. They realize that they are the conductors and the class is the orchestra. All students play different instruments and at varying proficiencies.



Good Teaching....

Six. This is very important-- good teaching is about humor. It's about being. It's about being self-deprecating and not taking yourself too seriously. It's often about making innocuous jokes, mostly at your own expense, so that the ice breaks and students learn in a more relaxed atmosphere where you, like them, are human with your own share of faults and shortcomings.

Seven. Good teaching is about caring, nurturing, and developing minds and talents. It's about devoting time, often invisible courses, and preparing materials to still further enhance instructions.

Eight. Good teaching is supported by strong and visionary leadership, and very tangible institutional support -- resources, personnel, and funds. Good teaching is continually reinforced by an over arching vision that transcends the entire organization -- from full professors to part-time instructors -- and is reflected in what is said, but more importantly by what is done.

Nine. Good teaching is about mentoring between senior and junior faculty, teamwork, and being recognized and promoted by one's peers. Effective teaching should also be rewarded, and poor teaching needs to be remediated through training and development programs.

Ten. At the end of the day, good teaching is about having fun, experiencing pleasure and intrinsic rewards... like locking eyes with a student in the back row and seeing the synapses and neurons connecting, thoughts being formed, the person becoming better, and a smile cracking across a face as learning all of a sudden happens. Good teachers practice their craft not for the money or because they have to, but because they truly enjoy it and because they want to. Good teachers couldn't imagine doing anything else.





Implement a Positive Approach to Managing your Classroom by Esther Wright, M.A.

Being proactive requires thinking ahead and attempting to predict what systems and structures your students will need in order to be successful. These systems and structures can prevent problems before they begin. How we arrange desks, where we seat certain students, how we manage the distribution and collection of materials, how we transition activites, and how we provide support to students who require individual attention, are issues we must consider before school begins and then manage as the school year progresses.

When a disruption occurs, there are many positive strategies that work. Some teachers ignore minor misbehaviors and find that they disappear without any intervention. Other teachers walk over and stand near disruptive students, sometimes looking at them or gently touching their shoulder to get their attention. Some teacher use 3x5 cards that say, "Please get back on task" or "Are you being a responsible learner?" Often these actions work as well as calling out a student's name or implementing a punishment.

In some cases you must add or modify a system or structure that will prevent the behavior from recurring (e.g., changing seating, setting up a game or contract, engaging the student in an enjoyable activity.)

If you find yourself constantly criticizing students, or if you find the same behaviors occurring day after day, you can be sure something needs to be changed or added. Determine whether changes are needed in the physical arrangement, the discipline system, or the instructional program.

Stop, look and listen to what systems or structures your students seem to need. If your predictions turn out to be inaccurate, don't get discouraged. Experiment with new systems and structures until you discover the one that works best for your group of students.

