

Fun Thanksgiving Trivia Questions and Answers

Thanksgiving isn't just about turkey and pie; it's about gratitude, family, and laughter shared over the dinner table.

These trivia questions will start a fun competition and teach everyone something new about this beloved holiday tradition.

Thanksgiving History and Traditions

1. Who was the U.S. president who made Thanksgiving a national holiday?

Abraham Lincoln

2. In what year did the first Thanksgiving take place?

1621

3. Which Native American tribe shared the first Thanksgiving feast with the Pilgrims?

The Wampanoag Tribe

4. What was the name of the ship that brought the Pilgrims to America?

The Mayflower

5. How long did the first Thanksgiving celebration last?

Three days

6. What was the name of the Pilgrims' settlement?

Plymouth Colony

7. Which president moved Thanksgiving one week earlier to boost retail sales?

Franklin D. Roosevelt

8. What famous rock marks where the Pilgrims landed?

Plymouth Rock

9. What document did the Pilgrims sign before disembarking the Mayflower?

The Mayflower Compact

10. Which U.S. state was the first to officially adopt Thanksgiving as an annual holiday?

New York

11. Who is credited with convincing Abraham Lincoln to declare Thanksgiving a national holiday?

Sarah Josepha Hale

12. How many passengers sailed on the Mayflower?

102

13. Which Native American famously helped the Pilgrims learn to grow crops?

Squanto

14. What was the main meat likely served at the first Thanksgiving?

Venison

15. What year did the first presidential turkey pardon take place?

1947

16. What does the term “Black Friday” refer to?

The day after Thanksgiving marks the start of holiday shopping.

17. Which U.S. president started the turkey pardon tradition?

Harry S. Truman

18. Which U.S. state raises the most turkeys annually?

Minnesota

19. What day of the week is Thanksgiving always celebrated in the United States?

Thursday

20. In what year did the first Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade occur?

1924

21. What was the original purpose of the first Thanksgiving celebration?

To give thanks for the harvest and survival of the settlers

22. How many turkeys are typically eaten each Thanksgiving in the U.S.?

About 46 million

23. What year did Thanksgiving become a fixed national holiday on the fourth Thursday of November?

1941

24. Which Native American tribe’s leader attended the first Thanksgiving feast?

Chief Massasoit of the Wampanoag

25. What do many people do after Thanksgiving dinner besides watch football?

Express gratitude or share what they’re thankful for

Thanksgiving Food and Feasting

26. What is the centerpiece dish of most Thanksgiving dinners?

Turkey

27. What red sauce is commonly served with turkey?

Cranberry sauce

28. What traditional dessert is made from a gourd-based filling?

Pumpkin pie

29. What dish combines green beans, cream of mushroom soup, and crispy onions?

Green bean casserole

30. What sweet dish features marshmallows and yams?

Sweet potato casserole

31. What nut is the main ingredient in a popular Thanksgiving pie?

Pecan

32. What part of the turkey is pulled apart for good luck?

The wishbone

33. What bread is often used to make stuffing?

Cornbread

34. What do you call a turkey stuffed with a duck and a chicken?

A turducken

35. What's the most common Thanksgiving side dish in the U.S.?

Mashed potatoes

36. What's the traditional beverage served warm with spices during Thanksgiving?

Apple cider

37. Which sauce is made from the drippings of cooked turkey?

Gravy

38. What was NOT served at the first Thanksgiving feast?

Pumpkin pie (no sugar or oven)

39. What spice blend is essential for pumpkin pie flavor?

Cinnamon, nutmeg, and cloves

40. What popular Thanksgiving dish is sometimes made with canned cream soup?

Green bean casserole

41. What type of pie besides pumpkin is a Thanksgiving favorite?

Apple pie

42. What dish made from leftover turkey is commonly eaten the next day?

Turkey sandwiches

43. What color scheme is often used for Thanksgiving table settings?

Warm autumn colors like orange, red, and brown

44. What popular Thanksgiving side is made from mashed and seasoned corn?

Creamed corn

45. What is the term for Thanksgiving stuffing cooked inside the turkey?

Dressing

46. What's a common vegetarian substitute for turkey?

Tofurky

47. What utensil is traditionally used to carve the turkey?

Carving knife

48. What kind of salad includes whipped cream, fruit, and coconut?

Ambrosia salad

49. What is the ideal internal temperature of a fully cooked turkey?

165°F (74°C)

50. What type of bread is often served with Thanksgiving meals?

Dinner rolls

51. What vegetable was originally a symbol of abundance and often served at early feasts?

Corn

52. What is the most common pie crust type used for pumpkin pie?

Pastry crust

53. What sweet treat made with nuts and syrup became a Southern Thanksgiving staple?

Pecan pie

54. What's a popular side dish made with cornmeal and baked in a skillet?

Cornbread

Pop Culture and Modern Turkey Day Fun

55. What cartoon special features Charlie Brown struggling to make Thanksgiving dinner?

A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving

56. Which "Friends" episode features Joey wearing a turkey on his head?

"The One with All the Thanksgivings"

57. What 1987 comedy film follows two men trying to get home for Thanksgiving?

Planes, Trains, and Automobiles

58. What balloon character has appeared the most in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade?

Snoopy

59. Which NFL team has played every Thanksgiving since 1934?

The Detroit Lions

60. What sport is most commonly watched on Thanksgiving Day?

Football

61. Which famous city hosts the oldest Thanksgiving Day parade in the U.S.?

Philadelphia

62. What was the first balloon ever featured in the Macy's Parade?

Felix the Cat

63. What animated show features chaotic Thanksgiving dinners in nearly every season?

The Simpsons

64. What 2003 animated movie stars a turkey trying to stop Thanksgiving from ever happening?

Free Birds

65. What sitcom coined the term "Slapsgiving"?

How I Met Your Mother

66. What do many Americans do to kick off the holiday season after Thanksgiving?

Go shopping on Black Friday.

67. Which U.S. president was the first to pardon two turkeys instead of one?

Barack Obama

68. What annual tradition features floats, bands, and balloons on Thanksgiving morning?

The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade

69. What's the most-watched TV event on Thanksgiving Day?

NFL games

70. Which movie features a chaotic Thanksgiving meal with family drama and laughter?

Home for the Holidays

71. What popular online shopping event follows Black Friday?

Cyber Monday

72. What social media trend encourages people to post daily gratitude?

#ThankfulChallenge

73. What Thanksgiving dish was the inspiration for Swanson's first frozen dinner in 1953?

Leftover turkey

74. Which U.S. president compared Thanksgiving to "a day of healing and gratitude"?

Joe Biden

75. Which actor voiced the turkey Reggie in "Free Birds"?

Owen Wilson

76. What band performed during the first televised Macy's Thanksgiving Parade?

The University of Michigan Marching Band

77. Which Thanksgiving special involves Snoopy serving toast and popcorn?

A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving

78. What's a common post-dinner activity other than watching TV?

Playing family board games

79. What is the name of the parade broadcast nationwide on NBC each Thanksgiving morning?

Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade

80. What modern event involves running a short race before eating the feast?

A Turkey Trot

81. What streaming platform often releases Thanksgiving cooking specials?

Netflix