



### IN GROUPS

1-If you are seated at Thanksgiving dinner and someone asks you to “give thanks”, what are they asking you to do? Does your family pray before eating?

2-Make a list of people, things or conditions for which you are thankful. Talk about the items on your list.

3-From the Pilgrims perspective: The Pilgrims arrived in a strange land with little to support them but some tools and a will to thrive. They almost died the first winter with poor shelter and little food. But their first harvest in 1621 was plentiful and they took time to feast and give thanks. Compare your experiences in coming to “a new world”. What difficulties did you experience? Did you have trouble finding a place to live and getting used to new types of food?

4-The Pilgrims experience with the Indians the first year or two was good. The Indians helped them survive. How was your experience your first year here with Americans. In what ways did they help you survive? Were there times when you felt like Americans were “the enemy”?

5-For Americans, Thanksgiving is a time to take a break and unite with family and friends over a big meal. It is a time to be thankful for all that we have. Do you have a similar holiday in your country? Talk about it.

6-After the Thanksgiving meal, someone might say, “Stick around. We’re going to watch the ballgame.” What do they mean?

7-After dinner, you might want to stretch your legs. What does that mean?

### **Thanksgiving Vocabulary: Read the definitions then use the idioms in a sentence.**

**Cold turkey:** to suddenly and completely stop doing something, especially bad habits. Have you ever quit something “cold turkey”.

**Trimmings:** extras that accompany the turkey. Describe a big meal you have at holidays. Be sure to tell about all the trimmings.

**Eat like a bird:** to eat only a small amount. Is there anyone in your family that eats like a bird? Do others try to encourage them to eat? Is overeating considered a bad thing in your culture?

**Sweet tooth:** a love for sugary foods. Do you have a sweet tooth? What are your favorite sweet foods?

**count your blessings:** count the things you have to be thankful for.

**a blessing in disguise:** a blessing that you didn’t recognize as a blessing until later.

**a mixed blessing:** something that has good parts and bad parts

**to pig out:** to eat a lot

**Read and discuss these Thankfulness Quotations. Choose a favorite.**

1. "I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers."

— [L.M. Montgomery, Anne of Green Gables](#)

**How would you finish the sentence, "I'm so glad I live in a world where there are \_\_\_\_\_."**

2. "i was angry because i had no shoes, but then i met a man who had no feet."

— [Anonymous](#)

**Describe a similar experience you have had when you realized how lucky you were.**

3. "If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is thank you, it will be enough."

----Meister Eckhart

4. "Feeling thankful and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it."

—William Arthur Ward.

5. "It is not happy people who are thankful. It is thankful people who are happy."

—unknown