



# THE BUZZ LETTER



A product of [www.BuzzingKidsWorld.com](http://www.BuzzingKidsWorld.com)



## Turkey Tidbits

- Male turkeys are Toms; females, Hens.
- Wild turkeys are black with red and green shine to their feathers; tannish coloration on their wings and tail feathers; with black and white markings on their wing feathers.
- Benjamin Franklin wanted the turkey to be the U. S. national bird instead of the bald eagle!
- Wild turkeys love to sit in high evergreens. When scared, they can fly for about a mile as fast as a car usually drives, about 55 miles per hour.
- Only Tom turkeys gobble; the Hen makes more of a clicking noise.

~

## Ancient harvest festivals

Early Mayans had prayers, feasts, games and music that drew spectators from miles around. Romans and Druids held feasts to thank their gods for a rich harvest, a custom that has come down to the present Thanksgiving Day.

~

Permission to copy, use, and distribute materials contained in this publication is allowed without fee for personal, private, and educational purposes, except that reproducing materials for profit or any commercial use is not permitted. Kids love it, parents and grandparents love it, and teachers love it. We hope you do, too. ~ Editor

## On this Thanksgiving Day

As we slice the turkey at our Thanksgiving table, we should count the blessings we take for granted. Though the past year has been challenging for many, we are far better off than many in American history have been.

We know the early Pilgrims were near starvation before their harvest Thanksgiving Day in 1621. The day went on to become a harvest celebration declared by governors of each colony or state. As New Englanders moved west in the 18th century, they took the holiday with them. Many returned to their original homes to celebrate it.

Some were not so lucky. In 1850 during the gold rush in California, a miner from Connecticut, described their Thanksgiving Day: "We ate quail stew and dried apple pie. Missed being with the folks... maybe next year"

In 1863, following the battle of Gettysburg, President Lincoln declared the last Thursday in November to be Thanksgiving Day. To add a healing note, "The President's Hymn" was composed and was sung across the nation.

With these memories, we give thanks for our families, friends, feasts, and football.



## CHALK TALK

### Why Thursday was chosen for Thanksgiving Day

Our Thanksgiving Day falls on Thursday as the result of a long chain of circumstances. As an annual festival, it is a legacy from the New England colonists. They brought the idea with them from England, where it was customary to observe special thanksgiving days after events of national importance. After the defeat of the Spanish Armada, two days were designated for offering thanks.

The custom of celebrating Thanksgiving on Thursday arose with the pilgrims. As Puritans, they selected Wednesday or Thursday because they wanted them as far as possible from the Sabbath, which they observed with simplicity.

In the autumn of 1621, William Bradford, governor of the Plymouth Colony, called for a day of thanksgiving after their first harvest. Indian Chief Massasoit and 90 of his people joined the three-day feast, contributing deer to the menu. Four of the colonists also hunted for the feast. Prominent on the menu were numerous wild turkeys, then common in the woods of Massachusetts. From this circumstance, the Thanksgiving feast was associated with turkey.

No record has come down to us about a day of thanksgiving being declared in 1622. According to Encyclopedia Britannica, a day of thanksgiving was declared in 1623 to celebrate rainfall after a drought.

After 1630, Thanksgiving Day came to be observed every year after the harvest, and other colonies gradually adopted the practice.

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed Thanksgiving Day national holiday and chose Thursday, in recognition of the pilgrim tradition.



## SEASONAL TIPS

### Plan ahead... choose the right gift!

Holiday gift-giving time is just around the corner. Some gifts can say more than you want.

- Don't give one that says "you need to be improved", such as a treadmill or a book on losing weight.



- Homemade gifts are special treats, especially from a child to a parent or grandparent. There's still plenty of time to make bookmarks, for example.

Who doesn't enjoy a tin of homemade sugar cookies or fudge as a holiday gift. If you have a budding chef in the family, it's a creative way for them to share their talent *with* friends and family members. A fancy cookie cutter or two would be an appreciated gift *for* them, too. So would personalized labels for their creations.

- Avoid giving a gift that needs to be assembled, like a bicycle that's in

parts (put it together before Christmas morning) or anything that comes in many pieces; except Legos or a jigsaw puzzle, of course.

- Never give a living creature to a child without first discussing it with their parents, or to an adult that you are not certain will appreciate it. We all know parents usually end up feeding the pet and grandma may not be able to take proper care of the canary. They may end up giving it away.

- Give a gift that is for that person only. Don't disguise an item that will be used by the whole family as an individual gift. A TV that all will enjoy is not a gift for dad; but, one for his man-cave could be just the ticket.

- This year plan your shopping around a theme idea. A book for everyone; or a Christmas tree ornament (see [www.buzzingkidsworld.com](http://www.buzzingkidsworld.com) for ideas for teachers), or a T-shirt on which you embroider their initials if you have a sewing machine; or a hammered tin key chain. You get the idea. Remember, it's the thought that counts.

## November Project

### The Thankful Tree



What you need:

- A small tree branch
- A pot filled with dirt
- Colored paper
- Ornament hangers
- A single-hole punch is handy

Place the tree branch in the pot of dirt. Have kids cut out leaf shapes and place them under it. Ask each guest to write something for which they are thankful on a leaf. The children then attach them to the tree.

Before or after dinner is served, these can be shared with everyone.

### Want more to do...



### Paint Your Own Pumpkin Kit available at

[www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

or go to

[www.buzzingkidsworld.com](http://www.buzzingkidsworld.com)  
(click on Nov '08 Buzzletter)

~

### Turkey Trivia

Three places in the United States are named after the turkey.

- Turkey, TX, with 456 pop. ('08)
- Turkey Creek, LA, 361 pop. ('08)
- Turkey, NC, 270 pop. ('09)

There also are 16 townships around the country named "Turkey," Facts: U.S. Census Bureau.

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

### A Child's Thanksgiving Thanks

I'm thankful for the many things  
That help us live as well as kings,  
For all the food that makes us drool,  
And another holiday from school.

~ By Karl Fuchs



### Thanksgiving Thoughts

Mom is in the kitchen,  
And when I take a look,  
I'm glad I'm not a turkey  
That's she's about to cook!

~ By Karl Fuchs

### Thank God for church ladies with typewriters...these actually appeared in church bulletins:

- The Fasting & Prayer conference includes meals.
- Next Thursday will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.
- Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands.
- For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
- Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.

### Laughter is good for the soul!

To see more [www.buzzingkidsworld.com](http://www.buzzingkidsworld.com)  
(click on Buzz Blog, then Kids Buzz)