

AUTUMNFEST — Teacher Input

Resources: books, poems, recipes, Ideals Magazines, pictures, corn stalks, labels, cooking utensils, spices, fruits and vegetables, seeds...

Include books on Fall/Thanksgiving at your Library Centre.

Suggested titles for novel study:

- 1) 100 Pounds of Popcorn – Hazel Krantz
- 2) Danny, Champion of the World – Roald Dahl

Set up a "Thank You" bulletin board. Students can tape or pin thank you messages to the board. Everyone will enjoy reading the positive comments people write. (Leave pencil and pad/note paper nearby.)

Centres can be set up based on themes/skills:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Corn Centre | Reading Centre |
| Turkey Centre | Math Centre |
| Pumpkin/Veggies Centre | Language Centre |
| Popcorn Centre | Art Centre |
| Harvest Festival Centre | Writing Centre |
| Cooking Centre | |

Take a Hike

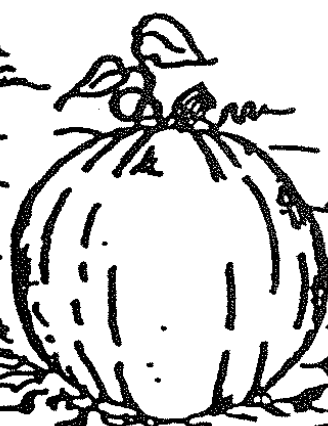
Discuss with your class the safety precautions to follow when hiking.

Establish with them the purpose of the hike and your expectations.

Suggestions for Follow-up:

- Allow your students to create their own display on burlap, bristolboard, booklets...
- Students can contribute items for an interest centre. (Teacher might provide large basket or cornucopia.) Students can create activities for others to complete at centre.
- Items can be used for art activities.
3D collage/mobiles
- Students give an oral report of a feature of their hike.
- Research Centres may develop from the students' collections.

e.g. seeds, vegetables, insects, weeds, wildflowers



Autumn Adventures
Take A Hike!

Enjoy a day in the great outdoors.
Plan your day carefully.
Discuss necessary safety precautions to be followed for your area.

1. autumn leaf that has changed colour
Identify it. _____
2. seeds
3. a cocoon
4. milkweed pod
5. caterpillar
6. blade of grass/fallen branch
Measure the length. _____
7. wildflower/weed
8. a feather
9. maple key/acorn
10. burr
11. pine cone
12. pumpkin seed
13. a gourd
14. a cranberry
15. corn husks
16. mystery item (your choice)

When you return from your hike, take a tally of the items collected and the things still needed.

Prepare a list that your group needs to do/collect to complete this activity.

Harvest and Thanksgiving Celebrations

As long as men have grown their own food, they have celebrated each harvest with a Thanksgiving. This is a day set aside to give thanks for the bountiful harvest of the earth. This theme of thankfulness for peace and plenty continues to be celebrated around the world.

One of the first to celebrate Thanksgiving was the ancient **Mayas** from Central America and Mexico, who honoured their gods for the harvest of their most important food-producing grain—maize. The Mayas celebrated with a great feast and ceremonies of music and games.

In **Holland**, the Dutch celebrated Thanksgiving Day as early as 1575. They celebrated their victory for religious freedom over Spain.

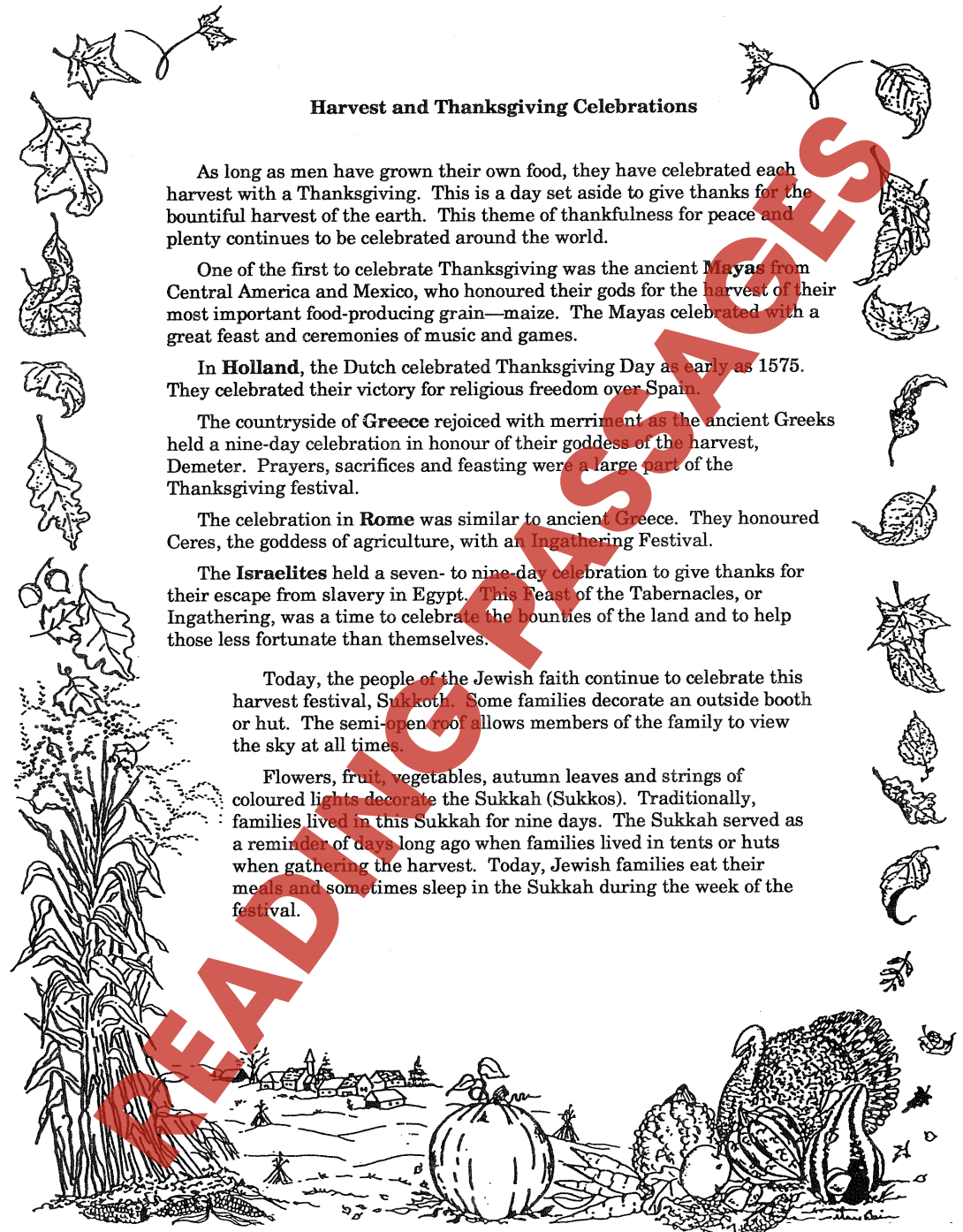
The countryside of **Greece** rejoiced with merriment as the ancient Greeks held a nine-day celebration in honour of their goddess of the harvest, Demeter. Prayers, sacrifices and feasting were a large part of the Thanksgiving festival.

The celebration in **Rome** was similar to ancient Greece. They honoured Ceres, the goddess of agriculture, with an Ingathering Festival.

The **Israelites** held a seven- to nine-day celebration to give thanks for their escape from slavery in Egypt. This Feast of the Tabernacles, or Ingathering, was a time to celebrate the bounties of the land and to help those less fortunate than themselves.

Today, the people of the Jewish faith continue to celebrate this harvest festival, **Sukkot**. Some families decorate an outside booth or hut. The semi-open roof allows members of the family to view the sky at all times.

Flowers, fruit, vegetables, autumn leaves and strings of coloured lights decorate the Sukkah (Sukkos). Traditionally, families lived in this Sukkah for nine days. The Sukkah served as a reminder of days long ago when families lived in tents or huts when gathering the harvest. Today, Jewish families eat their meals and sometimes sleep in the Sukkah during the week of the festival.



What do you call a person from :

Holland	Greece
Italy	Israel
Japan	Russia
United States	Canada

Can you locate each country?

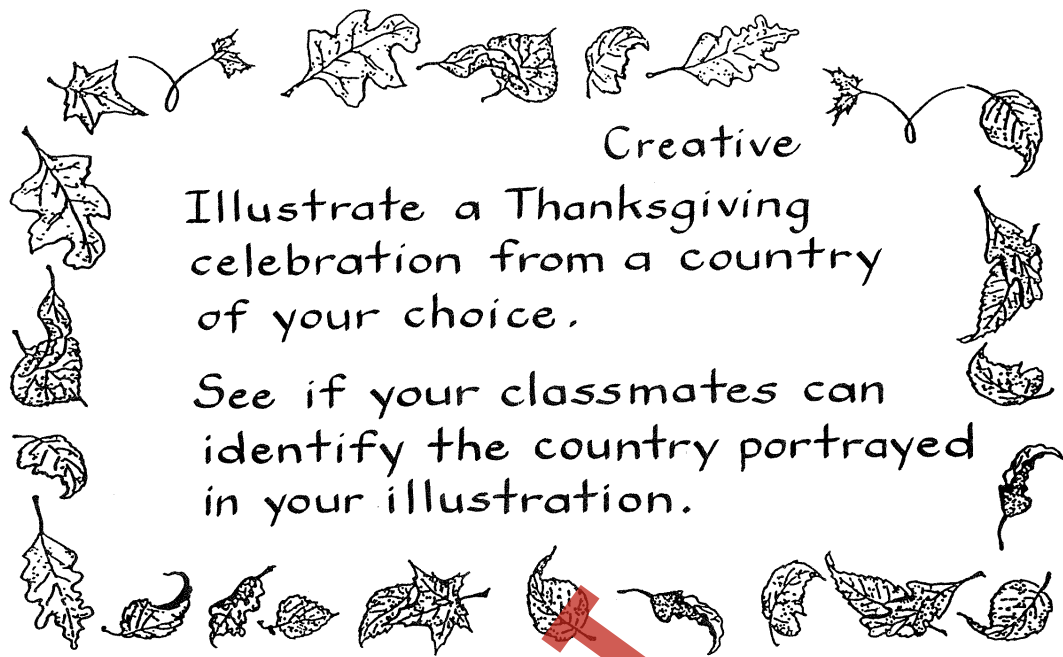
Skim through the information sheets, "Harvest and Thanksgiving Celebrations."

Find and list fifteen plural words.
Find a partner. Exchange lists.
Write the singular for each word in your list. Check your partner's work.

Research

Match the words from List B to a country in List A. Be prepared to explain the match.

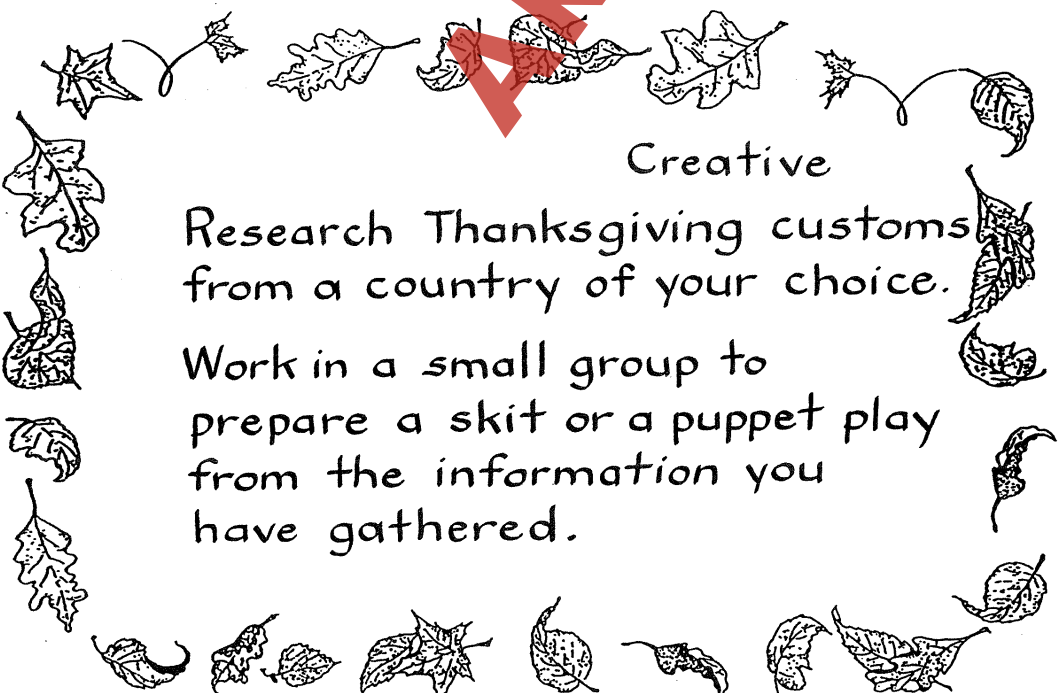
<p>A</p> <p>China Russia Japan Canada Israel Mexico United States Arabia Australia</p>	<p>B</p> <p>harvest wreath Indians Emperor maize Pilgrim hare Mayas khorovod sheep wheat stalks moon cakes Sukkah rice wine</p>
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Creative

Illustrate a Thanksgiving celebration from a country of your choice.

See if your classmates can identify the country portrayed in your illustration.



Creative

Research Thanksgiving customs from a country of your choice.

Work in a small group to prepare a skit or a puppet play from the information you have gathered.

Turkey Trivia

The turkey belongs to an order of birds call GALLIFORMES — heavy, hen-like birds that feed on grain. Other birds in this group are: chicken, grouse, quail, pheasants and partridges.

Male turkeys are known as toms, gobblers or cocks. Female turkeys are hens. Young turkeys are call poults.

Like most other bird species, the male has brighter plumage and is slightly larger than the female turkey.

Other distinguishing characteristics of the male are the fleshy growths on its head and throat called caruncles, and the red flesh hanging from the throat, called a wattle.

The snood, a fleshy piece of skin above the beak, is often cut away when the turkey is quite young.

Both male and female turkeys have a tuft of feathers on their breast called a beard.

The male's beard may grow to be approximately 15 cm in length, while the female's beard is approximately 2 1/2 cm in length.



Most Thanksgiving dinners include a turkey. Some people prefer white meat, which comes from the breast. The dark meat comes from the thighs and legs of the turkey.

Growing Corn

* Follow the story of corn beginning at the root.



12. As the corn plant nears its full height, the ear and tassel grow rapidly.
11. Ears of corn grow from the nodes (places where the leaves join the stalk).
10. As the stem elongates, the tassel is pushed upwards. Most of its growth occurs after the leaves have emerged.
9. By the time the plant is knee-high, a miniature tassel can be found inside the stem, just above the ground.
8. Once the seedling is established, the plant creates a root system, stalks and leaves.
7. Exposure to the sunlight stops the growth of the coleoptile and allows the growth of other leaves.
6. The coleoptile (needle-like leaf at tip of shoot) penetrates through the soil.
5. Soon after, a shoot emerges and begins to grow toward the surface of the soil.
4. The first roots of the seedling develop from the radicle.
3. The first sign of growth is the appearance of the radicle (primary root) near the tip of the kernel.
2. The seed absorbs soil moisture equal to 30% of its own weight.
1. If corn seed is planted in soil that is warm and moist enough, it will begin to germinate (grow) soon after planting.



Brainstorm the brands of popcorn enjoyed by your class.

Determine the brand and quantity the students should bring.

___ kernels = ___ popcorn + ___ kernels unpopped

Chart your information.

Observations

brand	cost	quantity used	quantity produced	unpopped kernels