Thanksgiving in American Cities

Activity One: Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City

What do you see in the pictures? What does the city look like?

Activity Two: Design a Float

Imagine you are going to be in the parade! What would your float look like? Draw a picture with a partner and present it to the class.

Activity Three: Food Vocabulary and Adjectives
Look at the flashcards to learn about the food we eat during Thanksgiving! Let's describe food!

Parade
Float   Name the foods we can we describe as:
Marching Band   *Yummy*
Corn   *Yucky*
Yams   *Healthy*
Turkey and stuffing   *Unhealthy*
Cranberry sauce   *Crunchy*
Carrots   *Creamy*
Mashed potato   *Salty*
Mac and cheese   *Sweet*
Green beans   *Hot*
Pumpkin pie   *Cold*
Thanksgiving dinner plate
Thanksgiving dinner table

Flashcards:
Parade

Float

Marching Band

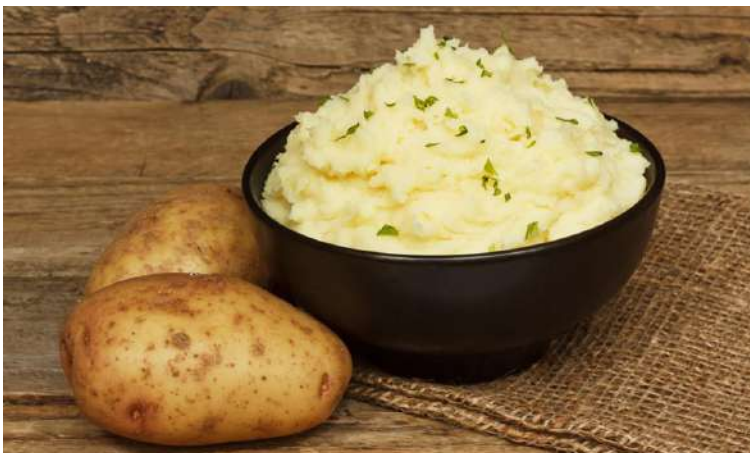Corn

Yams

Turkey and Stuffing

Cranberry sauce

Carrots

Mashed Potato

Mac and cheese

Green beans

Pumpkin Pie

Thanksgiving dinner plate

Thanksgiving dinner table

Activity Four: What are we thankful for?
Let's share what we are thankful for! With a partner, play TIC TAC TOE - but every time you play a square, you have to say what 1 thing that you are thankful for.
     Example: I am thankful for my family!

Activity Five: Pictionary
Draw a food from our vocabulary list of Thanksgiving foods! You have 30 seconds to finish your drawing then everyone must try to guess what you drew.

Activity Six: On my dinner plate is…

In this memory game, you sit in a circle and each person must add a new food to their dinner plate as well as listing everything that everyone else said before them!

Example: On my dinner plate is corn

-> On my dinner plate is corn and cranberry sauce

-> On my dinner plate is corn and cranberry sauce and turkey

Activity Seven: Thanksgiving in American Cities

Learn about how these American cities celebrate Turkey Day! Pay attention to the details...

Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade - New York City

One of the biggest and oldest in the country, millions of spectators enjoy the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City each year in person, while over 50 million people watch from home. This parade takes place every year and includes giant balloons, floats, cheerleaders, marching bands, clowns, Broadway show performances and lots of celebrities, including Santa! The parade starts at 9am near Central Park.

The Chicago Thanksgiving Parade is a three-hour-long spectacle that starts at 8 a.m. on State Street. It includes enormous helium balloons, floats, marching bands, equestrian units, unique performance groups, local and national celebrities as well as rhythmic drum lines and dance troupes.

Chicago Thanksgiving Parade - Chicago

Philadelphia's 6abc Dunkin' Thanksgiving Day Parade - Philadelphia

The Philadelphia Thanksgiving Day Parade is the oldest in the country and started 100 years ago. The streets are filled with huge floats and massive balloons along with local performers from choirs, dance groups, marching bands and more. Santa also makes an appearance to welcome in the holiday season. You can be sure to see plenty of popular Disney and Sesame Street characters as well. The parade's progression stretches for 1.4 miles in downtown Philadelphia, starting at 8:30 a.m.

This holiday celebration in Plymouth, Massachusetts, near Boston, usually takes place the weekend before Thanksgiving. Participants wear costumes representative of clothes from the 17th century to the 21st century, giving spectators a vision of America's heritage. It becomes history-brought-to-life with pilgrims, Native Americans, soldiers, patriots, and pioneers from the history books marching in the streets of Plymouth. The tradition includes a chronological walk through the history of America via customized floats, equestrian groups, fife and drum corps.

America's Hometown Thanksgiving Celebration - Plymouth

Activity Eight: Design a Parade!
With a partner, decide on the following details for your parade, then present to the class!
1. Where is your parade?
2. What time does it start?
3. What can we see in it? (Floats, marching bands, dance troupes…?)
4. How many people will watch?
5. What celebrities will be in the parade?
6. Anything special about your parade?