

Holiday Food Vocabulary Teacher's Notes – by Lindsay Clandfield

Level: Elementary/ Pre-Intermediate

Aims: Students revise and extend food vocabulary, specifically food that is served at holiday times. Students also find out about each other's holiday and food customs. The cultural aim of this lesson is to give some information about American Thanksgiving.

Warmer

Play hangman with the word Thanksgiving. When students have got the word, ask them to tell you things they know about this holiday. Tell them that this class is going to be about Thanksgiving and food.

Reading

Tell the students they are going to read a short text about Thanksgiving. Hand out the worksheet. Give students a time limit then tell them to turn their pages over. Explain that you are going to read out some sentences about Thanksgiving, but that each one has a mistake. Students must correct your mistake and say the correct sentence back to you. Note: *This activity is also good for practising emphatic stress in sentences. Notice how in the example, the word American should receive extra emphasis.*

e.g. Teacher- Thanksgiving is a French holiday. Students- No, Thanksgiving is an *American* holiday.

Sentences:

There are two traditions at Thanksgiving: eating and giving gifts.

People eat a small meal.

People eat at 9 or 10 pm.

People talk about the bad things in their life.

People give help to the rich.

A Thanksgiving Menu

Now tell students to look at the menu and do the exercises. This Thanksgiving menu is quite an extravagant one, you may not eat like this at Thanksgiving. If you celebrate Thanksgiving, and your typical meal is different, share it with the class.

Answers:

MEAT: sausages, turkey, bacon

VEGETABLES: corn, mushrooms, potatoes, green beans, squash, lettuce, pumpkin, onion

FRUITS: cranberry, apple

DRINKS: wine, mineral water, coffee, tea

DESSERT: Ice cream, pie,

OTHER: rice, bread stuffing, cheddar cheese, mustard, butter, soup

When you have checked the answers, tell them to work in groups and fill up the boxes with as many other words in those categories as possible. Check back answers.

Holiday Food Survey

This can be done in small groups. Give each group a task sheet and ask them to add two more questions. Groups then circulate and find out the answers before doing feedback with the entire class.

Holiday Menu and Follow Up

This could be for homework, or as a project for the class. Explain the situation and ask students to make menus. Help with vocabulary as needed. The students could then post menus around the classroom. An ideal follow up to this class would be one where people bring in different holiday foods. If you are American, why not make a pumpkin pie and bring it in? Providing that you can find the ingredients and know how to make one!