

“Thanksgiving Foods and Charity” - A00099

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Thanksgiving Foods and Charity (2011)

(Adapted from VOA Special English)

In sixteen twenty-one, a big celebration took place at Plymouth Colony in what is now the state of Massachusetts. European settlers known as the Pilgrims were celebrating their autumn harvest after a winter of struggle.

The Pilgrims' three-day feast is often called the nation's first Thanksgiving. President Abraham Lincoln declared a national holiday in eighteen sixty-three.

Today families and friends gather on the fourth Thursday in November. Here are some facts about where their Thanksgiving meal comes from.

The main dish is traditionally a turkey. About two-thirds of the nation's turkeys are produced in Minnesota and five other states. Producers are expected to raise two hundred forty-eight million birds this year, two percent more than last year.

Popular side dishes include cranberries and sweet potatoes. Last year North Carolina grew more sweet potatoes than any other state. Wisconsin is expected to be the top cranberry producer this year.

People often finish the meal with pumpkin pie. Last year Illinois grew the most pumpkins. California, New York and Ohio were also major pumpkin producers.

Thanksgiving is a big event, but buying a traditional holiday meal can be a struggle for the poor. So charity groups often hold food drives to collect food for low-income families.

In Denver, Colorado, volunteers have been collecting donated items to fill fifteen hundred Thanksgiving baskets. This year the demand has been greater than ever.

Jim White, community affairs director at Volunteers of America, says people donated a lot of food.

JIM WHITE: "These individuals donated over one hundred forty-eight tons of food, but it takes a huge amount of food as you can imagine to do fifteen hundred food baskets complete with stuffing and cranberries and pumpkin and fresh produce, and then they are all topped off with a fifteen-pound frozen turkey."

Mr. White says volunteers come from all over Denver to help.

JIM WHITE: "Thanksgiving should be viewed as a verb not a noun, and what better way to give thanks than to help somebody out that you know is struggling right now?"

Thanksgiving Foods and Charity

(Adapted from VOA Special English)

In sixteen twenty-one, a _____ celebration took place at Plymouth Colony in what is _____ the state of Massachusetts. European settlers known as the Pilgrims were celebrating _____ autumn harvest after a winter of struggle.

The Pilgrims' three-day feast is _____ called the nation's _____ Thanksgiving. President Abraham Lincoln declared a national _____ in _____ sixty-three.

Today families and friends gather on the _____ Thursday in November. Here _____ some facts about _____ their Thanksgiving meal comes from.

The main dish is traditionally a _____. About two-thirds of the nation's turkeys _____ produced in Minnesota and _____ other states. Producers are expected to raise two hundred forty-eight million _____ this year, two percent _____ than _____ year.

Popular side dishes _____ cranberries and sweet potatoes. Last _____ North Carolina _____ more sweet potatoes than any other state. Wisconsin is expected to be the _____ cranberry producer _____ year.

_____ often finish the meal with pumpkin pie. Last year Illinois grew the _____ pumpkins. California, New York and Ohio _____ also major pumpkin producers.

Thanksgiving is a _____ event, but buying a traditional holiday _____ can be a struggle for the poor. So charity groups often hold _____ drives to collect food for low-income _____.

In _____, Colorado, volunteers have been collecting donated items to fill fifteen hundred Thanksgiving _____. This year the demand has been _____ than ever.

Jim White, community affairs director at Volunteers of America, _____ donated a lot of food.

JIM WHITE: "These individuals _____ over one hundred forty-eight tons of food, but it takes a huge amount of food as _____ can imagine to do fifteen hundred food baskets complete _____ stuffing and cranberries and pumpkin and _____ produce, and then they are _____ topped off with a fifteen-pound _____ turkey."

Mr. White says volunteers _____ from all over Denver to help.

JIM WHITE: "Thanksgiving should be viewed as a _____ not a noun, and what _____ way to give thanks than to help somebody out that you know is struggling _____ now?"

Check Your Understanding

True / False

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1. The “First Thanksgiving” was in California. | T | F |
| 2. Today, Thanksgiving is celebrated on the 4 th Thursday in November. | T | F |
| 3. Beef is the traditional main dish for Thanksgiving. | T | F |
| 4. Cranberries and sweet potatoes are side dishes that are often served at Thanksgiving. | T | F |
| 5. The national Thanksgiving holiday was declared by George Bush in 2005. | T | F |
| 6. Producers are expected to raise 248,000 turkeys this year. | T | F |
| 7. Charity groups hold food drives to provide Thanksgiving meals to the poor. | T | F |
| 8. Volunteer groups in Denver distribute Thanksgiving food baskets. | T | F |

Your Thanksgiving (Please write sentences.)

1. Where did you celebrate Thanksgiving?

2. Who was there?

3. What did you eat?

4. What are you thankful of this year?

