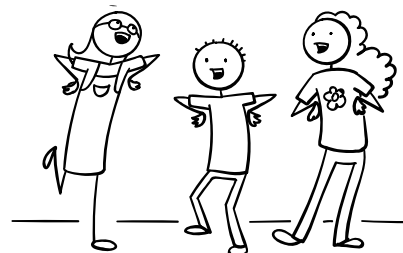


Lesson:

## Thanksgiving



### General:

Time:	40 mins - 1 hour
Objectives:	Talking about Thanksgiving
Structures:	"Happy Thanksgiving!" "How are you?" "Hip hip hooray!"
Target Vocab:	Thanksgiving, turkey, gobble, wobble, cold, colder, warm, warmer, hot

### You will need:

Materials:	For the "Turkey Hand & Foot Decoration": <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• brown, orange and yellow construction paper</li> <li>• craft eyes (optional)</li> </ul>
Printables:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thanksgiving Picture Chat sheet</li> <li>• Color Turkey worksheet or</li> <li>• Turkey Escape worksheet or</li> <li>• Thanksgiving -Thank you for ...worksheet</li> </ul>
Readers:	The Thanksgiving Turkey
Songs:	The Thanksgiving Song
Classroom Resources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CD / Tape player</li> <li>• board with marker pens / chalk</li> <li>• glue</li> <li>• pencils / crayons</li> <li>• masking tape</li> </ul>

### Note:

This lesson plan does not focus on the history of the American Thanksgiving festival as it would be too complex for younger learners and in many cases has little relevance within their own culture. Instead, it introduces students to the main things that happen at Thanksgiving - family gatherings for dinner, giving thanks and most important of all, the Thanksgiving turkey. This lesson will introduce some good vocabulary and provide lots of fun activities!

## Lesson Overview:

### Warm Up and Maintenance:

1. Start the lesson with your usual routine

### New Learning and Practice:

1. Thanksgiving picture chat
2. Play "Thanksgiving Picture Quiz"
3. Make a "Turkey Hand & Foot Decoration"
4. Play "Hunt the Turkey"
5. Sing "The Thanksgiving Song"
6. Read classroom reader "The Thanksgiving Turkey"
7. Play "Musical Turkeys"

### Wrap Up:

1. Assign Homework: Thanksgiving worksheets
  2. Do usual post-lesson routine and say goodbye to students.
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## Lesson Procedure:

### Warm Up and Maintenance:

1. Start the lesson as you usually would (E.g. Hello song, "What's your name?", "How are you?", homework check, etc.).

### New Learning and Practice:

#### 1. Thanksgiving picture chat

Before class print out the family Thanksgiving dinner picture - either blow it up as large as you can or print off copies for groups of your students to share (you can see a small version of it below but we have the full-sized version in our Member's Area).



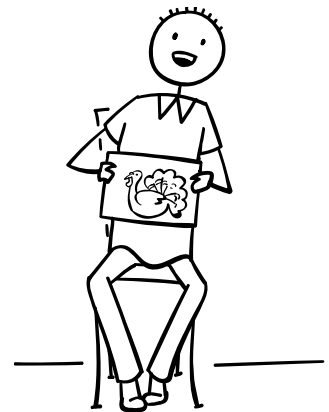
We'll use this picture to introduce the concept of Thanksgiving. Start by asking questions, choosing questions depending on the level of your students:

- for very young / low levels: ask how many people there are and what colors they can see.
- for other levels: ask the above questions and also ask what clothes different people are wearing and get students to speculate about the food and what is happening.

Finally, explain / elicit that they are a family in America having a dinner of thanks. You can explain some food (e.g. mashed potatoes, pumpkin pie, etc.) but focus on teaching the word "turkey".

**NOTE:** students may or may not know what a turkey is. Show our flashcard picture of a turkey but if you can show photos / videos of turkeys so students understand (and point out that a turkey is not a chicken).

For higher levels, you can have a class discussion on **giving thanks** - first give some examples of things you can give thanks for (food, good health, family, friends, etc.) and then get your students to come up with ideas they are thankful for - any answers should be accepted, however strange (e.g. thankful for their Gameboys, etc.).



## 2. Play " Thanksgiving Picture Quiz"

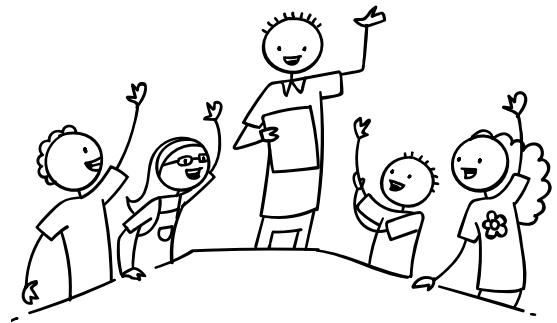
For very young / low levels you can skip this step.

Take the picture away and say you are going to have a quiz on this picture. Put students in teams and get each team to come up with a name - write the team names on the board.

Ask questions from below - students have to put their hands up if they know the answer - the first one with their hand up can answer and win a point for their team. If they answer incorrectly select another student to answer from another team. Keep track of the score on the board - at the end the team with the most points win:

## QUESTIONS FOR PICTURE QUIZ:

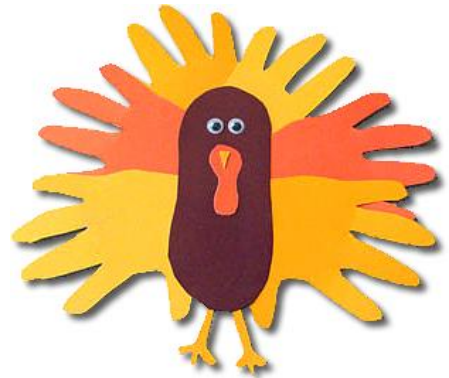
- How many people are on the picture? (7)
- How many children are in the picture? (2)
- How many adults are in the picture? (5)
- How many people are wearing glasses? (2)
- Is the table full or empty? (full)
- What color are the cans? (red)
- What color are the boys' clothes? (blue and red)
- What jewelry can you see? (a necklace)
- What is everyone sitting on? (chairs)
- What is everyone doing (praying / giving thanks)
- What things are on the table? (plates, glasses, food, drink, salt, cans, napkins, jugs, bowls ... and a turkey - 1 pint for each item)
- Is anything missing from the table? (knives, forks, spoons!)



### 3. Make a "Turkey Hand & Foot Decoration"

Before class, make the craft so you can demonstrate what it looks like before students make it.

Take out your pre-made turkey craft decoration and ask the class what it is (elicit "turkey"). Ask what shape the body and wings are and try and elicit that they are the shapes of your hands and feet (you can show this by placing your hand over one of the hand cut-outs).



Pair up students and tell them they are going to help each other make the craft:

- i) Using brown construction paper, students help each other to draw an outline of their foot. This is then cut out (help younger kids with the cutting).



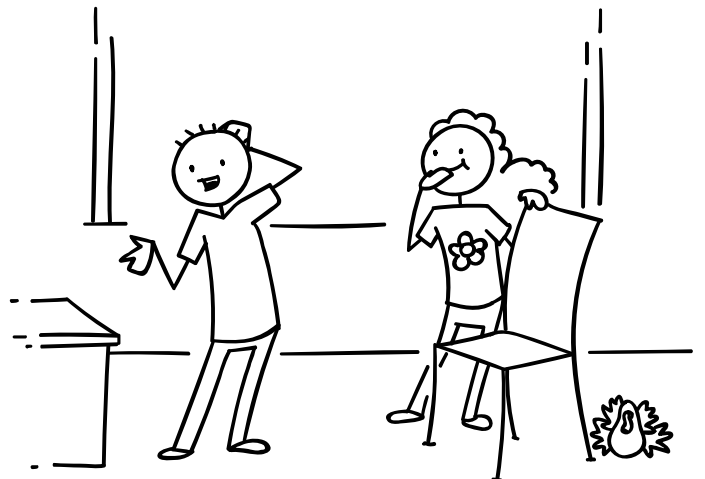
- ii) Now pairs help each other to draw outlines of their hands on yellow and orange construction paper. Again, these need to be cut out.
- iii) Finally, get the students to cut out little feet and beaks from the construction paper and glue everything to the body. Eyes can either be drawn on or if you have craft eyes you can stick them on.



#### 4. Play "Hunt the Turkey"

Using their turkey crafts everyone is going to play a fun game. Keep the students in pairs for this activity. First demonstrate with a student. Ask the student to close his/her eyes whilst you hide your turkey decoration (e.g. under a book, behind a bag, etc.). Then tell the student to look for your turkey. As the student is looking you can help by giving the following hints:

- "cold" - the student is far away from the turkey
- "colder" - the student is getting even further away from the turkey
- "warm" - the student is near the turkey
- "warmer" - the student is getting nearer the turkey
- "hot" - the student is very near the turkey



Once the student has found the turkey and everyone understands the game have the student pairs play together. Each time they finish they can change roles. Monitor each pair and help out with the vocab (warm, cold, etc.).

## 5. Sing "The Thanksgiving Song"

Ask everyone what noise a turkey makes. Teach them the turnkey noise and action (strut around, flapping your elbows making "gobble gobble" sounds). Get everyone to join in.

Now play the song and have everyone watch you and join in with the actions. Encourage everyone to sing along - it's a very simple song but great fun! Play the song 2 or three times.

### Lyrics for "The Thanksgiving Song"

#### Verse 1:

Hello Mr. Turkey, Hello Mr. Turkey  
How are you? How are you?  
Hello Mr. Turkey, Hello Mr. Turkey  
How are you? How are you?

With a "Gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble,  
gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble"

And a "Wobble, wobble, wobble, wobble,  
wobble, wobble, wobble, wobble, wobble"

Happy, Happy Thanksgiving  
Hip hip hooray! Hip hip hooray!

#### Verse 2:

Hello Mr. Turkey, Hello Mr. Turkey  
How are you? How are you?  
Hello Mr. Turkey, Hello Mr. Turkey  
How are you? How are you?

With a "Gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble,  
gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble"

And a "Wobble, wobble, wobble, wobble,  
wobble, wobble, wobble, wobble, wobble"

With a "Gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble"  
And a "Wobble, wobble, wobble, wobble, wobble"

"Gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble"  
"Wobble, wobble, wobble, wobble, wobble"

Happy, Happy, Happy Thanksgiving  
Hooray!

### Gestures for "The Thanksgiving Song"

The actions for this song are simple, fun and energetic – who wouldn't enjoy running around like a turkey?!

Everyone stands up for the song:

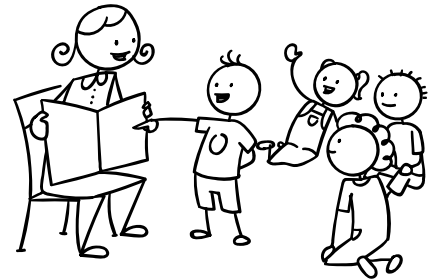
- "Hello Mr. Turkey, Hello Mr. Turkey" – everyone sings and waves.
- "How are you? How are you?" – do the question gesture (palms up with inquisitive face).
- "With a gobble ... And a wobble..." – this is the really fun bit. Everyone runs around like a turkey (crouched over, flapping elbows in a wobbly fashion) while gobbling!
- "Happy, Happy Thanksgiving" – stop running around and sing.
- "Hip hip hooray! " – throw arms up in the air in celebration!



*With a "Gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble,  
gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble"*

## 6. Read classroom reader "The Thanksgiving Turkey"

Let's follow the song with a reader about the Thanksgiving turkey. Before class, download and print off the reader "The Thanksgiving Turkey" from our website. As you go through each page, point to the pictures and elicit what is happening in the story, for example:



*Teacher: (pointing at the turkey picture on page 2) What is Mr. Turkey doing?*

*Students: Eating!*

*Teacher: That's right, he's eating his food. (Reading) "I'm thankful for my lovely food each day."*

For younger students, elicit some of the objects and colors in the pictures and have fun with the story.

For older students, you can use the story as a basis for discussion on what they are thankful for, for example:

*Teacher: (pointing at the turkey picture on page 5) What is Mr. Turkey doing?*

*Students: Reading a newspaper!*

*Teacher: That's right, and where is he?*

*Students: In his home!*

*Teacher: Yes, he is! And do you think he's thankful for his home?*

*Students: Yes!*

*Teacher: Why do you think so, Ema?*

*Ema: Because it is nice.*

*Teacher: Yes, it is very nice isn't it? Let's see (reading) "I'm thankful for my cozy home." Are you thankful for your home, David?*

*David: Yes, I am.*

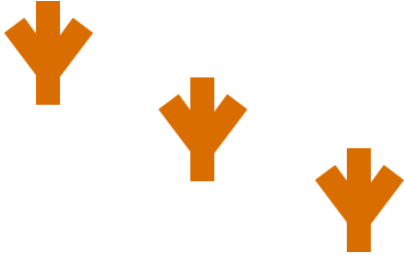
*Teacher: oh really, why?*

*David: Because it is warm and comfortable.*

At the end of the story, ask students what they are most thankful for. This can lead to a great discussion.

## 7. Play "Musical Turkeys"

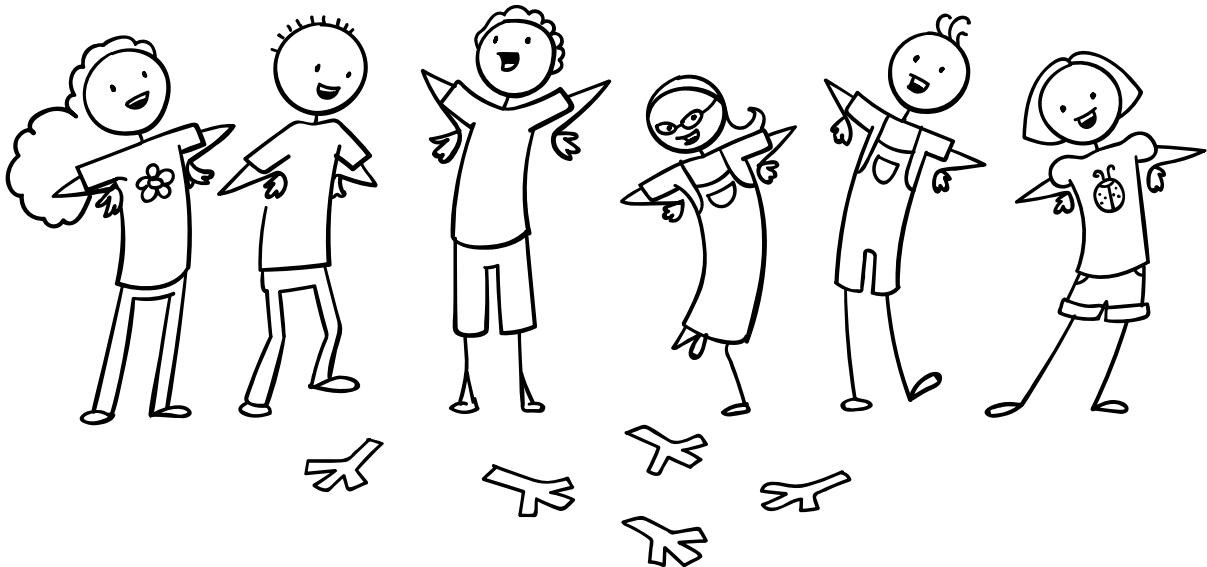
This is a game based on "Musical Chairs" but using turkey footprints instead of chairs. Use pieces of masking tape to make turkey footprints all over the floor, like this:



Make sure there are the same number of footprints as the number of students in the class.

Start playing some music - either the Thanksgiving Song or any other music. Let the students pretend to be turkeys and strut around the room (gobbling and wobbling). When you stop the music, have the turkeys find a footprint to stand on (one turkey to a footprint).

Now, remove one footprint. When you start the music again, have the turkeys continue strutting around the room and when you stop the music everyone needs to find a footprint to stand on - the one student who can't find a footprint is out. Remove another footprint and play the music again. Keep playing until there is just one student left.





## Wrap Up:

1. Assign Homework: We have three worksheets to use depending on the age and level of your students.
  - For the very young: "Color Turkey" worksheet
  - For lower levels: "Turkey Escape" worksheet
  - For older / higher levels: "Thanksgiving - Thank you for ..." worksheet
2. Do your usual end of class routine (tidy up, put away things in their bags, sing "Goodbye song", etc).
3. As each student goes to the door to leave the classroom ask them to show you how a turkey walks. Good impressions can leave the room (alternatively, for older students ask them to tell you something they are thankful for).

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- All flashcards, worksheets, craft sheets, readers and songs used in this lesson plan can be downloaded at [eslkidstuff.com/esl-kids-lesson-plans.html](http://www.eslkidstuff.com/esl-kids-lesson-plans.html)
  - More free Lesson Plans are available at [eslkidstuff.com/esl-kids-lesson-plans.html](http://www.eslkidstuff.com/esl-kids-lesson-plans.html)

Can you suggest any additions to this lesson plan? If you know of any great games, activities, teaching points, links to other sites or any other ideas that can be added to this lesson plan, please email us: <http://www.eslkidstuff.com/contact.htm>

Please report any mistakes at <http://www.eslkidstuff.com/contact.htm>

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