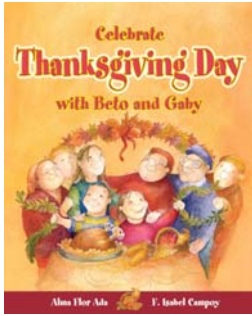


CELEBRATE THANKSGIVING DAY

LESSON PLAN FOR GRADES 3-6



Book/Text Set:

*Celebrate Thanksgiving Day with Beto and Gaby /
What is Thanksgiving Day?*

by Alma Flor Ada and F. Isabel Campoy

Content Overview: In the fiction story, Beto and Gaby are waiting for their relatives to come for Thanksgiving dinner, only to find that none of them can make it because of a big snowstorm. Only Grandma shows up, along with several friends, and the celebration turns out to be very special. The non-fiction section tells about two early Thanksgiving celebrations in North America, the creation of the national holiday, and the foods and activities enjoyed by Americans on this holiday.

Materials and Preparation

- chart paper and colored markers
- unlined white paper
- construction paper in manila and fall colors
- assorted books about Thanksgiving

Standards Covered

NCSS Social Studies Strands

- I. Culture: a, b, d, e
II. Time, Continuity, and Change: b, c, d, e, f
III. People, Places, and Environments: a, b, e, h
IV. Individual Development and Identity: c, e, h
IX. Global Connections: b, f

National TESOL Standards

Goal 1: To use English to communicate in social settings. Standards 1, 2, 3

Goal 2: To use English to achieve academically in all content areas. Standards 1, 2, 3

Goal 3: To use English in socially and culturally appropriate ways. Standards 1, 2, 3

NCTE/IRA English Language Arts Standards: 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12

Vocabulary

F: announce / plenty / treat / excitedly / share * / generous *

NF: located / difficult / arrived / hardships / journey / pilgrim
Wampanoag / survive / national / grateful

* The words *share* and *generous* are not in the book; they are added to the vocabulary list because they are integral to the story and will be used in discussion and questions.

Pacing Guide 3 days; 45-60 minute sessions, plus optional extensions

Reading and Activities

DAY 1

Explore the Topic: Thanksgiving Day / Generosity

Start a discussion about what it means to be generous. Have students give examples of times they have shared things. After several students have responded, tell them you're going to read a Thanksgiving story about a generous family.

Vocabulary Introduction

At the top of a piece of chart paper, write "Thanksgiving," and then list the vocabulary words for the fiction section in a column. Then add the words "share" and "generous." Read the words with students and ask for volunteers to give definitions or use them in sentences. As students respond, add to their responses as necessary to give a clear definition of each word.

Fiction Read-Aloud & Discussion

On a piece of chart paper, write, "Thanksgiving: Facts We Know." Have students tell what they know about Thanksgiving, and write their responses on the chart. Review all responses with students and leave the chart on display.

In this session you will read aloud only the fiction story, *Celebrate Thanksgiving Day with Beto and Gaby*. Before reading the story, show the cover and have a volunteer read the title aloud. Have students infer who the people on the cover are.

As you read, stop to have students use context to define unfamiliar words. Ask students to listen for acts of generosity, and make note of the growing number of guests being invited by Grandma.

When the story is finished, ask students to recall the generous acts in the story sequentially and to tell how these acts might affect the larger community (beyond the family itself). Ask the following questions, using the illustrations in the book whenever appropriate to help students with their responses:

Beginning	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Where is Grandma?2. What did the mother share with the neighbors?3. Who came to Beto and Gaby's house with Grandma?
Intermediate	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Why is Grandma on a bus? Where is she going?2. Why did the mother share food with the neighbors?3. Why did Grandma bring so many people with her to Thanksgiving dinner? What else did Grandma bring?
Advanced	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Tell about the telephone calls Beto and Gaby's family received.2. Name someone in the story who is generous and explain what this person does that shows his or her generosity.3. Describe what you think the family is going to eat for Thanksgiving dinner.

After discussion, review the “Thanksgiving: Facts We Know” chart to note whether any responses match or relate to events in the story.

On a new piece of chart paper, write “Thanksgiving: Questions We Have” and ask students what they would like to know about Thanksgiving that they don’t already know. Have them write their own questions using a variety of alternating colors for each question. When finished, review the questions and leave both charts on display side by side.

DAY 2

Vocabulary Activity

Review the words on the vocabulary list by having volunteer students read, define, and use them in sentences. Add the vocabulary words for the non-fiction section to the list. Read the words aloud with students and ask for volunteers to define or use them in sentences. Add to student responses as necessary to define each word. Tell students they will hear these words in the next story.

Show students the cover of *Celebrate Thanksgiving Day with Beto and Gaby* and ask someone to tell the main idea of the story. Conduct a short discussion about generosity and the ways it can be shown on Thanksgiving Day and other days. Tell students that you are going to read a story that tells about how Thanksgiving started and how people celebrate this holiday.

Non-Fiction Read-Aloud & Discussion

Before reading, review both the Facts and the Questions charts. Tell students that the writing activity they will be doing will require many facts about Thanksgiving, so you’d like them to listen carefully to see if any of their questions are answered in the second half of the book.

Open the book to pages 16–17 and have a volunteer student read the section title.

As you begin reading the story *What is Thanksgiving Day?*, point out Texas and Massachusetts on the maps, and use a globe or world map to show the distance between Europe and North America. Pause to make special note of any information that may be different from what students have written on the Facts chart. Stop to define and discuss any words students may not know.

When the read-aloud is finished, elicit a comparison between the information on pages 26–27 and Grandma bringing guests to Thanksgiving dinner in the fictional story. Then, discuss the last paragraph on page 29. Continue having students discuss the information by answering the following questions:

Beginning	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Who had a Thanksgiving dinner in Plymouth? In El Paso?2. What did the Wampanoags do to help the Pilgrims?3. Tell some things that people do at Thanksgiving.
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Intermediate	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Where did the Pilgrims have a Thanksgiving dinner, and who did they invite? 2. What did Oñate and his people celebrate at their Thanksgiving party? 3. What are some ways that people share at Thanksgiving?
Advanced	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain the ways in which the Wampanoags helped the Pilgrims survive. 2. Tell about Oñate’s trip and Thanksgiving celebration. 3. What do you think is the most important part of Thanksgiving, and why?

After discussion, review the Facts chart to analyze the statements for accuracy and conflict with information from the story. If statements on the chart conflict with factual information, elicit a discussion with students using readings of short passages of the text. Add to the title of this chart by crossing out “Facts We Know” and inserting “What We Knew and Thought.”

To the right of the Questions chart, post another piece of chart paper so that all three charts are posted in sequence. At the top of the new piece of chart paper, write “Thanksgiving: Answers We Found” and ask students to identify any questions that may have been answered during the reading. Color code the questions and answers by writing the answers directly across from each question using the same color marker as was used for that question. When finished, leave any unanswered question spaces blank.

Post a fourth piece of chart paper in line with the others. At the top, write “Thanksgiving: Facts We Didn’t Know.” Ask students to write on this chart any Thanksgiving information that is completely new to them. Be sure to remind students that some information may be new to some students and known to others, but if the information is new to anyone, it can go onto the chart.

When finished with this chart, ask students to review each item and to formulate a question that can be answered by each fact.

DAY 3

Vocabulary Review

Have students work with the [Thanksgiving Facts worksheet](#). As students finish, allow some time to browse and read additional books about Thanksgiving and add new information to the charts. As a whole group, review all the charts and add any new information where appropriate. If more questions have been answered, have students refer to the books where they found the answers and show the pages to the class.

Writing Activity

Tell students that they will work together to write collaborative Question and Answer Books called *Facts About Thanksgiving* and that each person will write one page. Further explain that each page will have the question on the front and the answer on the back so that the reader

will need to turn the page to get the answer. Write the directions on the board:

1. Write the question on one paper.
2. Write the answer on another paper and illustrate.
3. Check spelling and trace over the words with a black marker.
4. Cut the papers in an interesting shape.
5. Glue the papers on the front and back of a sheet of construction paper.

Read the directions with students and show a couple of model pages to make sure they understand what they are to do. To prepare for the writing, review the vocabulary list. Let students know that you can write any other words they need on the board after they begin to write. Review all the charts too, and talk about questions and answers. Review what the questions might have been for the "Facts We Didn't Know" chart.

Assign information for the pages to students. Some students may use charted question/answer pairs, while others may need to create questions to go with charted facts. For younger or beginning students, the question/answer pairs can be cut up into strips and taken to students' desks for easier copying. Some question/answer pairs may be assigned to two students so that at least two books are created. More research may also be done to find additional information.

Compile all finished pages in an order that preserves continuity and bind into two or more books. For more durability, laminate all the pages before binding. Read the finished books aloud to the class and add them to the classroom library.

Extensions

Writing

Read Shel Silverstein's poem "Point of View" from his book *Where the Sidewalk Ends*. Discuss the poem and then write a poem or story about Thanksgiving from the turkey's point of view. Illustrate your writing.

Art

Make a classroom mural showing examples of generosity. Use a variety of student-drawn illustrations and writing, magazine pictures with captions, newspaper articles, and any other appropriate sources.

Music

Learn the songs, "My Favorite Things" by Rodgers & Hammerstein and "Things I'm Thankful For" by Hap Palmer. Lyrics and music for both songs can be found online at the following sites:

My Favorite Things:

<http://www.niehs.nih.gov/kids/lyrics/favorite.htm>

Things I'm Thankful For:

<http://www.songsforteaching.com/happalmer/thingsimthankfulfor.htm>

Mathematics

Use newspaper grocery ads to "shop" for Thanksgiving dinner. Working in groups, plan a healthy, balanced menu. Create a chart listing the food items and prices. Calculate the amount it would cost to feed one family, ten families, twenty families.

Social Studies Start or actively participate in a school-wide food drive. Make posters to put in classrooms to encourage giving. As the food is collected, sort it by food group.

On a map, trace the route of Juan de Oñate from Mexico to El Paso and create a timeline to go with it. See Technology for suggested resources to learn more about Oñate's journey.

Technology

Information for teachers:

<http://www.halcyon.com/pub/FWDP/Americas/tchthnks.txt>

Investigate the Plymouth Thanksgiving with this interactive website:

<http://www.plimoth.org/learn>

Take a virtual tour of Plimoth Plantation:

<http://www.plimoth.org/visit/virtual>

Learn more about the Wampanoags:

http://www.geocities.com/bigorin/wampanoag_kids.htm

<http://www.mnsu.edu/emuseum/cultural/northamerica/wampanoagculture.html>

Print out and solve a Thanksgiving crossword puzzle with 15 words:

<http://www.kidsdomain.com/holiday/thanks/word/cross3.gif>

Read more about the history of the first Thanksgiving in El Paso:

<http://www.nmgs.org/art1stThanks.htm>

<http://www.texasalmanac.com/history/highlights/thanksgiving>

Find out more about Juan de Oñate's expedition from Mexico to El Paso:

<http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/OO/fon2.html>

Creative Reading

Share this book with your students using Alma Flor Ada's Creative Reading methodology based on the principles of Transformative Education. [Suggested questions](#) to initiate the dialogue are provided for Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced levels as well as self-assessment tools for [teachers](#) and students—in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

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