Thanksgiving Trivia for Seniors

30 large-print questions · Circle one answer · Answer key at the end

1. What was the name of the ship that carried the Pilgrims to America in 1620?

A) The Santa Maria
B) The Mayflower
C) The Speedwell

2. In what year did the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag share the harvest feast we now call the first Thanksgiving?

A) 1492
B) 1621
C) 1776

3. Which Native American nation joined the Pilgrims for the 1621 feast?

A) The Wampanoag
B) The Cherokee
C) The Sioux

4. How long did the first Thanksgiving celebration last?

A) One afternoon
B) About three days
C) A whole week

5. Which president made Thanksgiving a national holiday in 1863?

A) Abraham Lincoln
B) Ulysses S. Grant
C) Andrew Johnson

6. Which president moved Thanksgiving a week earlier in 1939?

A) Herbert Hoover
B) Franklin D. Roosevelt
C) Harry Truman

7. Which company's soup is used in the classic green bean casserole?

A) Heinz
B) Campbell's
C) Lipton

8. Which company first sold canned cranberry sauce across the country?

A) Ocean Spray
B) Del Monte
C) Libby's

9. What sweet topping often goes on a sweet potato casserole?

A) Marshmallows
B) Whipped cream
C) Chocolate chips

10. Which company made the first famous frozen 'TV dinner' in 1953?

A) Swanson
B) Birds Eye
C) Stouffer's

11. What do you call the bone people pull apart to make a wish?

A) The drumstick
B) The wishbone
C) The breastbone

12. Which department store holds the famous Thanksgiving parade in New York?

A) Gimbels
B) Macy's
C) Sears

13. Who always arrives at the very end of the Macy's parade?

A) The mayor
B) Santa Claus
C) Uncle Sam

14. Which 1947 movie opens with real footage of the Macy's parade?

A) It's a Wonderful Life
B) Miracle on 34th Street
C) White Christmas

15. Which painter created 'Freedom from Want', the famous picture of a family turkey dinner?

A) Grandma Moses
B) Norman Rockwell
C) Andrew Wyeth

16. In what year did 'A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving' first air?

A) 1965
B) 1973
C) 1985

17. Which song begins 'Over the river and through the wood'?

A) A Thanksgiving poem by Lydia Maria Child
B) A Christmas carol by Irving Berlin
C) A hymn by Fanny Crosby

18. Which folk singer's long song 'Alice's Restaurant' is played on many radio stations every Thanksgiving?

A) Bob Dylan
B) Arlo Guthrie
C) Pete Seeger

19. Which NFL team has hosted a Thanksgiving game almost every year since 1934?

A) Green Bay Packers
B) Detroit Lions
C) Chicago Bears

20. Which TV announcer handed out turkey legs to star players?

A) John Madden
B) Howard Cosell
C) Pat Summerall

21. Which president is usually credited with the first official turkey pardon ceremony in 1989?

A) Ronald Reagan
B) George H.W. Bush
C) Bill Clinton

22. Which president let a turkey go in 1963, saying 'Let's keep him going'?

A) John F. Kennedy
B) Lyndon Johnson
C) Dwight Eisenhower

23. What sound does a male turkey make?

A) A gobble
B) A quack
C) A honk

24. What is a baby turkey called?

A) A chick
B) A poult
C) A kit

25. Where do wild turkeys sleep?

A) In trees
B) In burrows
C) In barns

26. True or false: The Pilgrims ate pumpkin pie at the first Thanksgiving.

A) True
B) False

27. True or false: Abraham Lincoln made Thanksgiving a national holiday.

A) True
B) False

28. True or false: Cranberries float.

A) True
B) False

29. Finish the saying: 'Count your ___'

A) blessings
B) pennies
C) sheep

30. Finish the phrase: 'As easy as ___'

A) pie
B) cake and coffee
C) apple sauce

Answer Key

With a quick fact for each answer

1. B) The Mayflower — The Mayflower carried 102 passengers. The Speedwell was meant to sail with it but leaked too badly.

2. B) 1621 — The celebration took place in the autumn of 1621 at Plymouth Colony.

3. A) The Wampanoag — About 90 Wampanoag men came with their leader, Massasoit.

4. B) About three days — Edward Winslow wrote that the feasting and games went on for about three days.

5. A) Abraham Lincoln — Lincoln proclaimed it during the Civil War.

6. B) Franklin D. Roosevelt — FDR wanted a longer Christmas shopping season during the Depression.

7. B) Campbell's — Dorcas Reilly created the recipe in Campbell's test kitchen in 1955.

8. A) Ocean Spray — Ocean Spray's canned jellied sauce went national in 1941.

9. A) Marshmallows — An advertising booklet from 1917 helped make marshmallows the classic topping.

10. A) Swanson — The story goes that Swanson had tons of leftover turkey to use up.

11. B) The wishbone — Whoever gets the bigger piece is said to get their wish.

12. B) Macy's — The Macy's parade began in 1924.

13. B) Santa Claus — Santa's float marks the start of the Christmas season.

14. B) Miracle on 34th Street — Edmund Gwenn won an Oscar for playing Kris Kringle.

15. B) Norman Rockwell — Rockwell's painting appeared in The Saturday Evening Post in 1943.

16. B) 1973 — It first aired on CBS in November 1973.

17. A) A Thanksgiving poem by Lydia Maria Child — Child's 1844 poem was about a trip to her grandparents' house for Thanksgiving.

18. B) Arlo Guthrie — The 18-minute song is based on a real Thanksgiving in 1965.

19. B) Detroit Lions — The only break came during World War II.

20. A) John Madden — Madden's 'Turkey Leg Award' began in 1989.

21. B) George H.W. Bush — Bush made the pardon a yearly event.

22. A) John F. Kennedy — JFK sent the bird back to the farm just days before his death.

23. A) A gobble — Only male turkeys gobble.

24. B) A poult — Young males are jakes and young females are jennies.

25. A) In trees — They fly up to roost to stay safe at night.

26. B) False — They had no ovens for baking pie, and little sugar or butter.

27. A) True — He did it in 1863.

28. A) True — Air pockets inside them let farmers harvest them from flooded bogs.

29. A) blessings — 'Count your blessings' fits the spirit of the day perfectly.

30. A) pie — 'As easy as pie' means very easy.

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