

A still life composition featuring autumnal elements. On the left is a large orange pumpkin. In the center, three red candles are lit, casting a warm glow. To the right are several red apples. In the foreground, there are clusters of red berries, green and yellow leaves, and some chestnuts. The background is a soft-focus field of autumn leaves.

THANKSGIVING TRADITIONS

Travel

A high-angle, wide shot of a multi-lane highway filled with cars in traffic. The scene is bathed in a warm, golden light from a low sun in the upper right corner, creating a hazy, atmospheric effect. The cars are mostly sedans and SUVs, packed closely together in several lanes. In the background, there are some trees and a few traffic lights visible against the bright sky.

■ One of the best things about Thanksgiving is spending time with family. Many people live far from family members and travel long distances by car, train, or plane to be with their loved ones. Thanksgiving is the busiest travel day of the year!

The Feast

Traditional foods are a large part of Thanksgiving celebrations. Many families include the entire family in the food preparation. Traditional foods include turkey, stuffing, gravy, sweet potatoes, cornbread, mashed potatoes, and cranberry sauce. Many people serve pie for dessert at the end of the meal. Popular pie flavors are pumpkin, pecan, sweet potato, and apple.



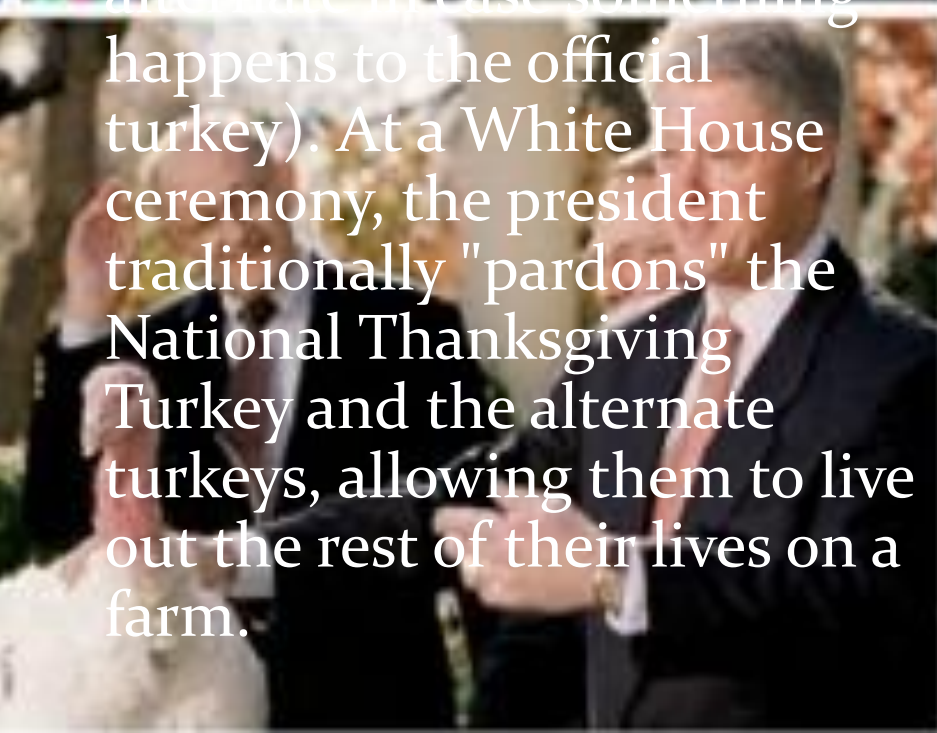
The Wishbone

After the wishbone has been removed from the turkey, the wishbone has had a chance to become dry and brittle, two people each take one end of the bone, make a wish, and pull. Whoever ends up with the larger part of the bone gets the wish.



The Turkey Pardon

Each year at Thanksgiving, the President of the United States receives a gift of a live turkey (along with an alternate in case something happens to the official turkey). At a White House ceremony, the president traditionally "pardons" the National Thanksgiving Turkey and the alternate turkeys, allowing them to live out the rest of their lives on a farm.



Helping Others

Many generous folks use Thanksgiving as an opportunity to help the less fortunate. Some people volunteer to serve food at homeless shelters on Thanksgiving Day and others donate to shelters or participate in canned food drives.



TV

Television also plays a part in Thanksgiving celebrations. Many families watch the New York City Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. The parade includes marching bands, floats, songs and performances from Broadway musicals, and giant helium-filled balloons! People may also enjoy televised football games.



After the Meal

After the feast families often do additional activities. Some like to take walks after eating such a large meal. Some people take naps. Others sit down together to play board or card games together.

