

Canadian Thanksgiving True or False

Test your knowledge and learn something new about Thanksgiving in Canada.

1. Canadian Thanksgiving is a statutory or public holiday throughout all of Canada.

Answer: False. In the Atlantic provinces (Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island), the holiday is optional.



2. Canadian Thanksgiving is celebrated every year on the second Monday in October.

Answer: True. Officially celebrated since 1897, the second Monday in October became the observed day in 1957.

3. Canadian Thanksgiving was first celebrated between the Pilgrims and Native Americans.

Answer: False. Pilgrims and Native Americans celebrated Thanksgiving together in the United States.

4. Certain cities in the United States hold fall festivals on this date to entice Canadian tourists to attend.

Answer: True. Ellicottville, New York, is one example.

5. Canada celebrated Thanksgiving before the Pilgrims did in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

Answer: True. A small group of settlers led by explorer Martin Frobisher gave thanks in 1578 after landing in the current territory of Nunavut. The Plymouth festivities did not occur until 1621.

6. Every year, the holiday is celebrated to give thanks to King Edward VII's recovery from a serious illness in 1872.

Answer: False. Although King Edward VII, who was still the Prince of Wales in 1872, did recover from a severe illness and all of Canada celebrated the special event that same year, the holiday is annually celebrated to give thanks for the nation's fruitful harvest.

7. Canada's favorite pastime on Thanksgiving is watching football.

Answer: True. The Canadian Football League holds a doubleheader. The Thanksgiving Day Classic is one of only two times each year that the league plays on a Monday. The other is the Labour Day Classic.

8. The traditional Thanksgiving meal across the country includes corned beef and cabbage.

Answer: False. Typically included only on the tables in the Newfoundland territory, Jiggs' dinner is a corned beef and cabbage recipe, much like New England boiled dinner.

9. Similar to their American neighbors, turkey and stuffing are part of the traditional Thanksgiving menu.

Answer: True. Brussels sprouts, squash, mashed potatoes, and cranberry sauce are regular favorites as well.

10. The traditional dessert is always blackberry pie.

Answer: False. Pumpkin pie is the dessert of choice at Thanksgiving.

11. Baked ham and apple pie are commonly served as well.

Answer: True. Every region has preferred dishes included on the menu.

12. Nanaimo bars are a regional dessert from the Yukon territory often served at Thanksgiving.

Answer: False. Nanaimo bars come from the British Columbia region named after the city by the same name on Vancouver Island.

13. Watching the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade is a favorite event for many celebrating Canadian Thanksgiving.

Answer: False. A parade is televised every year from the Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest in Ontario.

14. The parade is televised throughout Canada on C-SPAN every year.

Answer: False. CTV broadcasts the parade every year.

15. In Quebec, Thanksgiving is called *Action de Grâce*.

Answer: True. Quebec is a French-speaking region. The literal translation is "action of grace."

16. Many families in Canada have their Thanksgiving feast during the weekend rather than on Monday.

Answer: True. This is especially true in the territories that are not given Thanksgiving as a statutory holiday.

17. The number of calories consumed in an average thanksgiving meal is 1,000.

Answer: False. According to many sources, the meal can exceed 2,700 calories depending on the side dishes and dessert.

18. One reason Canada celebrates Thanksgiving in October is that its harvest comes earlier than in the United States.

Answer: True. The farther north you are on Earth, the colder the weather gets, which causes the harvest to come sooner.

19. Butter tarts are a favorite dessert originating in Ontario.

Answer: True. The earliest known recipe was published in Barrie, Ontario.

20. For 10 years, Thanksgiving Day and Armistice Day were celebrated on the same date.

Answer: True. The dual holiday occurred from 1921 until 1931 when Armistice Day's name was changed to Remembrance Day.