

THANKSGIVING AND COFFEE FILTER TURKEY

Lesson developed by: Sue Worstall, Summit County Master Gardener Volunteer

Thanksgiving Day is a national holiday in the United States. It occurs on the 4th Thursday of November. In 1621, the Plymouth colonists and Wampanoag Indians shared a harvest feast that is acknowledged today as one of the first Thanksgiving celebrations in the colonies. It wasn't until 1863, in the midst of the Civil War, that President Lincoln proclaimed a national Thanksgiving Day to be held each November.

In many American households, Thanksgiving now centers on cooking and sharing a bountiful meal with family and friends. Turkey may or may not have been offered when the Pilgrims hosted the inaugural feast. Today, nearly 90 percent of Americans eat the bird on Thanksgiving. Other traditional foods include stuffing, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie.

Questions:

Think about some of your favorite Thanksgiving memories and traditions:

- What Thanksgiving traditions did you have when growing up? Were you always able to celebrate with a large meal? Did you have Thanksgiving dinner at your home or did family gather at another family member's home?
- What foods did you eat on Thanksgiving? Did you always have turkey? What were your favorite holiday foods? Did you usually have pumpkin pie? What scents from the day do you remember?
- Was watching the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade a holiday tradition? What favorite balloons do you remember? Do you remember that many marching bands performed and thousands of people attended the parade? Did you usually watch the parade all the way until Santa Claus appeared at the end? Have you ever attended a holiday parade?
- As you grew up and had your own home, how did you celebrate Thanksgiving? If you decorated your home or apartment, did you have pumpkins and turkey decorations? Anything else?



Craft activity: Coffee Filter Turkey

(<http://terryriciolidesigns.blogspot.com/2011/11/coffee-filter-turkey.html>)

Items needed for each turkey:

- 5 coffee filters (the natural brown type)
- 2 foam balls, one 1" and one 3" ball
- Watercolor paints and a brush
- A cup of water
- Glue
- A bit of orange or yellow felt
- Red embroidery thread or felt
- Toothpick
- 2 wiggle eyes
- Scissors
- Paper towels to paint on
- Paper plate to work on



Steps:

1. Paint the edges of 4 of the coffee filters. Remember that turkeys have lots of interesting colors in their feathers so be creative!



2. For the tail, fold 2 of the painted filters in half. Slide 1 inside of the other.
3. Cut another painted filter in half. Fold each half in quarters and fold the tips down along the line of the ruffles of the filter. These will be the wings.



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4. Wrap the 4th painted filter around the small foam ball. This will be the head.



5. Wrap the last filter around the 3" foam ball and glue the filter to most of the ball. There will be an open area at top which will be glued against the tail. This will be the body of the turkey. Press the ball down on the table to give it a flat spot so it will stand up on its own.



6. Glue the body to the tail.



7. Press the head ruffles to 1 side and push half a toothpick into the bottom of the head. Add glue to the toothpick and press it into the body.
8. Glue the flat part of the wings to the body behind the head ruffles.



9. Cut the beak from the felt and wattle from the thread/yarn. Glue these and the eyes onto the head.
10. Enjoy your Thanksgiving turkey! Consider giving it to a visitor or favorite staff member, or to decorate your dining room or lounge area.

Additional activities to consider:

1. Place small amounts of Thanksgiving-related herbs and spices in small dishes and ask residents to guess what spice they are or what holiday food they smell like. Possibilities: sage, cinnamon, nutmeg.
2. Show fresh sweet and white potatoes, cranberries and a pumpkin. Ask what other special foods residents remember.
3. Host a Thanksgiving Day Parade watch party, or remind residents to watch it in the small lounge areas or their rooms. You can do the same with the day's football games.

For more ideas:

www.ssww./blog/5-thanksgiving-games-to-add-to-your-activity-calendar/ and www.ssww.com/blog/thanksgiving-activities-for-senior-residents/

Additional Thanksgiving resources:

<https://www.history.com/topics/thanksgiving/history-of-thanksgiving> This site is updated for 2020 and includes several photos

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y2m3lhNgg>

Cute video: "What Do Kids Know about Thanksgiving"

Several free photo downloads via Google

Contact information:

If you have any questions about this activity, please email mgsummitcounty@gmail.com.

We hope you benefitted from this activity. Please let us know if you utilized this with a quick email to the above address. Please send your name, facility name, number of participants involved in this activity, and your feedback for improvement so we can measure our impact and improve this product. Thank you!

Photo resources: Sue Worstall