



WATCH & LEARN: ARTS & LIFESTYLE
CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS: THANKSGIVING
THANKSGIVING DECODED (3:21 min)
VIDEO Script & Vocabulary (page 1 of 2/v32122)

INTERMEDIATE (B1 - B2) AND ABOVE

- ◊ Read the script and note new vocabulary
- ◊ Write three sentences using new vocabulary
- ◊ Prepare for the discussion questions

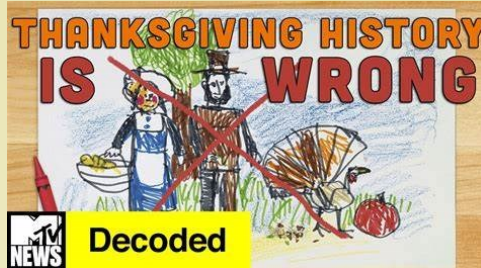
Starting Off

Thanksgiving is a great holiday, but the whole story Americans are taught in school about Pilgrims and Native Americans is basically...just WRONG.

- 1 Read the **Video Script** below. The words in **bold** are defined in the **Vocabulary** section. Look up any new words in a dictionary.
- 2 Go to the **Your Turn** section at the end of this document. Practice using new words and expressions from the video script to prepare for your next class.
- 3 Look at the **Discussion Questions** and prepare your responses for the next class.

Video Script:

Family member at the table:
 And I'm thankful for my kindergarten class who made these wonderful crafts to celebrate Thanksgiving.



Grandfather figure at the table: After the Native Americans helped the Pilgrims survive their first winter in America, the **Puritans** invited them to share the first Thanksgiving. - [All] Awwww!

Lead Narrator family member at the table: Oh, these are adorably (paper rips) wrong.

Family member: A five-year-old made that.

Narrator: **Based off of** the lies that you taught them.

Family member: Excuse me?

Narrator: Oh, it's not your fault, these (American history text books) are full of **half-truths** and historical propaganda.

Younger family member: I thought the Native Americans and the Pilgrims were, like, "**besties**" or whatever.

Narrator: At best, the Pilgrims and Wampanoags could be described as "political allies." By the time the Pilgrims **showed up**, not only were two-thirds of the Massachusetts tribes completely **wiped out** by European slave owners and diseases, the Pilgrims were constantly at war with the indigenous people and routinely tortured them.

Grandfather figure at the table: But what about **Squanto**, the Native American who learned English to help out the Pilgrims?

Narrator: He was actually a slave that was **hauled off** to Europe and then he learned English so that he could escape.

Family member: But they did celebrate it every year, right?

Video Script continued on next page...

Discussion Questions:

- ◊ Are you familiar with the Thanksgiving holiday celebrated in the US?
- ◊ What are some of the foods and activities generally associated with American Thanksgiving?
- ◊ Do you think the origin stories of cultural celebrations should be historically accurate or is it the holiday that really matters most?

Vocabulary:

- **Puritan** - member of a group of English Protestants of the late 16th and 17th centuries who regarded the Reformation of the Church under Elizabeth I as incomplete and sought to simplify and regulate forms of worship
- **based off of** - (usually used with "on" or "upon") derive an opinion on faulty information
- **half-truth** - deceptive statement that includes some elements of truth
- **besties** - US slang for best friends
- **show up** - arrive at a place sometimes for the first time (as is the case here), but not exclusively
- **wipe out** - eliminate something completely
- **"Squanto"** - best known for being an early liaison between the Mayflower Pilgrims and the Native American population in Southern New England, Tisquantum was kidnapped by English explorer Thomas Hunt who trafficked him to Spain, where he sold him in the city of Málaga. He was among a number of captives ransomed by local monks who focused on their education and evangelization. He then returned to North America in 1619 to his native village, only to find that his tribe had been wiped out by an epidemic infection.
- **haul off** - forcibly remove someone or something from some place

Vocabulary continued on next page...





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Video Script continued...

Narrator: Not exactly, the next one was 16 years later and, unfortunately, it was because the Puritans were celebrating the massacre of the Piqua tribe. Back then, Thanksgiving was also for families, specifically, murdering them.

Mother figure at the table: Okay, we get it! History's **awful**, the Puritans were **terrible**, and now we have to let our children know that the holiday started with tons of killings. Happy?

Narrator: Well, we actually have just about everything wrong with the Thanksgiving myth. Definitely didn't wear these buckle hats. Didn't land on Plymouth Rock. And as for that turkey...

Family member: Oh no, not the turkey.

Narrator: More like venison, fowl, and eel.

Family members at the table: Geez! Oh!

Younger family member at the table: Who cares about how this stupid holiday got started anyway?

Narrator: Exactly. In George Washington's 1789 Thanksgiving Proclamation, the settlers aren't mentioned, not even once. Thanksgiving wasn't celebrated nationwide until 1863 when this guy (Abraham Lincoln) declared it a national holiday during the Civil War in order to bring the country together. That's why all of our foods are from the 19th century.

Grandmother figure at the table: So Lincoln **came up with** the whole Indian/Pilgrim story?

Narrator: Nope, that myth didn't **catch on** 'til the 1900s, *after* we had fought and killed *all* the Native Americans. And then we put it in textbooks as fact because, America! But, the food is really good and if you ignore all the terrible history, you know, like the murdering, the raping, the **pillaging**, still kind of a great holiday.

Various family members: Hm... Hm... Hm...

- So the Mayflower is a lie?

- Why do we eat cranberry sauce?

- What about **stuffing**?

- Is **Black Friday** really just a capitalist conspiracy to get poor people to buy things so we can't truly live out a populist revolt? (everyone talking at the same time)

Narrator: I am never telling you the truth ever again.

One historical narrative says that the Pilgrims were off firing their guns when the Wampanoag tribe just showed up, presumably, to **find out** why the white folks were shooting up the place, which is a question that we still ask this very day.

Vocabulary continued...

- **awful / terrible** - very bad or unpleasant;
- **come up with** - suggest or think of an idea or plan
- **catch on** - (of a practice or fashion) become popular
- **pillaging** - rob a (place) using violence, especially in wartime
- **stuffing** - a mixture used to stuff poultry or meat before cooking
- **Black Friday** - colloquial term for the Friday after Thanksgiving in the United States. It traditionally marks the start of the Christmas shopping season. Many stores offer highly promoted sales at discounted prices and often open early, sometimes as early as midnight or even on Thanksgiving. Some stores' sales continue to Monday or for a week.
- **find out** - discover a fact or piece of information

Your Turn! Using new vocabulary is the best way to learn and remember it.

- 1 Choose three words or expressions from the video that are new to you and write a sentence using each one in your notebook.
- 2 Try to use them in a context that is familiar to you to help you retain them.
- 3 Please ask for feedback on your sentences in the next lesson.