

Topic	Thanksgiving
Lesson Title:	Researching the history of Thanksgiving
Objectives:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students will analyze texts using disciplinary skills. 2. Students will discuss the key events that led to the national holiday of Thanksgiving. 3. Students will write an expository piece on when Thanksgiving was first celebrated as a holiday.
Mississippi Social Studies Framework Connections	SS 3.5: Understand how the diversity of people and customs affects the local community.
NCSS Theme (2)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Culture 2. Time, Continuity, and Change
CCSS ELA or CCSS ELA SS	CCSS ELA Writing Standards Grade 3 2 a. b. c. d, 4, 7, 8 CCSS ELA Reading Standards Grade 3 1, 2, 3,
Assessment	<p>Formative: Student ability to ask and answer questions surrounding the topic of Thanksgiving. Student ability to participate in class discussion.</p> <p>Summative: Student writing will be evaluated for accuracy, completeness, and the ability to analyze multiple sources and come to a final, true conclusion.</p>

Procedures:

1. Before

TTW ask the class what they know about Thanksgiving. The teacher will assess student knowledge and see what ground must be covered in order for students to know that Thanksgiving is a day we give thanks in celebration like the Pilgrims and Native Americans had when they befriended one another. TTW ask students how they celebrate Thanksgiving with their families. TTW ask students why they celebrate Thanksgiving and if they know the history of the holiday.

TTW pull up a picture on the board of the first Thanksgiving when the Native Americans and Pilgrims celebrated together. Without talking, students will think for a minute about what they think the teacher is showing them a picture of. TSW make some predictions about when they think the photo was taken, what they think it is a photo of, and what they think we are going to be learning about based off this photo.

TTW show the picture of the first Thanksgiving. TSW think about what the photo is of. TTW say, "Now that you have had time to think, I want someone to raise their hand and tell me what this is a picture of." TTW say, "Correct this is Thanksgiving." TTW talk with students about who the people in the photo are and why there are seemingly two groups there. TTW talk in more detail about how the Pilgrims came to Americas to escape religious persecution and they met the Native Americans. TTW say, "When do you think this photo was taken?" TTW say, "The pilgrims came to North America in 1620, and the first Thanksgiving, when this photo is from, is from 1621." TTW say, "So today, we are going to be talking about the first Thanksgiving. You are each going to be reading texts and looking at pictures like you are a historian, or a person who studies history. While we research using different historical information, I want you to think about when you think the first Thanksgiving was."

2. During

TTW pull up the Thanksgiving timeline on the SmartBoard. TTW take the students through a few of the dates starting with 1541. TTW read aloud the description on this date of the timeline and ask, "What knowledge did you gain from reading this description?" TSW say that the first thanksgiving was in Texas or the first thanksgiving was in the spring, not November. Then, TTW go to 1564. TTW ask, "Now, this one says that the first thanksgiving was in Florida. Why do you think there are two first thanksgivings?" TSW say, because the people in Florida didn't know that there was already one

that happened in Texas. TTW click on the 1610 tab and read the description. TTW say, "So, here's another event that is said to be the first Thanksgiving. What do you think about that?" By then, TSW probably be confused, so the teacher will explain how for a long time, there was not a set date for Thanksgiving and it was not an official holiday.

TTW click on the 1621 tab and ask the students if they see any familiarities with this thanksgiving in their normal family thanksgiving traditions. TTW point out that this description also says that this was the first thanksgiving and TTW ask students what they think about that.

TTW then click on the 1775 tab and read it aloud. TTW says that the *Boston Gazette* and *County Journal* published a statement saying that Thanksgiving will be on Thursday November the 23rd. TTW ask the students why they think someone needed to set a specific day for this since so many people were already having thanksgivings already.

TTW click on the 1863 tab and have students read this one to themselves independently. After all of the students have finished reading the description, TTW ask the students to summarize what the description says. TTW say that people asked Abraham Lincoln to set a national Thanksgiving Day. People thought it should be recognized as a national holiday.

TTW click on the year 1924. TTW tell the students to read the description independently. Then, TTW ask if the students have ever been to the Macy's day parade, watched it on TV, or ever heard of it. TTW say that this is a tradition that is still carried out today and millions of people watch this parade on TV or in person every year.

TTW click on the year 1941 on the timeline. TTW choose a student at random to read the description aloud. After the student reads the short passage aloud, the TTW say that even almost a hundred years later there is still some confusion as to when Thanksgiving is.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed legislation that said Thanksgiving would be on the fourth Thursday of November. TTW ask the students how they think these events helped influence the celebration of a day set aside for giving thanks. TTW ask the students what types of national values they think will be on display on Thanksgiving. TTW ask the students what Thanksgiving means to them.

3. After

TTW say, "Now that we have read about several different events that were considered by some as the first Thanksgiving, I want you to do some research on your own about what you believe, as a historian, when the first official Thanksgiving was, using your sources and research. As you read, I want you to write an expository piece about when you think the first official Thanksgiving was and back it up with what you read."

TTW pass out the two additional handouts on the letter written to Lincoln and the Proclamation of the First Thanksgiving. TSW read these two documents and use what information they have gained to create their argument on what the first Thanksgiving was and why they think this.

TTW ask someone to raise their hand and say what they think the first Thanksgiving was based on their research. TTW helps students to conclude that the first Thanksgiving was on November 26, 1863 because if we read all of the documents, we will see that this is when President Lincoln established the official first day of Thanksgiving. If students had not read all of the materials and did not say this date, TTW know if the students did not read. If we had only read the time line, we might have been confused on when the first Thanksgiving was as well, so it is good for the teacher to note how we needed to do lots of research and not stop at the first paper we found. TTW ask student if they think it is important to read lots of sources to make sure that our answers are correct.

TTW have some of the students share their writing with the class. TSW listen to one another's responses and ask questions or critique as they see fit. TTW lead in discussions that arise from different points in each reading. After about three expository readings, TTW reiterate that the first official Thanksgiving in America was on November 26, 1863 as issued by President Lincoln. TTW also remind students that now they have a historical knowledge of the holiday they are celebrating.

4. Assessment

TTW collect the paragraphs written by students on their opinion of the first Thanksgiving. As students finish their paper, they will turn them in to the teacher.

Students will be evaluated on their expository piece using the following criteria:

- a. Students included the accurate date of the first official Thanksgiving based off of readings.
- b. Students backed up their reasoning with evidence from the text.
- c. Students wrote an expository piece that was a paragraph or more on Thanksgiving.
- d. Student created an expository piece that was free of grammar and spelling errors.