

Bringing the Thanksgiving Spirit into Your Lessons

With Thanksgiving around the corner, many teachers are looking for ways to acknowledge the holiday while also keeping students engaged and learning—sound familiar? If so, check out the ideas below!

Elementary School

- Who doesn't want to whack a pumpkin? A variety of pumpkin-themed games allow students to practice **identifying odd numbers** and demonstrate knowledge of divisibility rules.
- Students might be poets and not even know it! Invite students to read a **Thanksgiving poem** and then pen their own!
- It's an oldie but a goodie: the turkey coloring page! Let students get creative with one or more of **these Thanksgiving coloring pages**, or play Thanksgiving bingo using the provided boards and directions.

Middle School

- Develop students' mathematical modeling skills with this **unconventional potato-centric lesson**.
- **Pumpkin pi**, anyone? Students can apply skills relating to understanding ratios, circumference and diameter, scatterplots, and linear functions while having some holiday fun.
- Use the National Museum of the American Indian Education Office's **American Indian Perspectives on Thanksgiving** teacher guide to help students develop a deeper understanding of the holiday.

High School

- Encourage students to participate in **The Great Thanksgiving Listen 2016** by recording an interview with an elder over the holiday in order to contribute to an oral history of the United States.
- Have students brush up the history surrounding the first Thanksgiving by reading and discussing **Chapter 3, The New England Colonies** from ushistory.org's online textbook.
- As a class project, have students conceptualize, compile, create, and illustrate a digital and/or print cookbook of their favorite Thanksgiving recipes; invite students to include a brief narrative explaining their recipes' significance. Consider having students use a **book creator tool** to bring the project to life. If possible, have students sell their creation to classmates, parents, school staff, and/or community members, and donate the proceeds to a local charity.

