

Thanksgiving 2018



Migration in Europe
LET'S SHARE OUR DIFFERENCE AND MOVE ON!

Interactive games for year 9 students

Teachers: Milena Staykova & Nina Patterson

Which holiday celebrates tolerance, diversity, family values and gratitude in times of hardship and despair? Which is one of the most popular stories of immigrants settling into the New World and finding a new home among the native people of a foreign continent? You guessed it – it is the story of the Pilgrims who crossed the Atlantic on the Mayflower in the 17th century in hope of finding solid ground for their religious values and beliefs. It is the story of the origin of Thanksgiving Day, one of the greatest migrant stories.

This November 22 we celebrated with our year 9 students by asking teams from our seven classes to join their team leaders from year 12 in a round of interactive games. Why? To give them a chance to learn about the story of Thanksgiving, but also to get to know each other and think about their own values and beliefs.

This is a short summary of what we did together.

Introductions

The students from different classes got a chance to meet their team leaders from year 12 and get to know each other, as there were kids from different classes in each team.



Game 1 – Poster matching activity

Each team had a poster with Thanksgiving images and a set of word cards which they had to match with the pictures. Time was of the essence!

Game 2 – Solve the riddle, find the picture

The 3 teams were provided with a set of riddles to solve. All the riddles were about typical Thanksgiving activities or vocabulary connected with the holiday. They then had to run and fetch the corresponding pictures pasted on the walls outside the room. The winners were those who had collected most correct answers. Of course, time was limited and there were not enough correct answers for all teams. So, first come, first served!



Game 3 – The Diary of Anne Bradford

The students had to read a text in the form of a diary about the Pilgrims' voyage on the Mayflower and their hard first winter on the new continent. They then answered questions based on the text, answering them in turn and checking later with an interactive whiteboard activity.

Video activity – The American Thanksgiving Story

While the team leaders were calculating the scores, the students watched a short video about the story of the Pilgrims. The video introduced them to some more facts about the history of Thanksgiving Day.



Game 4 – Garlands of gratitude

In the last game each team had to write an anagram poem using each letter of the festive greeting "Happy thanksgiving" as the beginning of something they are grateful for. The card leaves they wrote their words on were arranged in garlands and the students presented their poems before they feasted on their well-deserved chocolate awards!

After the event, the video with a quiz on quizizz.com was posted to Google classroom, so all the year 9 students could also learn about and join in the festivities. After all, Thanksgiving is all about sharing!

A big thank you to my year 12 students – Rufina, Natali, Mihaela, Daniela, Damyana and Proletina, without whom this event would have been impossible to organise so well!

Nina Patterson

on behalf of the English Department

at *G. S. Rakovski* Romance Languages Secondary School, Burgas