



photo by Victor Hamberlin

Are you dreaming of turkey for Thanksgiving? Turkey is just one of many things we have to be thankful for. The Mini Page takes a look at how fortunate many people are today.

## Be thankful... for education

More than 175 million kids around the world are not enrolled in preschool, according to the United Nations (U.N.). Also, the U.N. reports 6 out of 10 kids leave elementary school without reaching basic levels of reading and math.

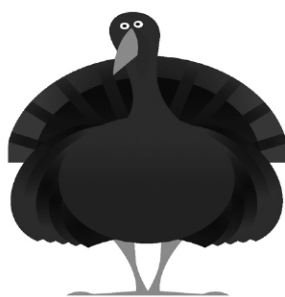
Many more girls than boys are never given the chance to learn to read and write.

In many countries, when kids do get to go to school, conditions may be as hard as in pioneer times. They might sit on dirt floors, go without heat or air conditioning, not get lunch and not have books or paper.

## ... for nearby schools

Your parents may drive you to school, or you can take a bus, bike or walk. In the 1880s in America, kids in **rural**, or country, areas may have lived 3 to 5 miles from the school.

Sometimes students got to ride to school on a horse or in a wagon. But most walked miles every day in all types of weather.



## ... for school workers

Pioneer kids had to help clean the school and outdoor bathrooms. Even third graders helped chop wood for the heating stove.

## ... for books

Before the 1900s, books were very expensive. Students shared schoolbooks if they were lucky enough to have them. Kids might not have had any books other than the Bible. In pioneer America, few people had more than one or two books at home. No “Diary of a Wimpy Kid” or “Big Nate” books for those children!

After about 1850, most students got more variety. “The McGuffey Reader” came into classrooms with poems, plays, stories and speeches. Editions got more difficult as the kids advanced.

## ... for hand-washing

The World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF say about 3 billion people around the world lack facilities to wash their hands at home. This includes 75% of the population in sub-Saharan Africa, which is approximately 767 million people.



## ... for running water

More than 1 out of every 6 people in the world cannot get as much fresh water as they need.

According to WHO, more than 785 million people do not have enough safe water for drinking, cooking and cleaning needs. People may have to walk hours each day to get their family’s water. Usually this job falls to girls. Many girls are unable to go to school because they have to spend so many hours getting water.

## ... for bathrooms

Be thankful for bathrooms. People in the 1800s had to go to an outdoor bathroom called a **privy**.

In the privy, a person sat on a wooden bench with a hole cut in it. But first, people would circle a stick in the hole, making sure no spiders were waiting to come up and bite them. Snakes might have been on the privy floor.

In the night, people could use the chamber pot kept under their bed. But they’d have to clean it, too. Eww!



## Resources



### On the Web:

- [plimoth.org/learn/thanksgiving-history](http://plimoth.org/learn/thanksgiving-history)

### At the library:

- “The Things I’m Grateful For: Short Stories About Being Thankful and Grateful for Kids” by Arnie Lightning

## Try ‘n’ Find

Words that remind us of being thankful are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:



BATHROOMS, BOOKS, CLASSROOMS, CLEAN, FAMILY, FORTUNATE, FRIENDS, FUN, GRATEFUL, READ, SAFE, SANITATION, SCHOOL, THANKSGIVING, TRANSPORTATION, TURKEY.

D A E R J S A N I T A T I O N  
F O R T U N A T E G E N S M H  
L U F E T A R G L U C A U L A  
X F V A Y Y L I M A F G Q F Q  
S K O O B R F R I E N D S Y Y  
U T T H A N K S G I V I N G E  
N O I T A T R O P S N A R T K  
L Q I O S M O O R H T A B R R  
N A E L C J J S C H O O L W U  
Y C C L A S S R O O M S X P T

## Cook’s Corner

### Puffy Pink Dessert

#### You’ll need:

- 1 (20-ounce) can crushed pineapple, with liquid
- 1 (0.6-ounce) package strawberry gelatin mix, sugar-free

- 1 (8-ounce) carton whipped topping, fat-free
- 1 (16-ounce) container small-curd 2% cottage cheese



#### What to do:

1. In a medium pan, heat pineapple to boiling; add gelatin to dissolve.
2. Cool to room temperature.
3. Add whipped topping and cottage cheese; mix well.
4. Pour into 13-by-9-inch baking dish.
5. Chill until set. Makes 12 servings.

\* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

1. Large North American bird  
(6-letter noun)

□ □ □ □ □ □

2. Preparing food for eating using heat  
(7-letter verb)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □

3. To go from place to place or far away  
(6-letter verb)

□ □ □ □ □ □

4. People who like, help and trust each other  
(7-letter plural noun)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □

1. Bobby hopes to eat \_\_\_\_\_ on Thursday at 4p.m.
2. Grandma was \_\_\_\_\_ at the stove in her kitchen.
3. Melinda has plans to \_\_\_\_\_ by plane over Thanksgiving.
4. Those \_\_\_\_\_ always celebrate special holidays together.

ROOTONYM®  
by Jan & Carey Orr Cook



Study the definition. When you know the missing word, fill in the letter boxes and the sentence blanks.

Answers: Turkey, Cooking, Travel, Friends.

## Mini Jokes



**Thomas:** When is it fun to serve a rubber turkey?

**Tammy:** At Pranksgiving!

## Eco Note



A new study reveals some warmblooded animals are getting larger beaks, legs and ears to help regulate their body temperatures as the planet gets hotter. Researcher Sara Ryding of Australia’s Deakin University says the physical evolution of some species is occurring across many regions and among a variety of species. She says this means climate change is probably the only common factor behind the evolution.

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## For later:

Look in your newspaper for articles about Thanksgiving.

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