

**Subject Area:** Social Studies  
**Unit Title:** Canadian Culture and Traditions  
**Grade Level:** 4-6  
**Lesson Number:** 1 of 5

**Duration:** 60 minutes  
**Date:** October 10, 2024  
**Teacher:** Ms. Smith  
**Room:** 205

## Curriculum Standards Alignment

### Content Standards:

- Understand the history and significance of Canadian Thanksgiving
- Recognize the importance of cultural traditions and celebrations

### Skills Standards:

- Analyze primary and secondary sources
- Develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills

### Cross-Curricular Links:

- Language Arts: reading comprehension, writing
- Math: data analysis, graphing

## Essential Questions & Big Ideas

### Essential Questions:

- What is the significance of Canadian Thanksgiving?
- How do cultural traditions and celebrations shape our identities?

### Enduring Understandings:

- Canadian Thanksgiving is a celebration of gratitude and community
- Cultural traditions and celebrations play a vital role in shaping our identities and sense of belonging

## Student Context Analysis

Page 0 of 7

### Class Profile:

- Total Students: 25
- ELL Students: 5
- IEP/504 Plans: 3
- Gifted: 2

### Learning Styles Distribution:

- Visual: 40%
- Auditory: 30%
- Kinesthetic: 30%

## Pre-Lesson Preparation

### Room Setup:

- Arrange desks in a circle for discussion
- Prepare whiteboard and markers

### Technology Needs:

- Computer with internet access
- Projector and screen

### Materials Preparation:

- Handouts with guided questions
- Whiteboard markers

### Safety Considerations:

- Ensure students are aware of emergency procedures
- Supervise students during activities

## Detailed Lesson Flow

### Introduction (10 minutes)

- Introduce the topic of Canadian Thanksgiving
- Ask students to share prior knowledge and experiences

### History and Significance (20 minutes)

- Provide a brief history of Canadian Thanksgiving
- Discuss the cultural significance of Thanksgiving in Canada

#### Engagement Strategies:

- Think-pair-share
- Group discussion

### Traditional Practices (20 minutes) Page 0 of 7

- Discuss traditional Canadian Thanksgiving practices
- Provide examples of traditional dishes and decorations

#### Checking for Understanding:

- Quiz
- Class discussion

### Incorporating Indigenous Perspectives (20 minutes)

- Discuss the importance of incorporating Indigenous perspectives
- Provide examples of Indigenous traditions and customs

### **Planning a Family Celebration (20 minutes)**

- Discuss the steps involved in planning a family Thanksgiving celebration
- Provide examples of activities and decorations

### **Conclusion and Reflection (10 minutes)**

- Summarize key points
- Ask students to reflect on what they learned

## Differentiation & Support Strategies

### For Struggling Learners:

- Provide additional support and scaffolding
- Offer one-on-one instruction

### For Advanced Learners:

- Provide additional challenges and extensions
- Encourage independent research and projects

### ELL Support Strategies:

- Provide visual aids and graphic organizers
- Offer bilingual resources and support

### Social-Emotional Learning Integration:

- Encourage empathy and self-awareness
- Teach conflict resolution and communication skills

## Assessment & Feedback Plan

### Formative Assessment Strategies:

- Quizzes and class discussions
- Observations and feedback

### Success Criteria:

- Students will be able to explain the history and significance of Canadian Thanksgiving
- Students will be able to describe traditional Canadian Thanksgiving practices

### Feedback Methods:

- Verbal feedback
- Written feedback

Page 0 of 7

## Homework & Extension Activities

### Homework Assignment:

Ask students to research and create a presentation about a traditional Canadian Thanksgiving dish or decoration.

### Extension Activities:

- Invite a guest speaker to talk about their experiences and traditions related to Canadian Thanksgiving
- Plan a field trip to a local farm or historical site to learn about the history and significance of Canadian Thanksgiving

### Parent/Guardian Connection:

Ask parents/guardians to share their own experiences and traditions related to Canadian Thanksgiving with the class.

## Teacher Reflection Space

---

### Pre-Lesson Reflection:

- What challenges do I anticipate?
- Which students might need extra support?
- What backup plans should I have ready?

### Post-Lesson Reflection:

- What went well?
- What would I change?
- Next steps for instruction?

## Introduction to Canadian Thanksgiving

---

**Definition:**

Canadian Thanksgiving is a national holiday celebrated on the second Monday in October.

**History:**

Canadian Thanksgiving has a rich and diverse history, dating back to 1578 when English explorer Martin Frobisher held a feast to give thanks for his safe arrival in what is now Newfoundland.

## Significance of Canadian Thanksgiving

---

**Cultural Significance:**

Canadian Thanksgiving is a celebration of gratitude and community, bringing families and friends together to share in traditional foods and activities.

**Historical Significance:**

Canadian Thanksgiving has played an important role in shaping Canadian identity and culture, reflecting the country's history and values.

## Traditional Canadian Thanksgiving Practices

---

### Food:

- Roasted turkey
- Mashed potatoes
- Stuffing
- Cranberry sauce
- Pumpkin pie

### Decorations:

- Fall-themed decorations such as leaves, pumpkins, and cornucopias

### Activities:

- Family gatherings
- Watching football games
- Going for walks

## Incorporating Indigenous Perspectives

---

### Importance of Incorporating Indigenous Perspectives:

It is essential to acknowledge and incorporate Indigenous perspectives into Thanksgiving celebrations, recognizing the complex and often fraught history between Indigenous peoples and European settlers.

### Examples of Indigenous Traditions and Customs:

- Smudging ceremonies
- Traditional dances and music
- Storytelling and oral traditions

## Planning a Family Thanksgiving Celebration

---

### Steps to Plan a Family Thanksgiving Celebration:

1. Set a date and time
2. Plan the menu
3. Prepare decorations
4. Plan activities

### Examples of Activities and Decorations:

- Watching football games
- Going for walks
- Fall-themed decorations such as leaves, pumpkins, and cornucopias

## Conclusion and Reflection

---

### Conclusion:

In conclusion, Canadian Thanksgiving is a significant holiday that celebrates gratitude, community, and cultural heritage.

### Reflection:

By understanding the history and significance of Canadian Thanksgiving, incorporating Indigenous perspectives, and planning a family celebration, individuals can create a meaningful and enjoyable experience.



---

## **Additional Resources and Activities**

---

**Recipe Book:**

- Traditional Canadian Thanksgiving recipes

**Activity Book:**

- Word searches
- Crossword puzzles
- Coloring pages

**Video Resources:**

- Videos about the history and significance of Canadian Thanksgiving
- Videos about traditional Canadian Thanksgiving practices and activities

