

THANKSGIVING TRIVIA QUIZ

It's not all Pilgrims and pumpkin pie. How well do you know our favorite floating Thursday celebration?

1 Q: The first Thanksgiving parade (in 1920) was sponsored by what department store chain—which shut down in the '80s (so nope, it's not Macy's)?

A: Gimbel's. Once the world's most profitable department store chain—and the setting for Miracle on 34th Street—the chain went belly-up in 1986 (though it was "revived" as the setting for the 2003 film Elf).

2 Q: True or false: The day after Thanksgiving—Black Friday—is indeed the busiest shopping day of the year.

A: False. The day with the greatest volume of sales is usually the last Saturday before Christmas, because one thing Americans like more than shopping is procrastination.

3 Q: What other country celebrates its own version of Thanksgiving—sometimes called L'action de graces—on the second Monday of October?

A: Canada. It's not nearly as prominently celebrated as in the U.S., with most people just giving thanks for the three-day weekend.

4 Q: Hebert's Meats in Louisiana claims to be the originator of what cleverly named Thanksgiving dish that incorporates multiple types of meat via a technique known as "engastration"?

A: Turducken. "Engastration" involves stuffing one animal into the body of another—in this case, a chicken into a duck and then into a turkey.

5 Q: In Arlo Guthrie's 18-minute musical monologue, "Alice's Restaurant" (traditionally played on the radio on Thanksgiving), the protagonist is trapped in a hellish government bureaucracy, all because he commits what misdemeanor?

A: Littering. It's based on a real incident that happened to Guthrie on Thanksgiving 1965.

6 Q: Which is not a real parade somewhere in the U.S.? (a) McDonald's Thanksgiving Parade (Chicago); (b) FirstLight Federal Credit Union Sun Bowl Parade (El Paso); (c) Berkshire Hathaway Parade of Thanksgiving Stars (Omaha); (d) 6abc Dunkin' Donuts Thanksgiving Day Parade (Philadelphia)

A: (c)

7 Q: Originating in classical mythology, the Thanksgiving icon of the cornucopia is otherwise known as a "horn of" what?

A: Plenty. Today the cornucopia might be best known as the term used for the weapons-filled starting point of the main contests in The Hunger Games.

8 Q: In 2013, for the first time—and most likely last time—Thanksgiving coincided with what other holiday?

A: Hanukkah. Due to the vagaries of the Hebrew calendar, we were all lucky enough to live through the one and only Thanksgiving.

9 Q: What 1987 comedy film—about a pair of bumbling losers trying to make their way home for Thanksgiving—includes the memorable lines "You're going the wrong way!" and "Those aren't pillows!"?

A: Planes, Trains and Automobiles. Starring Steve Martin and John Candy, it was written and directed by John Hughes.

10 Q: Counting Christmas Day itself, what's the greatest number of possible days between Thanksgiving and Christmas?

A: 33. If November 1 is a Thursday, Thanksgiving is the 22nd. With November having 30 days, that gives you 33 days till you have to see your in-laws again.