Leggi e ascolta.

Thanksgiving

**Thanksgiving is one of the most celebrated festivals in America.** Americans celebrate this festival on the fourth Thursday of November. Schools and businesses close, so many people have a four-day holiday to spend time with their families.

**Traditionally, Thanksgiving was a day when people gave thanks for the year’s harvest.** The first Thanksgiving celebrations were in 1621 when the early European settlers said ‘thank you’ for their first successful harvest in America. Today, Americans still think of Thanksgiving as a time to give thanks for all the good things of the past year.

![Image of a ceremony with a turkey]

**Every year, just before Thanksgiving, there’s a National Turkey presentation ceremony at the White House.** During the ceremony, farmers give the President a live turkey for his Thanksgiving dinner. The President usually eats the turkey with his family for their Thanksgiving dinner. But in 1963 President Kennedy decided not to eat the turkey, and he said ‘Let’s just keep it!’.
I love Thanksgiving! I come from a big family and we always get together for Thanksgiving. My big sister, Santana, comes home from college in Chicago and my dad’s parents visit us from Miami. Everybody wants to be at home for Thanksgiving and the roads and airports are always very busy. We always have turkey, but I’m a vegetarian, so I eat a lot of sweet potatoes and of course I love pumpkin pie. We also go and watch the big parade in the city centre.

The day after Thanksgiving is Black Friday. All the shops are open and there are lots of special offers. My sister and I love to go shopping on Black Friday.
Jim Svenson, Wisconsin

Thanksgiving is my favourite day of the year. I love the food! We always have turkey on Thanksgiving, with all the traditional vegetables – potatoes, sweet potatoes and squash. For dessert, Grandma always makes pumpkin pie. The day after Thanksgiving is also a holiday. Lots of people go shopping, but my family usually goes and watches an American Football game at our local college. That’s an important tradition, too.