


Cross-Curricular Cut

Social Studies



Celebrations in the US

Listening

- 1  What do you know about Halloween and Thanksgiving? Try to complete statements 1-4. Then listen and check your answers.
 - 1 Thanksgiving is on the last of November.
 - 2 Americans celebrate Thanksgiving by eating a traditional turkey
 - 3 On Halloween, kids dress up as witches, ghosts, and
 - 4 On Halloween, people go '..... or treating'.



Reading

- 2 Read the texts and label sentences 1-5 as H (for Halloween), T (for Thanksgiving), or B (for both). Then explain the words in bold.

THANKSGIVING

Americans **celebrate** Thanksgiving each year on the last Thursday in November. Thanksgiving is a celebration that was started by **early settlers** in America in order to thank the Native Americans for helping them **survive** in the new land. During the first winter, the settlers couldn't find enough food to eat, so many of them died. The following year, the Native Americans helped them by showing them how to grow corn and other **crops**.

Today people remember those **difficult times** and celebrate by eating a traditional dinner of turkey, stuffing, cranberries, sweet potatoes, and pumpkin pie. It is a **national holiday** and schools, offices, and many businesses are **closed**. Families get together and many towns and cities have parades with balloons, **floats**, and people in elaborate **costumes**.

HALLOWEEN

Americans celebrate Halloween on October 31st. Halloween is also known as All Hallows' Eve, which means the day before All Saints' Day. In the past, people believed that **ghosts** and **evil creatures** came out on this night and so they tried to **scare** them away.

Today kids dress up as **witches**, ghosts, and **monsters**. They make **jack-o'-lanterns** from pumpkins and go 'trick or treating' in their neighbourhoods. The neighbours can choose to give kids candy as a treat or have a **trick** played on them. Everyone has a lot of fun.

Many people **throw** Halloween **parties** and eat sweets such as chocolate and toffee apples.

Speaking

- 3 Answer questions 1-4.
 - 1 What national holidays do you have in your country?
 - 2 What do you celebrate on those days?
 - 3 Do you wear any special costumes?
 - 4 What traditional foods do you eat?

Writing

- 4 Write a short text about a celebration/holiday in your country, using your answers in Ex. 3 as a starting point. Use the texts in Ex. 2 as models.

- 1 Children don't go to school on that day.
- 2 People have parades in the streets.
- 3 Kids go 'trick or treating'.
- 4 People make jack-o'-lanterns out of pumpkins.
- 5 It takes place in the autumn.