

Thanksgiving Memories - A00100

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Thanksgiving Memories

(Adapted from VOA Special English)

Welcome to THIS IS AMERICA. I'm Faith Lapidus. This Thursday is a day for families and friends to share a special holiday meal and think about what they are thankful for. This week on our program, we ask some people to share their favorite memories of Thanksgiving Day.

JIM OLDHAM: "My name is Jim Oldham and I'm from Nashville, Tennessee. I remember my father drove a bus and my mother was a waitress, and so we often didn't get to have Thanksgiving together. And I remember when I was about twelve, her work and his work permitted us all to do that. And we had brothers and sisters, and the traditional turkey and all the trimmings. We always had pumpkin pie, and if we were really lucky, a little bit of whipped cream on top. And it was just a wonderful day."

NARRATOR: Traditionally the meat served on Thanksgiving is turkey. The bird is usually served with side dishes including a mixture known either as stuffing or dressing.

Many families also bring out their finest table settings -- the "good china" -- for Thanksgiving.

JOEL UPTON: "My name is Joel Upton. I'm from Livingston, Tennessee. Thanksgiving at my family was always a time when brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles, cousins, we all got together. And someone would bring different dishes. Someone would bring the sweet potatoes. Someone would bring the meat. Someone would bring the dressing. And we would all sort of combine the efforts to have a family Thanksgiving dinner and bring out the good china for that particular event.

And Thanksgiving also, in my early days when I was a child, the kids would all get to play, maybe we hadn't seen each other for a while. The men would always watch a football game on TV. And Thanksgiving was just a really, really special time. "

HUGUETTE MBELLA: "Hi, my name is Huguette Mbella. And I was born in Cameroon and grew up in France. And I live now in the United States in Washington, D.C. The whole concept of Thanksgiving was a little bit bizarre. In France, the main celebration is Christmas, not Thanksgiving."

REPORTER: "Can you think of one of your most fond Thanksgiving memories?"

HUGUETTE MBELLA: "I would say my first one. It was in New York. Suddenly the turkey comes on the table, and I was amazed by the size. It was huge! The first thing that came to my mind was actually that's a lot of food!"

ELIZABETH BRINKMAN: "My name is Elizabeth Brinkman and I'm from Cleveland, Ohio. It was always a day that my mother did all the cooking. And we had turkey and I got to chop the vegetables for the dressing. And we got out the good china."

GORDON GEIGER: "Gordon Geiger from Tucson, Arizona. We used to get together at my parents' house and all of my relatives would come over and we'd have a big dinner. And after dinner we would watch football games on the television."



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JIM OLDHAM: "My name is Jim Oldham and I'm _____ Nashville, Tennessee. I remember my _____ drove a bus and my _____ was a waitress, and so we often didn't get to _____ Thanksgiving together. And I remember when I was about _____, her work and his work permitted us all to do _____. And we had brothers and sisters, and the traditional turkey and all the trimmings. We always _____ pumpkin pie, and if we were really lucky, a little bit of whipped cream on top. And it was just a wonderful _____."

NARRATOR: Traditionally the _____ served on Thanksgiving is turkey. The bird is usually served with _____ dishes including a mixture known either as stuffing or dressing.

Many families also bring out their finest _____ settings -- the "good china" -- for Thanksgiving.

JOEL UPTON: "My name is Joel Upton. I'm from Livingston, Tennessee. Thanksgiving at my _____ was always a time when brothers and _____, aunts and uncles, cousins, we all got together. And someone would bring different _____. Someone would _____ the sweet potatoes. Someone would bring the meat. Someone would bring the dressing. And we would all combine the efforts to _____ a family Thanksgiving dinner and bring out the good china for that particular event.

And Thanksgiving also, in my early days when I was a child, the kids would all get to _____, maybe we hadn't seen each other for a while. The men would always watch a football game on TV. And Thanksgiving was just a really, really special _____."

HUGUETTE MBELLA: "Hi, my name is Huguette Mbella. And I was born in Cameroon and grew up in France. And I live _____ in the United States in Washington, D.C. The whole concept of Thanksgiving was a _____ bit bizarre."

REPORTER: "Can you think of one of _____ most fond Thanksgiving memories?"

HUGUETTE MBELLA: "I would say my first one. It was in New York. Suddenly the turkey comes on the table, and I was amazed by the size. It was huge! The first thing that _____ to my mind was actually that's a lot of _____!"

ELIZABETH BRINKMAN: "My name is Elizabeth Brinkman and I'm _____ Cleveland, Ohio. It was always a day that my mother did all the cooking. And we had _____ and I got to chop the _____ for the dressing. And we got out the _____ china."

GORDON GEIGER: "Gordon Geiger from Tucson, Arizona. _____ used to get together at my parents' house and all of my relatives would come over and we'd have a _____ dinner. And after dinner we would _____ football games on the television.

