Question Sheet



Player copy • Write your answers. The small Q references match the article.

01 Q1
What body requested a day of thanksgiving in September 1789?

02 Q2
On what September date did Congress adopt the 1789 request?

03 Q4
In which city did Washington sign his 1789 proclamation?

04 Q7
Which two kinds of liberty did Washington mention together?

05 Q19
Why did Roosevelt want an earlier Thanksgiving in 1939?

06 Q20
Which Thursday did Roosevelt choose in his 1939 change?

07 Q26
Which Thursday did the original House version propose in 1941?

08 Q29
On what date did Roosevelt sign the final resolution?

Matching Answer Key



Host copy • Match each number to the player sheet before awarding points.

01 The first Federal Congress.

Q1 The request came from lawmakers. The subsequent public proclamation came from the executive branch, giving the two institutions distinct roles in the story.

02 September 28.

Q2 Congress acted shortly before recess. This is the date of its resolution, several weeks before the thanksgiving observance itself.

03 New York City.

Q4 The place appears in the signature line. Reading that line helps prevent an easy mistake about which city served the new government.

04 Civil and religious liberty.

Q7 These are among the blessings listed in the proclamation, alongside public tranquility and opportunities to acquire and share knowledge.

05 To extend the Christmas shopping season.

Q19 He feared a shortened shopping interval could slow economic recovery. In that year the usual last Thursday landed at November's very end.

06 The next-to-last Thursday of November.

Q20 The description works even without a calendar. Count backward one Thursday from the month's last day to find the revised date.

07 The last Thursday.

Q26 That proposal would let Thanksgiving arrive as late as November 30. The enacted formula placed a tighter limit on the date.

08 December 26, 1941.

Q29 The signature came after that year's Thanksgiving. Confusing the bill-signing date with the holiday would send a timeline into the wrong month.

Quick Questions and Answers



Read a question aloud, pause for guesses, then share the printed answer.

01 Q5
What date did Washington select for the 1789 day of public thanks?
Answer: November 26, 1789.

02 Q12
Did Lincoln choose the first or the last Thursday of November in 1863?
Answer: The last Thursday.

03 Q14
Which war-affected children did the proclamation ask Americans to remember?
Answer: Orphans.

04 Q23
For how long does the Archives say the competing observances continued?
Answer: Two years.

05 Q24
Which chamber first passed the October 1941 holiday resolution?
Answer: The House of Representatives.

06 Q25
What number identifies the House joint resolution on Thanksgiving?
Answer: H.J. Res. 41.

Cut-Out Trivia Cards



Cut on dashed borders. Fold each answer strip back before passing the cards.

CARD 01 / ARTICLE Q17

Where was the October 1863 proclamation signed?

FOLD BACK / ANSWER

Washington, D.C.

CARD 02 / ARTICLE Q18

When in October did Lincoln sign Proclamation 106?

FOLD BACK / ANSWER

October 3.

CARD 03 / ARTICLE Q22

How many states kept the old date in the 1939 dispute?

FOLD BACK / ANSWER

Sixteen.

CARD 04 / ARTICLE Q27

Which chamber proposed the fourth-Thursday wording?

FOLD BACK / ANSWER

The Senate.