

Graphic Designer: Meaning Behind Thanksgiving

Adventure Description:

In this adventure, students will think like graphic designers and create a placemat and centerpiece that can be used during a Thanksgiving meal!

Activity

Step 1: Background Information on Thanksgiving and Graphic Designers (5-10 minutes)

- Show [Video: Meaning Behind Thanksgiving](#).
- Ask students what they do to celebrate Thanksgiving. Create a list of students' responses on the board.
- Show [Handout: Thanksgiving Products](#).
- Explain to students that graphic designers create products to celebrate specific holidays and events. Then, they choose the colors and words that go on products. Next, explain that graphic designers also put symbols on products. A symbol is a picture that people associate with something else. For example, a turkey is a common Thanksgiving symbol because many American families eat turkey on Thanksgiving.
- If time permits, discuss symbols that relate to other holidays.

Step 2: Making a Thanksgiving Placemat (20+ minutes)

- Explain to students that they will first create a placemat that can be used at a Thanksgiving meal. Students will choose words, images, and colors to put on their placemats!
- Show [Handout: Examples of Placemats](#). Discuss how some placemats have pictures. Other placemats have games (like a maze) or stories.
- Provide students with [Handout: Steps to Create a Placemat](#). Read through the steps as a class.
- Read through [Handout: Thanksgiving Story](#) as a class.
- Explain to students that they will create a placemat that teaches the people who use it about the Thanksgiving story.
- Have students complete steps 2-4 on the handout.
- Provide students with a copy of [Handout: Placemat Border](#) to use when creating their placemat.
 - Teacher note: There are multiple borders to choose from. We suggest printing multiple copies of each border so students can choose.

Please contact Allison Bischoff, Director of Customer Service, at allison@rozzylearningcompany.com or 314-272-2560 with questions.



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- As students are working, ask the following:
 - What symbols will you use to teach about Thanksgiving? (i.e., turkey, pilgrim hat, large ship)
 - Why is it important to know the Thanksgiving story? (i.e., to remember our country's history, to understand how important Native Americans were to the survival of Europeans, etc.)

Step 3: Making a Centerpiece (20 minutes)

- Explain to students that they will now create a centerpiece that can go in the middle of a table during a Thanksgiving meal. Show [Handout: Examples of Centerpieces](#).
- Explain to students that graphic designers create centerpieces to remind people of the event that is being celebrated. They can use symbols of a specific holiday or other decorations to make the table look festive!
- Explain that students will build a centerpiece that looks like the Mayflower! Remind students that the pilgrims took the Mayflower to cross the ocean to get to America!
- Show [Handout: Building a Mayflower](#). As a class, read through the steps. Explain to students that they will create a sail that is attached to a boat.
- Provide students with art supplies and building materials. Examples include:
 - box or other sturdy material to be the boat
 - tissue paper or another light-weight material to be the sail
 - toothpicks, popsicle sticks, straws, etc. to attach sail to boat
- If time permits: Have students create a sign that can go on the side of their boat. The sign can say "Mayflower" or can say another message that relates to Thanksgiving.
- Optional: Encourage students to place their Mayflower in a bowl of water on their Thanksgiving table at home. That way, they can see if their Mayflower can float!

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Materials List

Provided online:

- Video: Meaning Behind Thanksgiving
- Handout: Thanksgiving Products
- Handout: Examples of Placemats
- Handout: Steps to Create a Placemat
- Handout: Thanksgiving Story
- Handout: Placemat Border
- Handout: Examples of Centerpieces
- Handout: Building a Mayflower

Not Provided online (each student or group needs):

- Art Supplies (crayons, markers, colored pencils)
- Boat centerpiece building materials:
 - box or other sturdy material to be the boat
 - tissue paper or another light-weight material to be the sail
 - toothpicks, popsicle sticks, straws, etc. to attach sail to boat

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