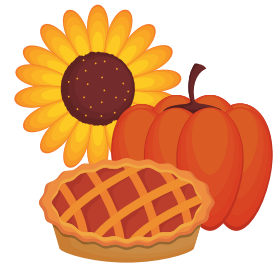


3 THANKSGIVING TRADITIONS



Have you ever wondered why the Macy's parade, football and Turkey pardoning are Thanksgiving traditions?

I'm Laurie Grisham. Think back to when you were in grade school. We learned that the first Thanksgiving took place in the 1600s, when Native Americans and pilgrims shared a harvest feast. Many years later, in 1863, President Lincoln declared a national holiday during the Civil War.



Now fast forward to today and you'll have to agree, we have so many different traditions, each of them with its own bit of history. And here are just a few. It wouldn't seem right if we didn't eat our turkey with a dose of balloons, floats and marching bands making their way through New York City. This marks the 80th anniversary of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade. It started in 1924 and featured actual animals from the Central Park Zoo. Felix the cat was the first ever balloon character, it debuted in 1927.

And of course, we can't forget about football. For most, it's our second course, digested in a comatose state from the couch. This tradition dates back to 1934, when the then brand-new Detroit Lions played the Chicago Bears in an effort to build up their fan base. The Lions lost, but football has stuck around and the Lions have played a game on every Thanksgiving Day since 1945.

And then there's the presidential Turkey pardon. The history here is a bit murky. Some say Lincoln's son, Tad, started the tradition by asking his father to spare their turkey. But presidential pardoning has taken place unofficially for years. President Kennedy, Reagan and Nixon all returned turkeys to their owners or sent them to a petting zoo. But according to the White House, the first official turkey pardon, took place in 1989 by President George HW Bush. He sent the Turkey to live at the somewhat unfortunately named Frying Pan Park in Herndon, VA.

Can you list some other Thanksgiving traditions? Foods we eat? Things we do?