



November 2025

Nickels News Team

Addy Reer
Mae Avila
Wesley Rogers
Kooper Fannesbeck
Harrison VanHorn
Aislee Thrall
Ella Luibrand
Amelia Radle
Anna Roskiewicz
Wesley Greenless
Mrs. Sabin

Celebrating Gratitude: How Different Countries Do Thanksgiving

Kooper Fannesbeck



You all know the regular Thanksgiving traditions in the United States, where you gather around the table and give thanks while eating food. The tradition in the US came from the Pilgrims sharing a fall harvest feast with the Native Americans. Around the world some countries have different tradition they like to celebrate that are similar to the US Thanksgiving, but some of these traditions may surprise you.

China (Moon Festival)

People in China celebrate their Thanksgiving a little differently, they call their Thanksgiving, Moon Festival or Mid-Autumn festival. They usually celebrate it in early October. The purpose is much like ours in the U.S. to give thanks for the harvest and to promote families getting together. For them families gather around the table and bring rice cakes or moon cakes, beautiful pastries filled with sweet lotus, red beans, and even salted egg yolk. The reason they celebrate the Moon Festival is for super symbolic symbols. The round shape of the moon cakes represents family unity and the full moon, which is all about bringing people together. Other ways to celebrate include lighting colorful lanterns, making offerings, and gazing up at the stunning moon.



India (Pongal Festival)



In India people call their Thanksgiving Pongal Festival, which usually happens around mid January. It celebrates Thai Pongal, named after the Tamil month, when the festival is held. The word “Pongal” means to boil over, this festival marks the end of winter. This is a way to show gratitude to the Sun God for all the warm rays that help the crops grow. It’s a way to thank the Sun

God for a successful harvest. Some of the food they bring are a sweet, delicious mix of rice, milk, and jaggery (like a sugarcane sweetener).

Korea (Chuseok)

For people in Korea they like to call their Thanksgiving Chuseok, Chuseok is usually celebrated in September or October and it's about honoring ancestors and celebrating the harvest. In this time families and friends will gather to perform ancestral rites and pay their respects to their elders and those who have passed. People usually like to bring rice cake, rice wine, rice dessert with the new rice crop along with festive dishes, grilled fish, dried seafood (octopus, pollock or yellow croaker), beef jerky (yukpo), seafood fritters (saengseonjeon), and vegetable side dishes (namul), they also like to bring flowers, fruit, meats, and alcohol.



Creature Combos: When Species Collide

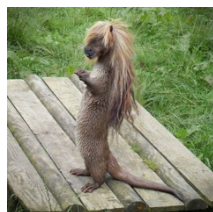
Harrison Van Horn

You might have heard the term hybrid, which means the offspring of two different species of animals. The most common hybrid is a mule, a mix of a male donkey and a female horse. But some more hybrids included: The tigon



The tigon is the offspring of a male tiger and a female lion. Tignons don't live in captivity; in the wild, they live in zoos and in wildlife preserves. The Alipore Zoo in India has bred female lions and male tigers, so now they have a few tignons on display for the public. Also, Big Cat Habitat and Gulf Sanctuary, in Sarasota, Florida, currently house a tigon named Raja. Tignons have been a known species for almost two centuries. The earliest known records were in 1837 in England, Queen Victoria was presented with a tigon as a gift

from a princess of Jamnagar, a state in India. It's hard to tell, but we can estimate that tignons can live between 13 – 18 years, but this is just a rough estimate. Hopefully, one day we can breed more tignons so they can be in more zoos, preserves, and maybe one day in the wild.



What if...



Score Four to Win: Connect Your Victory

Wesley Rogers

Description

This board game to play is an old game called “Score Four”. The game was first sold in 1967 and is 58 years old. The game of Score Four is similar to the well-known game of “Connect Four” with both games sharing the objective of having four of your colored tokens in a straight line. Although these games sound similar there is one key difference between the two. In Connect Four you’re supposed to make a line of four tokens from a 2 dimensional perspective, but in Score Four you’re making a line of four in a 3 dimensional space.



Assembly

With the extra dimension of gameplay, it adds quite a bit more pieces. The game is composed of 64 beads(32 white, and 32 black), 16 metal rods that are able to hold 4 beads, and a platform for the rods to stick into. This is how to assemble it:

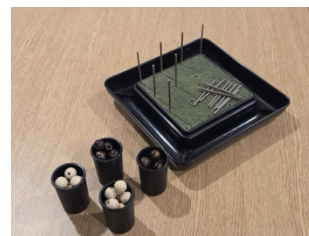
First:

Lay out all of the materials
(This step is not technically
needed and is just for
visualization).



Second:

Place the metal rods in the
holes in the board. (these
are going to be what you put the beads on.

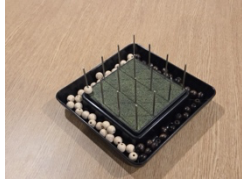


Lastly:

Pour the beads into the trough
and make sure to put them on
separate sides.

Gameplay:

The gameplay is fairly simple: to decide who starts you will either just pick or if you want you can play a game of roshambo (a.k.a rock,paper,scissors). Then the person who starts will put a bead wherever they choose



As shown here:

Then the second person will also put a bead wherever they choose, this goes on until someone gets four in a row.

As shown here:



That's how I would play it, however there are many other ways. The rules for others say that you go on until the board is full and another does one where you score by each level.

Conclusion:

Once someone wins you will reset the board and play again if you want to. This is a good game to play to get your brain thinking and to help think in a 3-dimensional way. The game requires skills, smarts, and a good opponent. Congratulations, you now know how to play Score Four.

The Strangest Truths

Mae Avila

- Scotland's national animal is a unicorn.
- The Great Wall of China is so long it would take about 18 months to walk its entire length.
- Some crocodiles can gallop like horses
- Koalas have fingerprints that are nearly identical to humans.
- Niagara Falls never freezes completely.
- The heart of a blue whale can weigh more than 1,300 pounds.
- Coca-Cola was originally green.



The animal of the month:

Dolphins!

Amelia Radle

Dolphins are one of the smartest animals in the world. They are very unique animals. They are similar and different to humans in many ways. They can communicate through their own language, they can memorize themselves through a mirror, they can show empathy to one another, and many more unknown things.

Dolphins are very interesting creatures and there's much more to learn about them. These friendly mammals are much more than what meets the eye.



Did You Know:

- Dolphins eat a variety of food, such as fish, squid, and crustaceans.
- They are very social.
- There are over 40 species of dolphins.
- The largest dolphin species is the Orca.

Fun Facts:

- Dolphins sleep with half of their brain on and half of it off.
- Dolphins can live 20-50 years. The Orca can live up to 80 years.
- Some whales are dolphins.
- They can swim at the speed of 20 mph and faster.
- Dolphins can hold their breath for 8-10 minutes. Some species 15 minutes!
- Some dolphins live in the Amazon river.
- Every dolphin has a special sound or whistle.
- Each dolphin has a name.
- Dolphins sleep underwater with one eye open.
- Most dolphins have 80-100 teeth.
- There are pink dolphins.

Species of Dolphins:

There are more than 40 species of dolphins. Some of the most well known ones are: The



Bottlenose, Orca, and more. The most common species is the Bottlenose dolphin. The rarest species are the Māui, and the Hector dolphin.

Dolphin Vocabulary:

Pod: A group of dolphins

Calf: A baby dolphin

Delphinidae: Oceanic dolphins

Crustacease- Animals such as squid, octopus, shrimp, and crabs.

Oceanic- Relating to the ocean.

✨ Curiosity Unleashed: Surprising Facts You Never Knew

Anna Roskiewicz

Some people may look at this and say "I am not reading this! It's probably gonna be as boring as it looks."

See that's where you are wrong, because this is just some funny random facts that I thought might be boring, but I gave it a try and I laughed a bit. So did my stone cold brother.

So, if you are 1% of people that look at this, then thank you. NOW LET'S GET STARTED!

1. Sharks were here before trees 🌳🐋

2. Turtles can breathe through their butts 🐢
Yes, there is such a thing as a butt- breather.

3. A group of flamingos is called a flamboyance... guess they just refuse to be basic. 🦩✨

4. Butterflies taste with their feet! So if they landed in bubble gum it would probably be a 5 star meal 🦋🍬



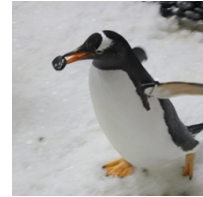
5. Sea otters hold hands while sleeping so they don't drift away... so cute 🙌🐾🙌

6. Pigeons can do math, meaning they can be better at homework than humans 🐦✖

7. Snails can sleep for 3 years straight!

8. Frogs can't vomit - so if they need to throw up, they just push their stomachs out. 🐸

9. Penguins give their partners pebbles to propose. Romance or cheap? 🐧💎



10. Koalas sleep up to 22 hours... the other two are for judging us 🐨

11. Elephants are scared of bees! Giant elephant vs. tiny little angry baby bee. 🐘🐝

12. A blue whale's heart is the size of a car. Imagine the parking ticket on *that* thing 🐳🚗

13. Peanuts aren't actually nuts, their beans in disguise 🥜

14. Cats can make over 100 different sounds. About 90% of it is "I WANT FOOD"

15. There is a jellyfish that is basically immortal, which means it's outliving all of its responsibilities 🪼

16. Giraffes have the same numbers of neck bones as humans- just... super-sized. 🦒



17. Squirrels plant thousands of trees a day by accident, they accidentally forget where they hide their nuts. 🌰

18. Dolphins name themselves by special whistles.

19. Kangaroos can't walk backwards- imagine how hard it would be to parallel park. 🦘

LAST ONE

20. You just learned 19 facts that probably won't be useful in your life, but hey, now you can act smarter than your smartest friend! It's a win-win!



Behind the Mask: Costume Interviews

Addy Reer

"What costume did you choose for Halloween and why?"

"I was a cowgirl because I couldn't think of anything else to be." – Mya Mellville

"I was Stefany Tanner from Full House because it's my favorite." -Corinne Balangne

"I was a spy with four of my friends, and my mom thought it was a cute idea." -Alanah Marais

"I was a witch, just because." -Charlotte Morgen

"I was someone from Harry Potter because I love Harry Potter." -Lucy Hesiler

The most popular Halloween candy of 2025



1

What key can't open any doors?

A turkey.

2

What do you call a turkey who tells jokes?

A comedi-hen.

3

Why did the pie go to the dentist?

It needed a filling.

4

Why don't turkeys trust each other?

Too much fowl play.

