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LEARNING *THANKSGIVING* AS A CULTURE REALIA

Ушбу мақола инглиз тилини ўрганаётган талабаларнинг ижтимоий-маданий компетенциясини ривожлантиришга бағишланган. Мақола нафақат *Thanksgiving* миллий байрамнинг реалаялари билан таништиради, балки унинг моҳиятини ҳис қилишга ҳам ўргатади.

Статья посвящена развитию социокультурной компетенции студентов, изучающих английский язык. Материалы статьи позволяют не только ознакомиться с реалиями национального праздника, но и прочувствовать его суть.

This article is aimed at developing socio-cultural competence of the students' who study English. Materials presented here give students opportunity not only to be acquainted with the realia of the national *Thanksgiving* celebrations but to be dropped into holiday atmosphere.

Калит сўзлар: шукроналик куни, нишонлаш, миллий байрам, анъана, асосий безак, зиёратчилар, байрамлар.

Ключевые слова: День Благодарения, празднование, национальный праздник, традиции, индейка, главное украшение, паломники, праздники.

Key words: Thanksgiving, celebrations, national holiday, traditions, turkey, centerpieces, pilgrims, festivities.

Clue for fruitful communication is deep understanding of the foreign cultural features. *Thanksgiving* may be considered the most important part of the American life style. This holiday influenced on the nation life the same as *Navruz* in Uzbekistan. Common traditions like joining members of the family for the holiday, cooking special food, organizing national festivals, culture games, congratulations, gifts are bright symbols of these days in both countries – Uzbekistan and USA.

Following to the Chinese proverb “Tell me I forget, show me I remember, involve me I understand” it has a sense to give students opportunity to be involved in

Thanksgiving celebrations. No doubts that one time preparation to the competition will give students good experience in understanding native speakers feelings and attitude to this national holiday.

The Internet is overloaded by the *Thanksgiving* information. From one side its easy way to get the information you need but from the other side it's difficult to deal with such amount of offers in order to create proper *Thanksgiving* scenario to the students' age, language proficiency or the stage of education. The main idea of this article is to present one of the multiple ways of holding *Thanksgiving* in the frame of the one academic hour (80 min).

Thanksgiving competition may be organized as one or two week project. The project includes several essential stages: announcing the project topic, forming the group of executors, elaborating project plan, setting time limitation, distributing responsibilities among members of the group, realizing tasks of the each project stage, project presentation, discussing achieved results and evaluating advantages and disadvantages of the project.

The first step is beforehand announcing the project theme "*Thanksgiving Celebrations*". Students ought to have enough time for related arrangements some of which should be done at home.

The second step is organizing groups. It will be better if the teacher manages or recommends students to form the groups of mixed abilities. In this case fair judgment is guaranteed for both groups.

The third step involves distributing tasks among members of each group. For this project the responsibilities are the following: 1) project manager (planning events, checking readiness, and organizing final report); 2) project producers (creating scenario); 3) project designers – decoration of everything (symbol, slogan, stage, cards, and wall paper); 4) creative group (wall paper, compiling crosswords).

The fourth step is project plan elaborating. The general plan of the competition contains: 1) introducing group – 5 min for every group; 2) warm up activities - 10 min; 3) delivering a part of the Presidential speech – 5 min; 4) acting out *Thanksgiving* dinner - 5 min for each group; 5) *Thanksgiving* games – 10 min. 6) preparation of the *Thanksgiving* card and gifts –10 min; 7) discussing results of the competition – 10 min.

Time limitation is very important for realizing the project. Students should fix the time and days for each task: 2 days for gathering information, 2 days for creating symbols, mottos, and scenario, 2 days for rehearsal. For concentrating students' attention and putting everything in order it is better to present dates and events in the Table.

***Thanksgiving* Holiday Arrangements**

Date	Event	Responsible Person
20-21.11.2014	gathering information	the whole group manager
22-24.11.2014	wall paper and compiling crosswords drafting wall paper, symbols, slogan, etc. producing scenario arranging meeting	creative group designers producers manager
25-26.11.2014	rehearsals	the whole group
27.11.2014	competition	the whole group
28. 11. 2014	analyzing the results	the whole group

One more very important thing is creating assessment criteria for each stage of the competition. Teacher beforehand should think out and inform teams about these criteria. Special assessment card is to be designed for jury team.

Assessment Card

Stage of the Competition	Requirements	Team I	Team II
Introducing Group (20%)	All members participation – 5%; bright design –5% creativity –5% information –5%		
Warm up (20%)	questioning –5% crosswords – 5%		
Presidential Speech (10%)	voice –5% manners –5%		
Thanksgiving Dinner Traditions	creativity –5% scenario of the performance – 5%		

(10%)			
Thanksgiving Games (10%)	creativity –5% organization –5%		
Thanksgiving Cards and Gifts (10%)	creativity –5% bright design –5% language accuracy –5%		
Thanksgiving Wall Paper (10%)	design –5% information– 5%		
TOTAL			

Jury team may be organized from the teachers or students.

Scenario of the Lesson

THEME: Thanksgiving Celebrations

Aims: developing speaking, listening, vocabulary skills; developing students’ sociocultural competence through getting acquainted with *Thanksgiving* realia; upbringing tolerance and respect to the realia of the foreign culture.

Aids: pictures, cards, Power Point presentations, crosswords.

Competition Outline



I. Introducing Teams.

Each team makes special and bright presentation (name, symbol, slogan, purpose of their participation, *Thanksgiving* song, poem, dance, etc.) to the audience. **10min**

II. Warm up. 10 min

1) Teams ask 5 different questions about the features of *Thanksgiving* (Ex.:1) If April showers bring May flowers what do May flowers bring?

Pilgrims! 2) If the Pilgrims were alive today, what would they be most famous for? Their great old age! 3) Why did the Indian chief wear so many feathers? To keep his wigwam.

2) Two representatives of each team solve crosswords of 10 key *Thanksgiving* symbols prepared for each other in advance (it happens alongside with delivering presidential Speech).

III. Presidential Speech. 5 min. One student from each group delivers a part of the Presidential *Thanksgiving* Speech for 1 min. Intonation, logical stress, brightness of speech are the criteria for evaluation.

IV. Performance of the *Thanksgiving* Dinner Traditions. 10 min (5+5).

Each group act out special *Thanksgiving* dinner traditions prepared at home.

Some tips for decorating *Thanksgiving* table (from Internet resources)

1. Select a tablecloth or table runner, done in autumn-themed prints for the *Thanksgiving* table. You can also use white butcher's paper as a tablecloth and decorate it with the figurines of turkeys, pumpkins, autumn leaves, and pilgrims. It would give your table a traditional *Thanksgiving* look.

2. Use your plastic place mats with a complete artistic look on this *Thanksgiving*. Decorate the plastic place mats by sticking fall leaves and feathers to them with a glue stick.

3. While decorating the *Thanksgiving* table for a family dinner add a decorative touch to your preparations with fancy folded napkins. You can choose either paper napkins or cloth napkins. Among the cloth napkins there are cloth as well as linen napkins, which would certainly add a touch of class to your decorations.

4. Centerpieces also make your table more attractive. You can use a variety of items as centerpiece such as traditional cornucopia centerpiece, a basket of fresh fruits, an autumn floral arrangement, autumn-colored candles set in wooden or rustic metal candleholders, pine cones, a large, hollowed-out pumpkin filled with dry fruits. Scatter fall leaves, wheat sprigs, clusters of berries, nuts, and mini pumpkins around your centerpiece.

5. Collect some autumn leaves. Take a rectangle flat tray and glue the autumn leaves on the tray in such a way that it appears as if "*Thanksgiving*" is embossed on the tray. Put this *Thanksgiving* tray on your *Thanksgiving* table and enjoy the festivities.

V. *Thanksgiving* Games. 10 min. Each group organizes one the most popular and interesting game prepared in advance. Some games taken from the Internet resources are suggested below.

Personal *Thanksgiving* Story

Have fun on the *Thanksgiving* Day with your friends and family in a different way by personalizing the Thanksgiving story. Ask all the players to sit in a circle. Then ask each of them to tell a personal story or event when they thanked the God for his blessings. The player who has told the most interesting story should be awarded with a prize.

Find the Turkey

One player is the hunter and the others are helpers. The hunter leaves the room. The helpers hide a small toy turkey somewhere within the room. After hiding the turkey they call the hunter back to the room. The hunter returns and starts to search for the turkey. The helpers gobble to give the hunter a hint about the hiding place of the turkey. If the hunter is not close to the turkey, the helpers gobble very quietly. As the hunter gets closer to the turkey, the helpers gobble more and more loudly until the hunter succeeds in searching the turkey.

Twenty Questions

This is an old traditional game. One player (the first player) says he is thinking of something related to *Thanksgiving* celebrations. Then the other player tries to guess what it is by asking no more than twenty questions to the first player. The first player gives answer only in 'yes', 'no', or 'I don't know'. The number of questions or the guesses made by other player should not exceed twenty.

VI. Designing *Thanksgiving* Cards and Gifts. 5 min. Designers from each group make congratulation card and gifts for competitors. Then groups congratulate each other. This action is tried as logical action of the completion.

Some ideas how to prepare *Thanksgiving* gifts and cards (from Internet resources).

***Thanksgiving* Fruits Basket:** Fruits and vegetable baskets are also good gift ideas as these could be of great use for everyone especially the hostesses. This gift can be shared by all which will increase the fun of togetherness.

***Thanksgiving* Chocolates:** The sweet chocolates are other wonderful gift items, which are popular among all age group people. The molded chocolates in various shapes and sizes, like turkeys, are also excellent gifts.

***Thanksgiving* Candles and Candle Holders:** The beautiful candles and candle holders are a perfect gift choice for the *Thanksgiving* Day as they can be used to decorate the special *Thanksgiving* dinner table, which is shared together by all. You can select colorful candles molded in different shapes such as *Thanksgiving*-

motif candles, gourds, small pumpkins, *Thanksgiving* figurines like turkeys and pilgrims etc.

VII. Jury team comments the results and announced the winner.

This scenario of *Thanksgiving* celebration may be turned out into different versions in accordance with the requirements of the concrete educational establishment. It may become not only one of the brightest events in the students' life but very helpful thing for better understanding culture realia of the nation whose language the study.