

PROJECT-BASED LEARNING



Plan a Thanksgiving Dinner

INCLUDES TEACHER GUIDE



Common Core
Aligned For
5th Grade

Conversion,
Estimation, &
Decimal Operations

Please Read!

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Teacher Tips & Tricks

Part 1

Before Beginning

Food Network Kid Chef: <https://youtu.be/qSB7h0xzdrE>

I like to show this video to students before I tell them anything about this project. Then I ask them "What if you were hosting and cooking for your own Thanksgiving dinner?" I then tell them they can invite anyone they want, but they should keep it small to keep the cost down.

Discussion Points

- What are your family traditions for Thanksgiving?
- Why do we need to know how many guests will be attending our dinner?
- How will we have people RSVP?

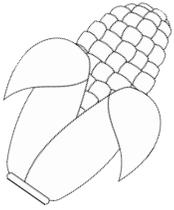
Differentiation

Establish gifted or advanced students as "accountants". Set them up with stations around the room where other students can bring their work to be checked in the rest of this project. Train the "accountants" to circle the problem areas, but not complete the work for the students. If a student has trouble finding the error, they can join you in small group for some extra help.

Process

I have the student page organized into two columns: one for friends and one for family. They can put any number of people for each. They don't have to fill up all the lines - if they do, everyone will have the same number of guests and the project won't be as fun. I suggest that they at least invite 6 people since they will end up with way too much food for just a few people. The maximum is 16 for this project because of the budget included in part 4. Once my students are done, I go around the room quickly and ask how many people they're inviting, just to make sure I have a good mix of numbers.

Recommended Time: 10 minutes+ discussion time



Part 1: Create your guest list

When people plan their Thanksgiving dinners, they begin with their guest list. The number of people coming to Thanksgiving determines how the dinner is planned in a many ways:

- the size of the Turkey you buy
- how much the dinner will cost you overall
- how many dishes and utensils you need

Write a list of everyone coming to your Thanksgiving dinner. **You do not need to fill up all of the lines.** Do not add extra lines, or you will run out of money having to buy food for that many people!

My Guest List

Family	Friends
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Teacher Tips & Tricks

Part 2-3

Before Beginning

You're going to need local grocery store ads before you begin part 2 & 3 of the project. I like to pick up paper ads from 2-3 different grocery store chains so that students can compare prices. They can also find grocery store ads online. During the 3 weeks leading up to Thanksgiving, all of the items listed can be found in the grocery store ads.

How to Cook a Turkey Video: <https://youtu.be/-nJLpx0Qxlo>

Discussion Points

- Why is it important to buy the right amount of food?
- How do you use estimation to make sure you have the right amount of food?
- What happens if you buy too much food?
- What happens if you don't buy enough food?
- How can you plan and budget for a trip to the grocery store?

Connections

- Technology: Use online grocery store ads to find the price of each food item.
- Writing: Write a compare & contrast essay comparing two of the grocery store ads. Talk about the prices and the style of the ad.
- Writing/Speech: Create a how-to speech on how to cook a turkey.
- Reading: Bring in recipe books to read and discuss text features.

Process

Students will have to use the smart chart and their grocery store ad to make calculations for their shopping list. Model using the smart chart first, then the ad second.

Students will calculate the size and cost of the turkey first by using the smart chart. They'll also take a look at how the amount of people relates to the size of the turkey needed by creating a graph to display that data. Take this time to talk about graphing vocabulary and what they notice about the graph.

Students can then pick and choose which other items to buy from the smart chart. If they don't want to serve something, they don't have to. If they want to add something that's not on the smart chart, they'll have to do a little bit of research to come up with how many people each item feeds. They may need to round depending on the number of guests, so take the time to discuss why we would round up in this situation. This part involved application of critical thinking skills since they have to think about their number of guests and what food they will need without having too much.

Recommended Time: 90-120 minutes

Resource for Parts 2-3

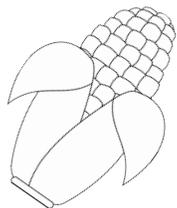
Chart from GoodHousekeeping.com

SMART CHART

How Much Do I Need?

Cooking for a crowd can be complicated—the prep takes longer and there are more (and bigger) pots to watch. But first comes the essential step: doing the math. As in, you know how much stuffing to make for eight people, but how much for 20? Solution: our at-a-glance guidelines for 11 Thanksgiving basics, showing the minimum amount you'll need to buy whether you're entertaining eight or 24 or various numbers in between.

DISH	8 SERVINGS	10 SERVINGS	12 SERVINGS	16 SERVINGS	20 SERVINGS	24 SERVINGS
Turkey	8 lbs.	10 lbs.	12 lbs.	16 lbs.	20 lbs.	24 lbs.
Stuffing (dry mix)	8 oz.	10 oz.	12 oz.	16 oz.	20 oz.	24 oz.
Potatoes	3 lbs. (6 lg.)	3½ lbs. (7 lg.)	4½ lbs. (9 lg.)	6 lbs. (12 lg.)	7½ lbs. (15 lg.)	9 lbs. (18 lg.)
Butternut squash	3½ lbs. (2 sm.)	4 lbs. (2 med.)	5 lbs. (2 lg.)	6¾ lbs. (3 med.)	8 lbs. (4 med.)	10 lbs. (4 lg.)
Brussels sprouts	2 (10-oz.) containers	3 (10-oz.) containers	3 (10-oz.) containers	4 (10-oz.) containers	5 (10-oz.) containers	6 (10-oz.) containers
Green beans	2 lbs.	2½ lbs.	3 lbs.	4 lbs.	5 lbs.	6 lbs.
Sweet potatoes	3 lbs. (3 lg.)	3¾ lbs. (4 lg.)	4½ lbs. (5 lg.)	6 lbs. (6 lg.)	7½ lbs. (8 lg.)	9 lbs. (9 lg.)
Pearl onions	2 (10-oz.) containers	2 (10-oz.) containers	3 (10-oz.) containers	3 (10-oz.) containers	4 (10-oz.) containers	4 (10-oz.) containers
Cranberry sauce (canned)	2 (16-oz.) cans	2 (16-oz.) cans	3 (16-oz.) cans	3 (16-oz.) cans	4 (16-oz.) cans	4 (16-oz.) cans
Creamed spinach (frozen)	3 (10-oz.) pkgs.	4 (10-oz.) pkgs.	4 (10-oz.) pkgs.	6 (10-oz.) pkgs.	8 (10-oz.) pkgs.	8 (10-oz.) pkgs.
Pie	1 to 2 (9" to 9½") pies	2 (9" to 9½") pies	2 (9" to 9½") pies	2 to 3 (9" to 9½") pies	3 (9" to 9½") pies	3 to 4 (9" to 9½") pies



Part 2: Decide what size turkey to buy.

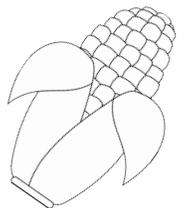
The goal of a successful Thanksgiving dinner is to have the perfect amount of food for your guests. Keep track of each food item you need to buy on your shopping list resource.

1. What are some effects if you don't buy enough food for your Thanksgiving dinner?

2. What are some effects if you buy too much food for your Thanksgiving dinner?

Use the **Smart Chart resource** to figure out how much many pounds of Turkey you need. Use your **grocery store ad** to figure out the price per pound. Do the work on this page, then add your calculations to your **shopping list resource**.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount (lbs.) Needed</u>	<u>Price (each lb.)</u>	<u>Total Price</u>
Turkey			



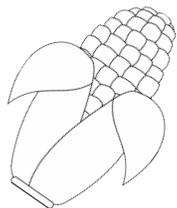
Part 2: Analyze Turkey Cost Data

Use the Smart Chart to create a graph showing how the number of people attending (servings) relates to the cost of the turkey.

Number of People/Servings (x)	Cost (y)
8	
10	
12	
16	
20	
24	

On another page, create a graph using the data we collected in our table.

How much does the price of the turkey increase for each person you invite?



Part 3: Finish your grocery list.

Take a few minutes to look through your grocery store ad. Do you see any food that you like to eat at Thanksgiving? Look for food that is listed on your **Smart Chart resource**.

Choose at least six food items you will need for your Thanksgiving dinner. Use the Smart Chart resource to decide how many of each item you will need to buy. Remember that **8 servings will feed 8 people**, and so on. Add your calculations to your **shopping list resource**.

Example



<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount Needed</u>	<u>Price (each)</u>	<u>Total Price</u>
Turkey	10 lb.	\$1.99 x 10 lb.	\$19.90
Pumpkin Pie	2 pies	\$2.99 x 2	\$5.98
Potatoes	1 (5 lb.) bag	\$0.97x1	\$0.97



I only need 3 ½ lb. of potatoes, so one of these 5 lb. bags will be enough.

Grocery List Example

Item	Amount Needed	Price (each)	Total Price
Turkey	8 lb.	\$2.99/lb.	$\$2.99 \times 8 =$ \$23.92
Stuffing	8 oz. (2- 6 oz. boxes)	\$1.29 each	$\$1.29 \times 2 =$ \$2.58
Potatoes	3 lb.	\$0.25/lb.	$\$0.25 \times 3 =$ \$0.75
Squash	3 ½ lb.	\$1/lb.	$\$1 \times 3.5 =$ \$3.50
Brussels Sprouts	2 – 10 oz. containers	\$1.20	$\$1.20 \times 2 =$ \$2.40
Green Beans	2 lbs.	\$0.59/lb.	$\$0.60 \times 2 =$ \$1.20
Sweet Potatoes	3 lbs.	\$0.85/lb.	$\$0.85 \times 3 =$ \$2.55
Cranberry Sauce	2 – 16 oz. cans	\$0.50	\$1
Spinach	3 - 10 oz. containers	\$2	$\$2 \times 3 =$ \$6
Pie	2	\$4.50	$\$4.50 \times 2 =$ \$9
Pearl Onions	2 – 10 oz. containers	unknown	About \$2?
Total Cost →			About \$55

Teacher Tips & Tricks

Part 4

Before Beginning

I always have extra leftover party supplies, so I usually bring those into my classroom to prepare for part 4. I put them all out on the table and have my students guess what we need to do next to prepare for our Thanksgiving dinner.

Discussion Points

- What supplies are needed for Thanksgiving dinner?
- What is a budget?
- What happens if you go over budget?
- What can you use the money for if you're under budget?

Connections

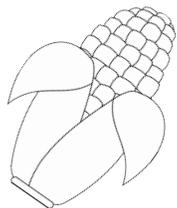
- Science: Thanksgiving Chemistry <https://youtu.be/9R-wielABok>
- Science: Does turkey make you sleepy?

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/speaking-of-science/wp/2014/11/24/no-turkey-doesnt-make-you-sleepy-the-science-of-thanksgiving-feasts/>

Process

Your students will LOVE this part, because they will finally be able to visualize their Thanksgiving dinner. You can have students use the supply cost page or have them do their own shopping using online stores/ads. If you opt for the online part, give students the choice of just a few websites. It can be very confusing if you let them "shop" anywhere because of huge price differences and shipping costs. I recommend using Walmart.com, Amazon.com, and PartyCity.com. They have a \$150 budget, so it's important to discuss that there are several items they need to buy before they go on to items like decorations. They can also buy more than one of a supply if necessary. This part of the project is also great to practice using critical thinking skills because they have to use their turkey size calculations to decide which turkey plate to buy and the other food items to choose serving bowls. They also have to use their number of guests to calculate plates, cups, and utensils. If students have invited a lot of guests and are short on money, they can use paper & plastic plates, cups, and utensils instead. These students will have to do a little extra research to save money.

Recommended Time: 60-90 minutes



Part 4: Purchase supplies

Let's assume that this is your first time serving Thanksgiving dinner. You don't even have utensils or plates yet! You only have a \$150 budget to purchase everything you need, so spend it wisely! *All prices include tax.*

You must purchase:

- ✓ Enough utensils, cups, and plates for each person
- ✓ A serving dish for each food item you are serving

Essential Supplies		Thanksgiving napkins (paper) - 100	\$6.50
8 Sets of Utensils (Spoons, Forks, Knives)	\$18.50	Thanksgiving napkins (cloth) – 8	\$16.40
8 Glass Cups	\$14.99	Fun Additions	
8 Plates	\$31.99	Thanksgiving turkey decorations	\$10.50
Turkey Serving Dish-Large	\$25.45	Thanksgiving tablecloth	\$5.19
Large Serving Bowl	\$16.21	Music Player	\$89.99
Medium Serving Bowl	\$8.41	Pin the Tail on the Turkey Game	\$12.50
Serving Spoons (3)	\$6.12	Board Game to play after dinner	\$19.99



Teacher Tips & Tricks

Part 5

Before Beginning

This is a great part of the project to talk more about Thanksgiving traditions. I like to bring in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade to connect this project to the other subject areas (see connections below). I love to start with this video: Making of the giant balloons: <https://youtu.be/yafNXJfQdLks> - this also connects to scale used in this part of the project.

Discussion Points

- What measurement does each square represent?
- Why would a planned seating chart help make your Thanksgiving dinner go smoothly?
- What happens if someone doesn't show up, or if someone shows up that wasn't on your list?

Connections

• Reading: I love using *Balloons over Broadway: The True Story of the Puppeteers of Macy's Parade* by Melissa Sweet as a mentor text during this project. You can use it to teach many of your reading standards.

- For more information on using mentor text in the upper grade classroom visit: <http://performingineducation.com/2015/03/common-core-reading-mentor-text-interactive-lessons-success.html>

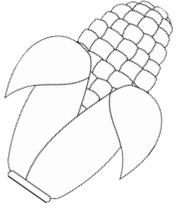
Differentiation

You can give struggling students a 1 ft. scale while allowing other students to come up with their own scale. You can also use manipulatives to represent the scale.

Process

This is a great part to discuss drawing "to scale" and measurement. I have my students come up with their own scale and measure their chairs and some of our longer tables to estimate how much space is needed for each chair and table at their Thanksgiving dinner. I often have several students that struggle between the feet and inches sides of the ruler and the symbols used to indicate them, so this is good practice of some of the prior year's standards as well.

Recommended Time: 45-60 minutes



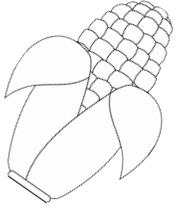
Part 5: Create a Seating Arrangement

Decide where your guests will sit in your house (or future dream house).

What size tables will you use?

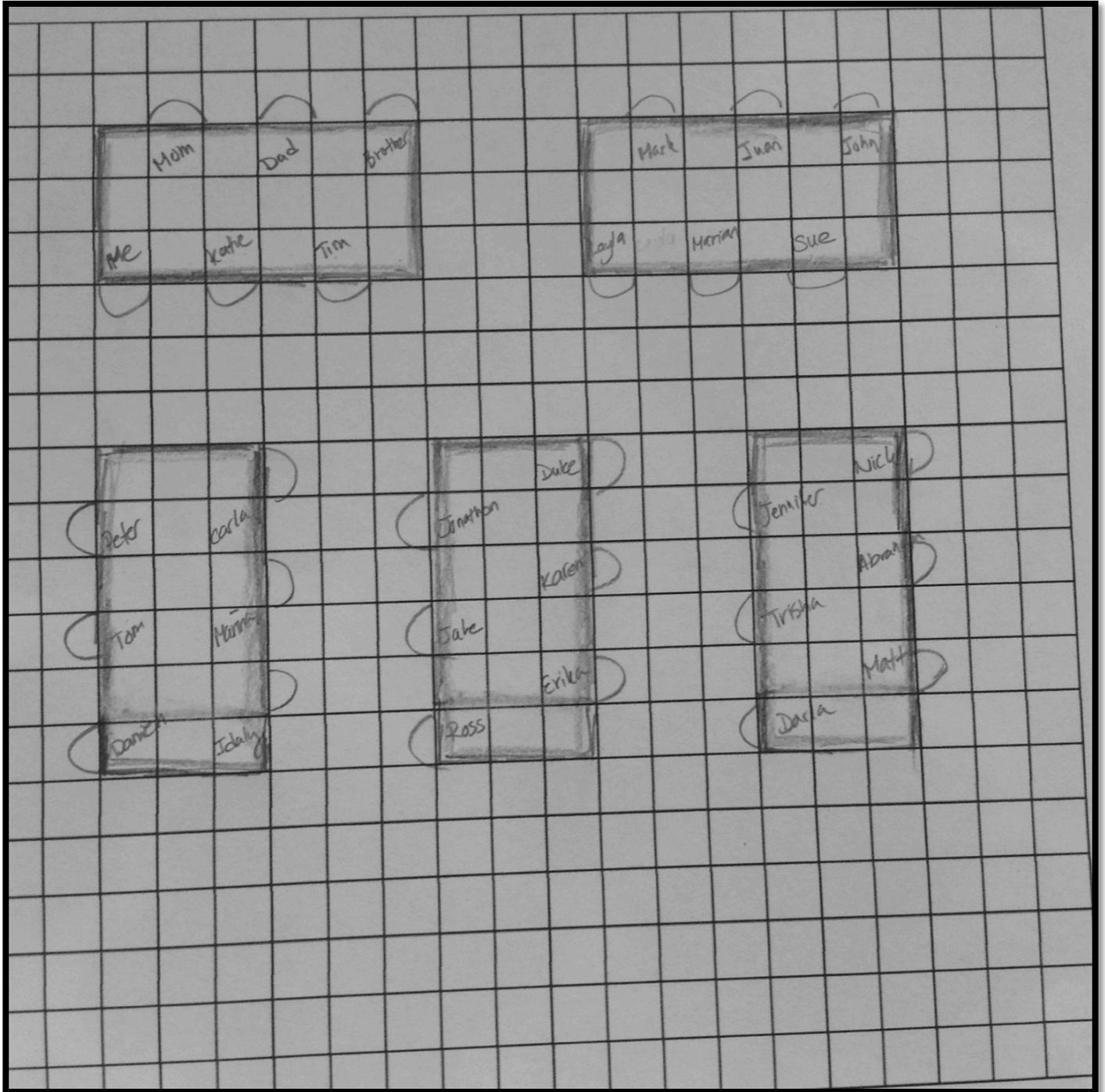
How many people can sit at each table?

How will you distribute the food?



Part 5: Create a Seating Arrangement

Label the seating chart with each guest's name. Plan the seating carefully so that everyone that sits together will get along!



Product + Extension

Process

- Have students check their work again for accuracy. This is where students should make any revisions to their work. If it's hard to read, print out new pages and have them fill it out again so that they have a clean copy.
- Critique & final revision: I require a written justification paper to accompany their work. During this step, students work in small groups or partnerships to review all items & give feedback. The students then go back and make final revisions.
- Presentation: They can create video presentations, artwork, posters, and so much more to present their work. Because these presentations are very detailed, I usually give them two full class periods to finish them.
 - Here are the top 5 online programs my students love to use:
<http://performingineducation.com/2015/03/5-great-computer-programs-for-multimedia-projects.html>
 - 3D Models are really fun too! You can have students use household items to create a small model of their Thanksgiving dinner, or come together to have your own Thanksgiving dinner as a class.
- For presentations, you can have students present one at a time while the remaining students grade & give feedback on paper. We have large class sizes, so I prefer to have them present to smaller groups of 6-8. This makes it more intimate and allows for students to have time to ask questions. It can be tedious to sit through 30+ presentations on similar topics, even if they use different types of media to present their ideas.

Extension/Enrichment

- Write a research paper on a Thanksgiving tradition. Students can further research the Macy's Thanksgiving parade, food traditions, and much more.
- Create a timeline of the history of the New World.
- Do a Thanksgiving experiment. One year we created our own small parade balloons and tried different types of gases to inflate them.
- Read more literature and informational text about Thanksgiving.
- Create a class cookbook with Thanksgiving recipes.

Recommended Time: 120-180 minutes

Find More Great Activities & Ideas!



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