

## Canadian Thanksgiving Activities & Crafts

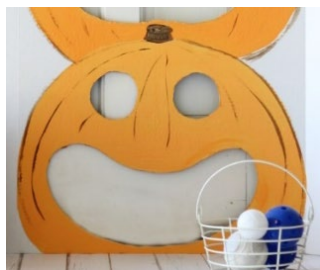


### Spin-the-Pie Game

Make a game spinner using a paper plate that is divided into six sections; write prompts in each section (Family, Friends, Travel, Home, Pets, Work). Cut a smaller circle from colorful craft paper; remove one “slice” to create a window. Attach wheel to plate with a brad or thumbtack. Attach rope or yarn to rim with hot glue. Take turns spinning and sharing memories/stories based on the section that is uncovered.

### Thanksgiving Day Charades

Play charades using phrases related to Thanksgiving, the autumn season, or anything else! To get things started you can put some words/phrases onto individual pieces of paper and place into a bowl for drawing. Here are some suggestions: eating, carving the turkey, setting the table, feeling grateful, pumpkin pie, family, corn on the cob, leaves, apple cider.



### Pumpkin Toss Game

Purchase or find a sturdy poster board or cardboard, and paint pumpkins with large eyes and mouth onto it. Cut out the eyes and mouth with Exacto knife. Take turns tossing ping pong balls, tennis balls, or anything else you can round up into the eyes or mouth holes.

### Scavenger Hunt

Print off turkey pictures, or cut turkey shapes from construction paper, and post them in various locations throughout the community. Residents can team up to find all the turkey pictures, or everyone can play solo. If you want to make this

more challenging, place a clue on the pictures asking players to locate another hidden item, or you can provide clues for finding turkey pictures before folks start looking. Award prizes to winners!

### **Have a Picture-Puzzle Competition**

Print out pictures with a Thanksgiving theme, such as turkeys, pies, a fall-colored tree, etc., then cut the photos into four, six, or eight parts. Once you are ready to begin, randomly distribute the parts to all participants. When the buzzer beeps, players need to find the people with the other parts of the pictures. The team that gathers the parts of the picture puzzle and puts it together first is the winner. This activity could strengthen spatial and visual skills for seniors.



### **Turkey Bowling**

Start with large plastic cups then attach pieces of construction paper of various colors cut into feather-like shapes. Use orange construction paper cut into the shape of triangles for the turkeys' beaks. Googly eyes from a craft store can be glued on for the eyes. Find something to use as a bowling "ball" (mini pumpkins, a tennis ball, or any other round object) and take turns knocking down turkeys - either stacked or set up flat in a triangle formation.

### **Holiday Pictionary**

Start by writing a collection of thanksgiving-themed ideas onto small pieces of paper and place them in either a bowl or a hat. Here are suggestions: turkey, stuffing, Jigg's dinner, mashed potatoes, cornucopia, harvest, fall, wine. Either on teams or individually compete with one another and attempt to draw either on paper or on a dry erase board the Thanksgiving-themed ideas. You can try to draw things as simple as an apple or as complex as Samuel de Champlain!



### **Make a Cornucopia**

Start by purchasing a wicker cornucopia from a local hobby or arts and crafts store. You can fill your cornucopia with almost anything you like. Try to look for items that are representative of fall or harvest time. Miniature pumpkins and squash can be a great addition. Sprigs of wheat, grass, flowers, or leaves found outside can add a lot of character to your cornucopia. Dried corn, peppers, and even fake fruit from a hobby store also make for a wonderful cornucopia!

### **Shake Your Tail Feathers**

Start with two empty tissue boxes and a bag of small feathers. Using tape, attach the tissue boxes to a belt or a piece of fabric that can be tied around the waist. Fill the empty tissue boxes with feathers and tie them around two people's waists. The two people then shake their behinds as fast as possible and compete to get all the feathers out of their tissue box first!

### **Breaking the Wishbone**

Since Roman times it's been considered good fortune to break the "wishbone" on a turkey or chicken. If you have a wishbone from a Thanksgiving turkey, find two people who can each take one side of the wishbone and break it. Whoever has the larger piece will have their wish granted! You can also compete in the same way with cream filled cookies by each taking the top and the bottom of the cookie and pulling them apart. Whoever gets the cream on their half wins.