

How Separate Are Church and State?

Every American school child learns how the Pilgrims came to the New World in 1620 so they could worship as they wanted (see page 2). Later they learn how religious freedom is protected by the US Constitution.

One 19th century observer of the US (Alexis de Tocqueville) noted how religious Americans were and suggested that religion was strong in the US *because of* (not despite) the separation of church and state: Otherwise, he wrote, "... by allying itself with any political power, religion increases its strength over some but forfeits the hope of reigning over all."

But "Wait!" you might say. If church and state are so separate in the US, why is religion so much a part of the current political discussion? Why is "In God We Trust" written on coins and bills? Why do sessions of Congress open with a prayer? Why do we hear politicians say, "God bless America?" Why does the Pledge of Allegiance include the phrase "under God?" And why is Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney's [Mormon] religion so often a topic of discussion?

These are really good questions. Here is a bit of history:

After the War of Independence from England in 1776, the new Americans were naturally influenced by the English system of government as they began to write their new state laws. England had (and has) an established church (a single religious organization that the government supports — the Church of England). Many of the original 13 state governments included a similar relationship

between [the Protestant Christian] church and state. For example, in 18th-century Virginia, going to church was required; those who did not believe in the Christian Trinity could be put in prison for three years. In North Carolina and New Hampshire, only Protestants could serve in the state legislature. Some of these laws did not change until the 19th century.

In 1776, the writers of Virginia's new state Constitution argued about religion and government. One group wanted to include a phrase ensuring "the fullest Toleration in the exercise of religion." And another group wanted a tax that would be shared among the various Protestant Christian sects - this seemed, to them, to be an act of toleration.

James Madison and Thomas Jefferson, two early leaders of the new United States, rejected these ideas. They wanted the Constitution to guarantee that "all men are equally entitled to the free exercise of religion." For them, giving one group the responsibility to "tolerate" another group still placed the first group above the others. And they wanted no tax to support any religion of any type.

Madison and Jefferson won in Virginia and set the stage for the wording of the US Constitution. The first phrase of the First Amendment in the US Bill of Rights says: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." This phrase has come to mean that the "state" (meaning the government, whether state or federal) cannot *set up* (establish) a church, cannot collect taxes to support religious activities, cannot punish someone for

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Birthday Biography: Squanto

One Native American played a very important part in Pilgrim history. This man was an early example of a “bicultural interpreter.” His story is one of amazing coincidences and remarkable influence. We do not know when he was born, so let’s honor him this month.

Squanto was a Patuxet Indian in what is now the state of Massachusetts. As a young man, some English explorers invited him to return with them to England, around 1610. He went, apparently willingly. He was part of an “Indian exhibit” in London. He asked to go home and sailed back in 1614. Before reaching his home, however, he was taken, now as a slave, back to Spain.

Eventually he escaped back to the New World. But when he arrived, in 1619, all the people in his tribe had died (probably of diseases brought by European explorers). Because he knew English and his native language, as well as English and Native American cultures, he was able to negotiate peaceful relations between the Indians and the Pilgrims.

He also taught the Pilgrims how to survive using the resources of the New World — how and when to plant corn, and how to say warm, for example. Until Squanto died in 1622, the Pilgrims lived mostly in a careful peace with the Indians.

Happy Birthday, Squanto.

Thanksgiving

In 1620, 102 people from England sailed to North America on a boat called the Mayflower. The boat landed at what is now Plymouth, Massachusetts. We call this group the Pilgrims (a pilgrim is someone who travels to visit a holy place, or for religious reasons). About half of these 102 were members of a religious group that had separated from the Church of England. They thought that the Protestant Reformation (and the Church of England, in particular) had not gone far enough in breaking from the Roman Catholic Church. They were looking for a land where they could establish their own, new religion. The US has since been the home of many people fleeing persecution for their ideas, but the Pilgrims were the first.

In the pictures you see today, Pilgrims are usually dressed in black and white, to show their serious religious beliefs. In fact, they only wore these clothes on Sundays. Other days they wore the brown and green work clothes they had worn in England. Though religious, they were not afraid of fun — beer and liquor were part of their daily diet.

The other half of the Mayflower group came to the New World for economic reasons. They were paid by investors at home to send back beaver furs, cod, and other products. The two halves worked and lived well together, and shared the job of governing the town.

The Pilgrims shared many difficult times. Of the 102 who left from England, 47 died by the end of the first year, mostly from illness that came from being tired, hungry, and overworked. Of the 18 wives who left England on the Mayflower, 13 had died by the end of the year (though only 3 of the 20 children had died). We know very little about the emotions and thoughts of these women, and can only imagine their fear and sadness.

Some Native Americans were very helpful to the Pilgrims. They taught them to plant corn

and barley, to eat oysters, to catch fish with nets, and to hunt wild turkey.

By the end of the first year, the Pilgrims were feeling very grateful. They had grown 20 acres of corn, had started a beaver fur trade, and had built 11 buildings. Fewer people were ill. So they decided to have a three-day harvest feast — the first Thanksgiving celebration.

They invited Massasoit, the Native American chief in this area. He arrived with 90 men (who came with 5 deer to add to the food). The foods we have today at Thanksgiving are foods that the Pilgrims might have had that first year — turkey, cranberries, and pumpkin. (In fact, though, the Pilgrims’ journals that describe this feast include lists of many kinds of meat but not one ever mentions a turkey!)

Thanksgiving is always the fourth Thursday of November (this year, November 24). The main event of the holiday is the family dinner — try cooking one yourself (see page 3). Americans focus on their love for each other, and gratitude for their freedom and liberty. Cards and gifts are not traditionally given. Many people travel miles to be with their families — airports and highways are traditionally crowded on Wednesday and Sunday.

Thanksgiving is the only holiday in the year that is uniquely US American and is neither political nor religious. Celebrate it as if it were your own!



A Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner

Thanksgiving is the only day of the year when almost all Americans eat basically the same thing: turkey, stuffing, cranberry sauce, potatoes, and pumpkin pie. Many families add their own favorites; I know a family that adds lasagne and another that adds Chinese dumplings. This holiday is for all religions and all political groups, for newcomers and long-time Americans — everyone who feels thankful for something. Here is how to make a traditional dinner:

How much turkey should I buy?

A guideline is: one pound per person. So for 10 people, buy a 10-pound turkey. On the other hand, it's good the next day, so buy a big one! In general, younger birds are more tender. A fryer-roaster is (was!) 4 months old, a young hen (female) or tom (male) is 5-7 months old, and a yearling is 12 months old. If you buy a frozen turkey, allow it to thaw in the refrigerator (3-7 days) or in cold water (5-15 hours), never at room temperature (bacteria might grow).

How do I stuff a turkey?

There are many variations in recipes, each one a favorite to someone. To be honest, I think packaged stuffing is pretty good, and is very easy. But if you're making a Thanksgiving dinner for the "authentic experience," then try making it yourself. Here is how my Great Aunt Alice always made it. I say it's the best! There are four basic kinds of things in stuffing:

The Bread — White or whole wheat bread, as much like homemade bread as possible. Slice it, and keep it on the counter for a while, covered with a towel, to make it a bit dry. Then tear it by hand into small cubes.

The Herbs and Spices — Salt and black pepper. Sage is traditional, but Aunt Alice didn't like sage.

The Other Stuff — Sautéed onions and celery

(cooked briefly in butter) are traditional. Then be creative with one or two of these: boiled chestnuts, oysters, sausage, walnuts, pecans, apples, or dried fruit like apricots.

Something to Make It Moist — Butter is traditional. Or try margarine, olive oil, cream, broth, wine, or apple juice.

After you have washed the turkey and removed the little bag of parts from the inside, put some stuffing into the bird. Do this right before you put it in the oven, or bacteria will grow. Do not put too much stuffing into the bird, because it expands while cooking (use about $\frac{3}{4}$ cup for each pound of turkey). If you have extra, bake it in a dish. When the turkey is done, mix the inside and outside stuffing together.

How do I cook a turkey?

Here are the guidelines for a stuffed turkey, from the National Turkey Federation. Bake at 325°:

8-12 pounds	3-3½ hours
12-14 pounds	3½-4 hours
14-18 pounds	4-4¼ hours
18-20 pounds	4¼-4¾ hours
20-24 pounds	4¾-5¼ hours

Unstuffed turkeys take 15-30 minutes less. A meat thermometer placed in the thigh should reach 180°. I have had good luck with turkeys that come with a "pop-up" thermometer in them. When the turkey is done, a little plastic piece pops up!

Need help?

In November and December, call the Butterball Turkey TalkLine (1-800-288-8372) for information (in English or Spanish) on thawing, stuffing, testing for doneness, and more. Or try www.butterball.com for useful pictures, recipes, and tips (in English or Spanish).

A Vegetable Children Like!

Here's a sure way to get your children to eat butternut squash. I don't think the Pilgrims had canned evaporated milk, but the squash might have been at their table. Its orange color looks great with the peas and cranberry sauce.

- ♦ 3 small or 1 large butternut squash (buy it already peeled and cubed, if you can)
- ♦ 8 ounces canned evaporated milk (in the supermarket near flour, sugar, and spices)
- ♦ 3 eggs
- ♦ 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- ♦ ½ cup sugar

1) Turn oven to Bake and set the temperature to 350°.

2) If the squash is not already peeled, remove the outer skin with a vegetable peeler. Cut each squash in half. Throw away the seeds and stringy stuff in the middle. Cut the squash into 1-inch slices. Boil the slices in water till they are very soft (about 20 minutes).

3) Put the squash, milk, eggs, vanilla, and sugar into an electric blender or food processor. Blend until completely smooth. Pour the mixture into an ungreased casserole (glass pan that can go in the oven).

4) Put the casserole into the hot oven and bake for about one hour. The squash should be set (a soft solid, not liquid).

Makes enough for 6-8 people.

Mailing Packages

Mail slows down in this season because so many people send Christmas cards and packages to their friends and families. If you are shipping packages for December, try to mail them in November.

Go to ircalc.usps.gov to calculate postage for international letters and packages sent through the US Postal Service; prices are cheaper if you buy the postage on line rather than in the Post Office:

Priority Mail International (6-10 business days, to 51 countries; from \$13.95 for up to 16 ounces; anything up to 4 pounds that fits in their flat-rate envelope or small box can ship for \$13.95; or up to 20 pounds in a medium flat-rate box for \$45.50 or a large one for \$58.50) (Get boxes and envelopes at any post office.)

Express Mail International (3-5 business days, to 200+ countries; from \$29.95 for 8 ounces)

Here are some private express services:

UPS: www.ups.com

DHL: www.dhl.com

FedEx: www.fedex.com

Most sites are in English or the local language. You can order a pick-up from your home on their website or by telephone, and track the package until it is delivered.

Both the USPS and the private companies will give you nice, sturdy boxes for free.

The Rules of American Football

Americans play football in elementary school, high school, college, and professionally. The rules at these levels differ slightly. They also change frequently, to keep the game safe, fair, and exciting to the crowds. For example, recent professional rules were changed to keep the [popular, important, and ... expensive] quarterback safer. Here are the current professional rules.

Basic Facts

- A football is a pointed-oval shaped ball, about 11 inches long and 7 inches wide. It weighs 14-15 ounces.
- Playing time is 60 minutes (four 15-minute quarters). But the clock stops often, for various reasons (for example, after every scored point, and in case of penalties, injuries, and incomplete passes). There is a break after two quarters that may include entertainment and marching bands. Including the half-time break, a typical professional game takes 2.5 to 3 hours.
- A football field is 100 yards long, marked on both ends by a goal line. Then there is a 10-yard end zone, marked on both ends by an end line. There is a goal post on each end line. The goal post is really two upright (vertical) poles, connected by another horizontal pole (called the crossbar). The field is 53 1/3 yards wide.
- Each team defends one goal. The object of the game is to score points by getting the ball across the other team's goal line. Players can advance the ball by passing (throwing) or carrying it.
- Each team has 11 players. When a team has control of the ball and is advancing toward the other team's goal line, they are playing offense. The other team, at that moment, is playing defense. Usually, players specialize in playing offense or defense, and in one of sev-

eral positions such as quarterback, halfback, fullback, center, guard, and end.

- Teams score points in 4 ways:
 - touchdown** (6 points): a player carries the ball over the other team's goal line, or a player catches the ball while he is in the other team's end zone
 - field goal** (3 points): a player kicks the ball over the crossbar of the other team's goal post
 - safety** (2 points): when a player with the ball is stopped in his own end zone, the other team gets the points and becomes the offensive team
 - conversion**: after a team scores a touchdown, they can try a conversion play — they either kick the ball through the goal post uprights (for 1 point) or they pass or carry the ball across the goal line again, from the 2-yard line (for 2 points)

The Game

Each half of the game starts with a kickoff. Near the center of the field, a player from Team B kicks the ball off the ground toward Team A's goal line. Team A tries to catch the ball and run toward Team B's goal line. Team B runs toward the ball, trying to stop Team A from advancing (going forward). (At this moment, Team A is playing offense, Team B defense.) That play ends when any one of these happens:

- Team B tackles the Team A player who has the ball (pushes him to the ground, or until his knee touches the ground),
- the Team A player who has the ball runs out of bounds (off the field), or
- Team A catches the ball in the end zone and touches his knee to the ground.

Veterans Day

November 11 is Veterans Day, first celebrated in the US in 1919 as Armistice Day, one year after the signing of the treaty that ended World War I. The original focus was on honoring the soldiers who fought and died during World War I. Some people observe a moment of silence at 11:00am on that day (the 11th day of the 11th month), to remember the end of World War I.

Now the focus is broader: to honor those who fought in any American war. The name was changed to Veterans Day in 1954. (The word *veteran* means someone who is very experienced. You can be a veteran teacher, or a veteran singer. But the word also specifically means a person who has been in the

armed services.) You may see people wearing red poppies (flowers) in their buttonholes on Veterans Day — a token of thanks for their donations to the Disabled American Veterans group. Poppies grew in Belgium where many World War I soldiers were buried.

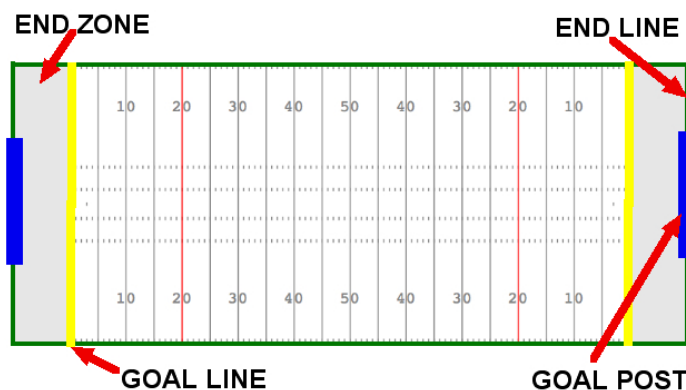
You can join in the spirit of Veterans Day by honoring all those who have fought for peace. If your country has been in a war with the US, this would be a good time to discuss it. Even though history is complex and difficult, begin to discuss the moral issues involved, and what we can do to prevent war in the future. You will have plenty to talk about...

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Team A forms a huddle (circle) and decides on the next play. The two teams line up on the line of scrimmage (the place on the field where the play ended). Team A is still playing offense. This time, instead of a kickoff, the center from Team A hikes the ball to the quarterback (throws or hands it to him, backward under his legs).

Team A gets four downs (plays) to advance the ball 10 yards. Every time it succeeds, it gets four more downs to advance 10 more yards. If it fails, Team B becomes offense. Sometimes, if a team realizes it is unlikely to advance the 10 yards (and will soon be playing defense), it will punt (kick) the ball as far as possible. Then, the other team has further to go when it starts to play offense. If a Team A member passes the ball to a teammate, a player from Team B may intercept the pass (catch it himself). Team B immediately becomes the offensive team, and tries to advance to Team A's goal.

If a player breaks a rule, his team gets a penalty. A penalty may mean that the ball is put further back on the field, away from the goal, before the game continues. Or the team may "lose a down" — if they had been taking their second chance at advancing 10 yards, with the penalty it would be considered their third down. The team with more points at the end of the 4th quarter wins. If the two teams are tied (have the same score), they play one more 15-minute quarter. If the score is still tied, the game ends anyway, with a tied score.



Invitations: RSVP!

If you receive a written (or email) invitation, look to see if it says "RSVP" (*répondez, s'il vous plaît* — French, for "respond, please"). If so, it means the host wants to know ahead of time if you will come. It is important to respond as soon as possible — at least a week ahead, sooner for more formal events. At weddings and some dinners, for example, the host pays a fee for each guest and must know ahead of time how many will be coming. Even at informal childrens' birthday parties, the host may prepare activities and small gifts. Some invitations include a card and envelope that you should return to the host, saying whether you can come. In less formal situations, a telephone call or email is OK too. How you reply is not so important — just be sure you do.

Some invitations (usually to less formal occasions) say "Regrets only." In that case, you should reply only if you can *not* attend. Otherwise, you will be expected.

You may also be confused about who in your family is included in an invitation. You might assume an event is for the whole family when it isn't; or you might assume spouses and children are not invited when they are. Look carefully at the envelope — anyone who is invited will be named on the envelope. If it is addressed to a child only, then parents are not invited. If children's names are not on the envelope, they are not invited. If it is addressed to "[Your name] and Guest" it means you are invited to bring a guest; if you will do so, be sure to say that in your reply. If you are still confused, call the host and ask.

The Mormon Church

In a recent Pew Research poll, when asked for a one-word association to each candidate, the most common response to Republican presidential candidate front-runner Mitt Romney was “Mormon.” Americans know Romney is a Mormon, but are often uninformed about this religion. Some help:

- ♦ In 1823, Joseph Smith, an American living in New York state, reported being visited by an angel who led him to what would become the *Book of Mormon*, a central sacred text for the religion. Smith founded a new, American-born religion (officially called The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints) that differed from traditional Christian thinking in several ways. The president of the Mormon church has written that Mormons “are Christians in a very real sense.” Still, some evangelical and fundamentalist Christians argue that they are not, because they (a) do not use the cross as a sign of their belief (preferring to focus on Jesus’ life rather than death), (b) do not accept the Nicene Creed, commonly held among Christians, (c) believe the Bible is potentially fallible since it was translated by humans, and (d) accept the possibility of continuing revelation.

- ♦ You may hear that Mormons practice *polygamy* (a man having more than one wife). Joseph Smith did advocate polygamy, but it has been disallowed by the church (and law) since the turn of the 20th century.

See www.pbs.org/mormons/faqs for more information.

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CHURCH AND STATE

going to or refusing to go to religious services, and cannot show preference to one religion over another, or to any religion over no religion.

The First Amendment has not changed since it was passed in 1789 but it has been continually tested and interpreted by the US courts. That same year, perhaps as a counterbalance to the Amendment itself, Congress decided to elect and pay a Chaplain (religious leader) for Congress. Since then, all but one (Roman Catholic) Chaplain have been Protestants.

Here is a sample of some other historic moments in the life of the First Amendment:

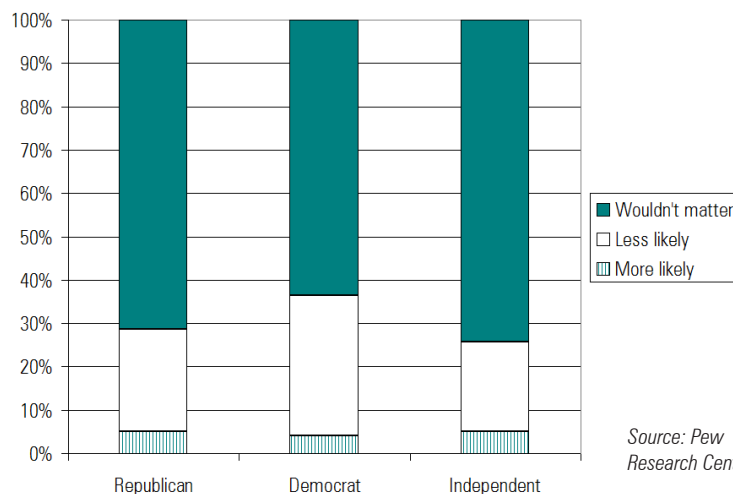
- ♦ In the late 1800s, after the US Civil War, a group called the National Reform Movement supported the idea that the War was God’s punishment for the US being so secular (non-religious) and non-Christian. They tried to change the Constitution and make the US a Christian country. They failed, but their beliefs became popular among some government leaders at the time. One such leader was James Pollock, the director of the US Mint (which controls coins and bills). Under his leadership, the Mint was given power to decide what is printed on coins — power that had belonged to Congress before. The phrase, “In God We Trust” first appeared on coins at this time. In 1908, the law was changed, taking away the power to control the coin text from the Mint director, but requiring the phrase to appear on some coins.

- ♦ In the early 1950s, the US went through a heated anti-communism period, led by Senator Joseph McCarthy. As part of the fight against what was called “godless communism,” the word “God” was introduced in several government institutions. In 1954, the phrase “under God” was added to the Pledge of Allegiance (now “I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.”)

- ♦ In 1956, the official national motto was changed from “E Pluribus Unum” (Latin meaning “from many, one”) to “In God We Trust.”

- ♦ In the 1960s, the US Supreme Court decided that public schools could not organize or lead prayers or Bible-reading, because that would mix church and state. A number of Supreme Court decisions since then have tried to clarify the boundary between religion and government. For example, the teaching of Bible passages as world literature has been allowed, as long as the lesson “is not devotional” and “allows open inquiry.”

Early church-state debates concerned the role of one Protestant sect over another. Today they reflect the more diverse population in the US, and involve the rights of Jews, Muslims, Catholics, Mormons, atheists, and other religious groups.



Source: Pew Research Center

This is an interesting moment in US history, as American voters consider the importance of religion in politics. In this chart, we see how people responded to the question, “If a candidate for President were Mormon, would you be _____ to vote for him/her?” (Note - the poll was taken recently, so people may have been thinking specifically of Mitt Romney.)

What Do You Know about US Religion?

Major Religious Traditions in the U.S.

Among all adults...	
	%
Christian	78.4
Protestant	51.3
Evangelical churches	26.3
Mainline churches	18.1
Hist. black churches	6.9
Catholic	23.9
Mormon	1.7
Jehovah's Witness	0.7
Orthodox	0.6
Greek Orthodox	<0.3
Russian Orthodox	<0.3
Other	<0.3
Other Christian	0.3
Other Religions	4.7
Jewish	1.7
Reform	0.7
Conservative	0.5
Orthodox	<0.3
Other	0.3
Buddhist	0.7
Zen Buddhist	<0.3
Theravada Buddhist	<0.3
Tibetan Buddhist	<0.3
Other	0.3
Muslim*	0.6
Sunni	0.3
Shia	<0.3
Other	<0.3
Hindu	0.4
Other world rel.	<0.3
Other faiths	1.2
Unitarians and other liberal faiths	0.7
New Age	0.4
Native American rel.	<0.3
Unaffiliated	16.1
Atheist	1.6
Agnostic	2.4
Nothing in particular	12.1
Secular unaffiliated	6.3
Religious unaffiliated	5.8
Don't Know/Refused	0.8
	100

Due to rounding, figures may not add to 100 and nested figures may not add to the subtotal indicated.

* From "Muslim Americans: Middle Class and Mostly Mainstream," Pew Research Center, 2007

Source: Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life

To compare your knowledge of religion with that of 3412 randomly-selected US Americans, try this 15-point quiz: features.pewforum.org/quiz/us-religious-knowledge.

You'll get an immediate "score" and be able to compare it with those of people of different religions, education levels, and religious practice. Here are some interesting findings from this study:

- ♦ The average score in the sample was 50% (people knew, on average, half the answers).
- ♦ Those who describe themselves as atheist/agnostics got the highest scores, followed closely by Jews and Mormons. These groups' overall scores were especially aided by their knowledge of world religions and the role of religion in public life. Mormons and white Evangelical Christians groups got the highest scores about Christianity.
- ♦ As you might guess, those who attend religious services at least weekly got the highest scores (52%)... but not by much (monthly/yearly: 48%; seldom/never: 49%).
- ♦ Knowledge scores were highly related to education: those with post-graduate training had the highest scores (68%) and those with high school educations or less had the lowest (40%).
- ♦ The great majority of Americans understand the Supreme Court's rules about school prayer but the majority (60% or more) - even among the most knowledgeable groups - got the question about school teachers reading from the Bible as an example of literature wrong. I guess they haven't read *Newcomer's Almanac*...

Set Your Clock!

Day Light Savings Time will end on the first Sunday of November (November 6, 2011). Put your clocks back one hour. It will start again on the second Sunday of March (March 2012) everywhere in the US except Hawaii and most of Arizona.

In the Courts

Some recent Supreme Court decisions about religion in public life:

- ♦ A courthouse in Kentucky was ordered to remove a framed copy of the Ten Commandments (from the Bible) which, the Supreme Court said, had been recently displayed for religious, not educational or historic, purposes. On the same day, the Supreme Court allowed a monument carved with the Ten Commandments to remain on the Texas state capitol land (along with 16 other monuments) because it had been there, without negative effect, for 40 years.
- ♦ A Jewish Hanukkah menorah, standing next to a Christmas tree and a sign celebrating liberty, was allowed to stand at a city-country building in Pennsylvania because together, the symbols carried a secular message of winter holiday spirit. In the same decision, a scene of baby Jesus on a county courthouse staircase was not allowed, because it was more clearly Christian in focus.
- ♦ A university was ordered to give money to a student-run Christian magazine, just as it gave money to other magazines that were not religious.
- ♦ Parents in Ohio were allowed to use vouchers (tax money) to help pay for private schools, even if the schools were religion-based, since the purpose of the voucher program was not religious.

Get it?

The Interchange Institute
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Brookline, MA 02446

Newcomer's Almanac is published monthly by The Interchange Institute, for people who have recently moved to the United States. Its goal is to promote international understanding by providing information about the American holidays, customs, values, social issues, and language that often confuse and surprise newcomers. It is written by Anne P. Copeland, PhD, who is a clinical psychologist and the Director of The Interchange Institute. She is an American and has lived and worked overseas with her family.

The Interchange Institute is a not-for-profit organization that studies the impact of intercultural transitions on individuals, their families, and the organizations for which they work. From the results of this research, the Institute offers seminars and workshops, produces publications, and provides consultative services to the international newcomers, their organizations, and to host communities, recognizing that change and insight on both sides facilitates smooth transition.

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That Crazy English: Football Idioms

American English takes many idioms from football:

He did an *end run* around them. (*He found a way to avoid the obstacles that they usually place in front of him.*) (In football, an "end run" is when the player with the ball runs to the edge of the field and then forward to the goal, avoiding all the players in the center of the field.)

Let's have a *kick-off dinner* this year. (*Let's have a dramatic, special dinner to begin the year.*) (Each half of a football game starts very dramatically with one team kicking the ball as far as possible down the field.)

I'll have to *carry the ball* this time. (*I'll have to be in charge this time.*) (The player who carries the ball down the field is the one who is most responsible for winning the game.)

This is your chance to *take the ball and run*. (*This is your chance to do something important and get public recognition for it.*) (In football, it is very dramatic when a player runs down the field with the ball, toward the end zone.)

They are bringing out the *second string* now. (*They are bringing out people who are second-best in skill.*) (The best 11 players on a football team are called the first string. Those who replace them during play are called the second string.)

UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

Read *Thanksgiving* on page 2. Circle the letter of the best word(s) to complete each sentence:

1. A pilgrim is someone _____.
 - a. from England.
 - b. who travels for religious reasons.
 - c. who dresses in black and white.
2. The Pilgrims who came to this country in 1620 _____.
 - a. all wanted to separate from the Church of England.
 - b. believed it was wrong to drink alcohol.
 - c. faced much illness and death.
3. The Pilgrims sent _____ back to England.
 - a. fish and animal furs
 - b. people who disobeyed the rules
 - c. money
4. The Native Americans in Massachusetts in 1620 _____.
 - a. taught the Pilgrims how to catch and grow food in North America.
 - b. ignored the Pilgrims, hoping they would not stay.
 - c. were ignored by the Pilgrims.
5. We know from the Pilgrims' journals that the first Thanksgiving dinner _____.
 - a. included turkey, cranberries, and pumpkin.
 - b. included deer meat.
 - c. was held in secret so the Native Americans would not try to join them.
6. Today, on Thanksgiving Day, _____.
 - a. family members give each other many gifts to show their love.
 - b. it is traditional to wear black and white clothes.
 - c. families focus on the freedoms they have.

HOMEWORK

WITH A PEN

1. Read *A Thanksgiving Dinner* on page 3. Write a recipe for a traditional food from your country. Pretend an American will be making the food. Be sure to explain anything an American would not understand — where to buy the foods, what kind of tool to use, etc.

2. Read *That Crazy English* on page 8. Write a list of idioms in your home language that come from sports or games. Explain what they mean.

3. Read *The Rules of American Football* on pages 4-5. Write the rules of a game from your country, for someone who has never played it. Keep it simple!

4. Read *Invitations: RSVP!* on page 4. Pretend you want to invite a friend to a wedding or very special dinner. What would the invitation look like? Prepare one, in your home language, then translate it, word for word, into English. Now prepare an invitation to a casual dinner in your home. A birthday party for an 8-year-old child. A celebration party for an adult who has just won an award. How do these differ? Would you expect people to “RSVP?”

2

VOCABULARY

Read *A Thanksgiving Dinner* on page 3. Pick the correct meaning of each word, as it is used in the context of this article. The (numbers) tell which paragraph the word is in.

- | | | | |
|--------------|-----|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. guideline | (2) | a. mark made with a pen | b. general rule |
| 2. authentic | (3) | a. genuine, traditional | b. difficult |
| 3. counter | (4) | a. work table | b. measurement device |
| 4. moist | (7) | a. stuck together | b. wet |
| 5. expands | (8) | a. gains flavor | b. gets bigger |
| 6. stuffed | (9) | a. filled tight | b. covered with |

THE ORDER OF EVENTS

Read *Veterans Day* on page 5. Put these sentences in the right order:

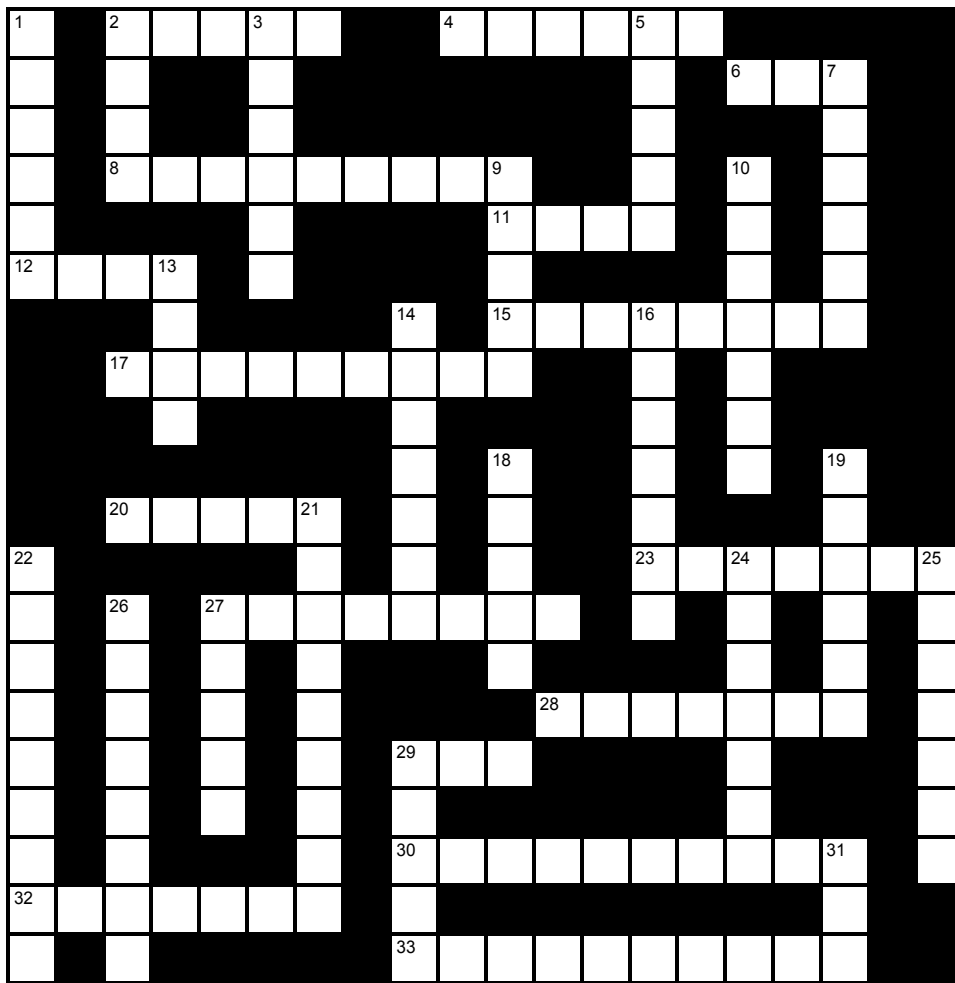
- _____ a. Americans celebrated Armistice Day.
- _____ b. Americans give money to the Disabled Veterans group as a way of marking this holiday.
- _____ c. The name of the US holiday changed to Veterans Day to honor all those who fought in any war.
- _____ d. World War I ended.

IDIOMS

Read *That Crazy English* on page 8. Re-write each sentence using a football idiom:

1. She broke her arm so she will not be able to lead the project.
- _____
2. The play was put on by actors who were not the best.
- _____
3. The celebration party in September is a good way to begin the school year.
- _____
4. There were many problems but she found a way to avoid them and got the job done.
- _____
5. Now is the time to do your work and get the credit for it.
- _____

OUT AND ABOUT



1. Read *The Rules of American Football* on page 4-5. Watch part (or all) of an American football game. You may see a high school game in your town. Or see one on TV. Watch for an example of:

- ♦ the line of scrimmage
- ♦ a huddle
- ♦ a tackle
- ♦ a touchdown
- ♦ a field goal
- ♦ a down

2. Read *Thanksgiving* on page 2. Find pictures of a Pilgrim and a turkey as you walk through your day. Are the Pilgrims wearing their Sunday clothes or their week-day clothes?

3. Read *A Thanksgiving Dinner* on page 3. Go to a supermarket and find:

- ♦ a 12-pound frozen turkey
- ♦ fresh cranberries
- ♦ a can of pumpkin

4. Read *The Mormon Church* on page 6 and *What Do You Know About US Religion?* on page 7. Read five news stories about the US Presidential (in a national newspaper or on line). Count the number of references to religion in each story.

Across

2. a big dinner
4. "Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day ____" is the official name of the Mormon Church.
6. Take the ball and ____; this is your big chance!
8. How ____ a candidate is appears to be important to US voters.
11. The US ____ makes coins and bills.
12. *Repondez, s'il vous plait.* Respond, please!
15. To ____ another religion is still to be in a position of greater power, said Jefferson and Madison.
17. to set up, support financially, and make rules about (as in religion)
20. Religion is one of the topics covered in the ____ Amendment of the US Constitution.
23. Day Light ____ Time ends in early November.
27. the bread that goes inside a turkey
28. " ____ Only" means you only have to RSVP if you cannot attend the party.
29. a male turkey that was 5-7 months old
30. loyalty, as in Pledge ____ to the Flag
32. a traditional kind of Thanksgiving pie
33. Find ____ milk on a store shelf next to the flour.

Down

1. This will keep the turkey stuffing moist.
2. Cook a 14-pound turkey this many hours.
3. It is better to be seen as a first ____ player, not second.

5. US bills and coins say, "In God We ____."

7. ____ Americans met and helped the Pilgrims.
9. Joseph ____ was the founder of the Mormon Church.
10. an English-speaking Native American who helped the Pilgrims.
13. throw (a football)
14. Each half of a football game begins with a ____.
16. Send a package Global ____ Guaranteed if you need it to get to another country in 1-3 days.
18. There are more ____ Muslims in the US than Shia.
19. There are more Buddhists in the US than ____.
21. This earns 6 points in a football game.
22. to catch a football that was thrown to someone on the other team
24. someone with a lot of experience
25. A Christmas decoration on government property may be considered constitutional if it is part of a ____ display.
26. They came from England in 1620 to what is now Massachusetts.
27. This word can mean "one of the 50 in the US" or it can mean "government, in general."
29. Half the Pilgrims came to this country to set up ____ with Europe.
31. The 10 yards past the football goal line is called the ____ zone.

IF YOU USE THE WEB

1. Read *Mailing Packages* on page 4. Say you have a 4-pound package to ship to your home country. Using the web sites listed, find out the fastest way to send it and the least expensive way to get it there within a week.

2. Read *A Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner* on page 3. At www.butterball.com, find the following:

- a recipe for corn and sweet potato pudding
- the best way to thaw a frozen turkey
- instructions and a video that shows how to carve a turkey.

3. Read *What Do You Know About US Religion?* on page 7. Take the quiz at **features.pewforum.org/quiz/us-religious-knowledge**.

How did your score compare with this sample of Americans? How do you think your score would compare with the average in your home country? Did you know more about Christianity or other religions?



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WITH A FRIEND

1. Read *The Rules of American Football* on pages 4 and 5. With a partner, take turns being a Football Expert and a Football Newcomer. As Expert, explain the following to the Newcomer:

- "Some of the rules of this game on TV seem different from what I watched last year at the high school. Could that be true?"
- "If a football game has four 15-minute periods, why do the games take so much longer than one hour?"
- "How does a team get points in this game?"
- "When and how does one team become the offense team?"
- "What are the players doing when they all stand in a little circle during the game?"

2. Read about *Thanksgiving* on page 2 and 3. Describe to a friend or partner a holiday in your home country that involves a meal.

- What food to you eat? Is there a historic or symbolic reason for eating that food? Who prepares it?
- Who usually comes to the meal?
- Are there special rituals you do at the holiday?
- Are your memories of this holiday positive? Why or why not?

3. Read *That Crazy English: Football Idioms* on page 8. With a friend or partner, plan a celebration dinner for your school; every time you each speak, use one of the idioms in the article, even though you are not talking about football.

4. Read *How Separate are Church and State?* and *In the Courts* on pages 1, 6 and 7. Discuss with a friend or partner the relationship between government and religion in your home country. Are religious organizations supported with government money? Do children pray during school? What have you noticed that is different here? Are Americans more or less religious than in your home country? Do politicians talk more or less about religion?

ANSWER CORNER

UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

1b 2c 3a 4a 5b 6c

VOCABULARY

1b 2a 3a 4b 5b 6a

THE ORDER OF EVENTS

a2 b4 c3 d1

IDIOMS

- 1 She broke...so she will not be able to carry the ball.
- 2 The play was put on by second string actors.
- 3 The kick-off party in September...
- 4 There were many problems but she did an end run around them and got the job done.
- 5 Now is the time to take the ball and run.

