A US Citizenship Quiz about the History of Thanksgiving

1. The "First Thanksgiving" was celebrated by 90 Wampanoag Indians and 53 Englishmen after the colonists’ first harvest in October 1621. The House of Representatives has how many voting members? (21)

2. The First National Proclamation of Thanksgiving was issued by the Continental Congress in 1777 from its temporary location in York, Pennsylvania, while the British occupied the national capital at Philadelphia. What is the capital of the United States (now)?* (94)

3. The first president proclaimed Nov 26, 1789, as the first Thanksgiving Day. Who was the first President? (70)

4. The second president declared Thanksgivings in 1798 and 1799. Who was the second President? (**)

5. Because Thomas Jefferson was a skeptic and supported religious freedom, he did not declare any thanksgiving days during his presidency. What is freedom of religion? (10)

6. James Madison renewed the Thanksgiving tradition in 1814, in response to resolutions of Congress, at the close of the War of 1812. Name (another) war fought by the United States in the 1800s. (72)

7. Thanksgiving superseded Evacuation Day, a holiday that was held annually on November 25 prior to the Civil War. Evacuation Day commemorated the British withdrawal from the US after the American Revolution. Why did the colonists fight the British? (61)

8. During the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday in November to be Thanksgiving Day. What was one important thing that Abraham Lincoln did? (75)

9. November 1939 had five Thursdays, so Roosevelt declared Thanksgiving to be on the fourth Thursday. Roosevelt thought that an earlier Thanksgiving would give stores more time to sell goods before Christmas and would help bring the country out of the Great Depression. What is the economic system in the US? (11)

10. The GOP protested against the 1939 Thanksgiving date change, calling it an insult to the memory Lincoln. They began to call Nov 30 as the "Republican Thanksgiving" and Nov 23 as the "Democratic Thanksgiving" or "Franksgiving" to insult President Franklin Roosevelt. What is the political party of the President now? (46)

Info source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thanksgiving_(United_States) uscitizenpod.com, 2018
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11. “Freedom from Want,” also known as “The Thanksgiving Picture,” is the third of the Four Freedoms series of four oil paintings by American artist Norman Rockwell. The works were inspired by Roosevelt's 1941 State of the Union Address, known as Four Freedoms, which was based on the rights guaranteed by the First Amendment. **What is one right or freedom from the First Amendment?** (6)

12. Rockwell’s painting, “Freedom from Want,” shows an older white couple serving a large turkey to their family. This image has been re-interpreted many times, most recently as part of the ForFreedoms.org project which celebrates American freedom and diversity. **What are two rights of everyone living in the US?** (51)

13. In 1963, John F. Kennedy unofficially spared a turkey. The practice of "pardoning" turkeys in this manner became a permanent tradition in 1989. **What is the “rule of law”?** (12)

14. On Thanksgiving 1969, members of the Red Power movement occupied Alcatraz Island to protest against racist government policies. This action is celebrated as Unthanksgiving Day, which honors native peoples. **What movement tried to end racial discrimination?** (84)

15. On Thanksgiving Weekend 1960, journalist Edward R. Murrow released "Harvest of Shame," a video which documented the abuse of migrant workers in the US. He contrasted the poverty of the workers with the abundance of the Thanksgiving feast. These are Murrow’s closing words:

   “The migrants have no lobby. Only an enlightened, aroused and perhaps angered public opinion can do anything about the migrants. The people you have seen have the strength to harvest your fruit and vegetables. They do not have the strength to influence legislation. Maybe we do. Good night, and good luck.”

   **What are two ways that Americans can participate in their democracy?** (55)

**Extra Credit:** On Thanksgiving morning, thousands of people gather together to run or walk through the streets of downtown San Jose in the Silicon Valley Turkey Trot. This annual event raises hundreds of thousands of dollars for local charities that serve low-income and homeless people in one of the richest area in the United States. We are proud of and grateful for our community.

**How does your community celebrate Thanksgiving?**  **What are you personally grateful for?**

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