

American Thanks

By Carol Montgomery

Performance Time = a little over a minute

CAST* (3-19 plus chorus—unless parts doubled):

American #1	Voice #1
Italian	Voice #2
Swede	Voice #3
Spaniard	Voice #4
Chinese	Voice #5
German	Voice #6
African	Voice #7
Israeli	Voice #8
Native American	Chorus (with audience?)
Australian	
American #2	

***NOTE:** You could easily adapt this to 1-2 narrators taking the roles of the immigrants, a few voices, and a chorus. In fact, you could also have one narrator, one voice and the audience do the part of the chorus on cue. Do whatever suits your situation.

American Thanks

By Carol Montgomery

American #1: What a delicious nation we have!

Italian: For Italian pizza and the immigrants who brought it...

Voice #1: And spaghetti!

Chorus: We give thanks.

Swede: For Swedish meatballs and the immigrants who taught us...

Voice #2: About gingersnaps!

Chorus: We give thanks.

Spaniard: For Spanish rice and the immigrants who helped us...

Voice #3: Make burritos!

Chorus: We give thanks.

Chinese: For Chinese noodles and the immigrants who served us...

Voice #4: With chop suey!

Chorus: We give thanks.

German: For German potato salad and the immigrants who farmed here...

Voice #5: Bringing sauerkraut!

Chorus: We give thanks.

African: For African black-eyed-peas and those who followed freedom...

Voice #6: Sharing okra!

Chorus: We give thanks.

Israeli: For Middle Eastern pita and those who love this nation...

Voice #7: And hummus!

Chorus: We give thanks.

Native American: For popcorn that the Native Americans showed us...

Voice #8: Plus maple syrup!

Chorus: We give thanks.

Australian: For families from all over the world who have worked to make this nation great...

Chorus: We give thanks.

American #2: And for the bounty of blessings we have when many go hungry and suffer without true freedom...

Chorus: We truly give thanks.

Curriculum Links (Active in 2010):

<http://www.foodtimeline.org/usa.html>

This amazing reference site has more information than you can digest in one sitting—from historic to space food. It also includes the following K-12 teachers resources for food history lessons:

<http://www.foodtimeline.org/food2.html>

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/themes/immigration/lessonplans.html>

From the Library of Congress, links to a variety of lesson plans on immigration for grades 4-12.

<http://www.brighthub.com/education/k-12/articles/9011.aspx>

A great idea for a health lesson based on Thanksgiving for elementary students, but a bit distracting with all the ads. Probably best for you to adapt the ideas to your students.

<http://www.educationworld.com/holidays/archives/thanksgiving.shtml>

Plenty of links to lots of Thanksgiving activities, including this one for grades K-12 on Thanksgiving placemats as a community-service project:

http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/dailylp/dailylp/dailylp028.shtml

<http://www.theteacherscorner.net/seasonal/thanksgiving/songs.php>

Silly Thanksgiving song lyrics to old familiar tunes. (I didn't try them all!) But, you could use the ideas and lyrics many ways. What about the students writing their own Thanksgiving songs or hymns?

You Tube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x3dXCL34aEA&feature=related>

Nice 3 min. video of Thanksgiving medley of traditional Thanksgiving hymns with the words over the photos.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5fb8B00g9sE&feature=related>

This 4 min. slide video with big band music in the background focuses on the history of Thanksgiving: family, friends, and food (but not God).