MADE WITH LITTLE STORYBOOK

How the World Says Thank You

Visual lesson



Spinning the picture globe

Aunt Clara sets her smooth wooden picture globe beside the Thankful Jar on the table. "We celebrate Thanksgiving in November, and you celebrate in Canada in October," says Nora. "Do families in other countries have thank-you harvest days too?" Aunt Clara spins the globe gently. "Let's travel and see!"





Chuseok in Korea

First stop across the ocean: Korea! Under the bright autumn full moon, families gather for Chuseok. Grandparents and children sit together shaping sweet half-moon rice cakes called songpyeon from newly harvested rice, thanking their ancestors for a good year.

Mid-Autumn mooncakes

Nearby in China and Vietnam, families step outdoors under the same bright harvest moon for the Mid-Autumn Festival. Children parade with glowing paper lanterns while grandparents slice round golden mooncakes into neat wedges so every person at the table gets a piece.

> **TALK ABOUT IT**
> Look at the bright full moon and the round mooncakes shared around the table. What does that round shape stand for?





Pongal in South India

Now spin south to South India! In January, after the rice and sugarcane harvest, families celebrate Pongal — sweet rice boiled with milk and brown sugar in a decorated clay pot outdoors. When the pot bubbles over, everyone cheers "Pongalo Pongal!" to thank the sun, the rain, and farm cattle.

Three stars on the globe

Back at Grandpa's table, Nora sticks three tiny gold paper stars onto Aunt Clara's smooth globe: Korea, China and Vietnam, and South India. "Every place celebrates with the food its land grows best!" says Nora. Owen gives the globe a gentle nudge west. "Where are we going next?"





Homowo in Ghana

In Ghana, the Ga people celebrate Homowo, which means "hooting at hunger." Long ago, rain finally returned after a hard dry season and brought a rich corn harvest. Today, whole neighborhoods gather in bright woven kente cloth for joyful music, dancing, and shared cornmeal feasts!

> **TALK ABOUT IT**
> Look closely at the celebration in the sunny courtyard. Tap what the musicians are playing to lead the dance!

Erntedankfest in Germany

Spin north to Germany and Austria! Each autumn, towns celebrate Erntedankfest — literally "harvest thanks festival." Neighbors weave giant golden crowns out of wheat stalks, shiny red apples, and autumn flowers, and parade them proudly through the town square.





Thank-you cards in Japan

One more spin east to Japan! On November twenty-third, families celebrate Labor Thanksgiving Day — Kinrō Kansha no Hi. It began as an ancient rice harvest day, and today children draw colorful thank-you pictures to give to local bakers, teachers, bus drivers, and firefighters.

> **TALK ABOUT IT**
> True or false: Every harvest thank-you festival around the world happens in November.

One thankful world

Six tiny gold stars now sparkle across Aunt Clara's wooden globe beside the Thankful Jar. Whether families share songpyeon, mooncakes, sweet Pongal rice, cornmeal, wheat crowns, or handmade cards, saying thank you for food and helpers connects people all over Earth. What food does your family love to share?



Check your wonder

1 **What are songpyeon, shaped by families in Korea during Chuseok?**

- **A.** Sweet half-moon rice cakes
- **B.** Woven crowns of wheat and apples
- **C.** Tall carved wooden drums

2 **During Pongal in South India, why do families cheer when the clay pot bubbles over?**

- **A.** To celebrate an abundant harvest and thank the sun, rain, and cattle
- **B.** Because they forgot to turn off the oven
- **C.** To wake up the winter snow

3 **What does the Ghanaian harvest festival name Homowo mean?**

- **A.** Hooting at hunger
- **B.** Baking mooncakes
- **C.** Drawing thank-you cards

4 **How do many children in Japan celebrate Labor Thanksgiving Day on November 23?**

- **A.** By drawing thank-you pictures for community helpers like bakers and firefighters
- **B.** By weaving giant crowns of pumpkins
- **C.** By hanging glowing rabbit lanterns under a harvest moon

ANSWERS 1-A 2-A 3-A 4-A

1. Yes! Families shape pastel half-moon songpyeon from freshly harvested rice. 2. Right! Overflowing sweet rice is a joyful sign of plenty — "Pongalo Pongal!" 3. Yes! Homowo celebrates the return of rain and a joyful corn harvest. 4. That's it! Children thank the everyday workers who keep their neighborhoods running.

THE END

Visual lesson



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