**Небрат Н.**

# AMERICAN HOLYDAYS

There are many holidays in the USA which are celebrated from year to year. American people enjoy having holidays, especially if they are public. During such holidays children don’t go to school and adults don’t work. Perhaps, the most favorite public holidays in the USA are Christmas and New Year. Christmas season starts on December the 25th and continues till New Year celebrations. Many families arrange parties on New Year’s Eve. It is celebrated every fourth Thursday of November. At this time in 1621 the Pilgrim Fathers celebrated their first harvest festival in America. Since then Americans always celebrate Thanksgiving to thank God for their harvest. There is one more interesting autumn holiday in the USA. It’s the Day of All Saints, known in the world as Halloween. It is celebrated on October 31st. Typical Halloween activities include trick-or-treating, dressing up in different costumes, craving pumpkins into jack-o-lanterns, telling scary stories, etc.. This holiday is dedicated to people who fell courageously in the World Wars. There is one special holiday which is celebrated by Americans on February 22nd. It’s Washington’s Birthday.

**Halloween** One of the national festivals of English-speaking countries is Halloween. It takes place on October 31 on Allhallow’s Eve. A lighted candle is put into the pumpkin. It was considered that pumpkin left about the house on All Saints' Day drove off malignant demons.. Children go from house to house, sing songs and try to get sweeties. Besides that games and fortune-telling are widely spread on Halloween. At night children and teenagers tell each other horror stories and legends and the most popular legend is about Bloody Mary. She is said to appear in a mirror when her name is called three times. Organization of attractions where visitors are got scared is also an important tradition. On this holiday television broadcasts a lot of horror films and animations. On this day we can show our fantasy and live in the world of dead for a little while. Halloween has been gaining in popularity in Russia recently.

**Thanksgiving Day** Thanksgiving Day is one of the most favorite holidays in the United States. Every fourth Thursday of October American people celebrate this holiday. They usually stay at home and have a big family dinner. This day has a very important meaning in the history America. The first Thanksgiving was celebrated by pilgrims in autumn of 1621. They were European travelers who sailed on “Mayflower” ship and tried to find the New World. Before their arrival to America the country was inhabited by Native American Indians. However, when they settled here, life was quite difficult. There was nothing to eat and nowhere to live. First winter was especially difficult and many people couldn’t survive without fresh food. In spring Native Indians taught pilgrims how to survive in America. They now could hunt, fish and grow plants. In the autumn of 1621 they had a wonderful harvest. To celebrate this occasion pilgrims decided to have a Thanksgiving feast.

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