

Thanksgiving and Black Friday

第10回 English Extravaganza(Rebecca 先生放送原稿) Fri. November 25th, 2016
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Hi, everyone! It's Rebecca with another English Extravaganza! Yesterday was a big holiday in the United States that I want to tell you about!



Every November, Americans and Canadians celebrate Thanksgiving. The first Thanksgiving was held near New York about 400 years ago between the English settlers and the Native American tribes that already lived there. The settlers did not know how to farm the land, fish, or store food for the winter so they stole supplies from the nearby tribes. Instead of fighting, the tribes taught the settlers how to grow corn and use fish to fertilize(肥料をやる) their fields. They

decided to celebrate the harvest with a celebration, the first Thanksgiving.

Today, most Americans and Canadians spend the holiday with their family, enjoy a big feast(大宴会・ごちそう), and give thanks for the good things in their lives. Turkey, stuffing, cranberry, and sweet potatoes are typical foods eaten during Thanksgiving. For Native Americans, though, Thanksgiving can be a difficult time. For them, the holiday is a reminder of the hard times their ancestors endured. Because of this, November is an especially important time to celebrate Native American culture.

The day after Thanksgiving is called Black Friday, and it is one of the biggest shopping days of the year because many popular stores offer big discounts for only that day. Black Friday is also a controversial(議論の余地のある) holiday, though. To start, many people disagree with buying things the day after everyone gives thanks for what they already have. Second, stores are opening earlier and earlier to start their sales. Now, it is common for big department stores to open on Thanksgiving day, a day that has been traditionally considered a family holiday. And finally, violence has frequently broken out on this day. There have been news reports of people falling and being stepped on in stampedes(殺到) or actually fighting each other over products.



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It's important to remind ourselves of what and who we appreciate. I am thankful to be at Nishiko, where I am surrounded by wonderful people. I appreciate each and every one of you. Happy Thanksgiving and good luck on your exams!

