



**Created by:** Mary Jane Markley, Graham Elementary School

**Grade Level:** 5

**Primary source citation:**

“Congress Establishes Thanksgiving,” The Center for Legislative Archives of The National Archives, <http://www.archives.gov/legislative/features/thanksgiving>.

H. J. Res. 41, Making the Last Thursday in November a Legal Holiday, Oct. 6, 1941, RG 233, Records of the U. S. House of Representatives, Center for Legislative Archives.

Senate Amendments to H.J. Res. 41, Making the Fourth Thursday in November a Legal Holiday, December 9, 1941, RG 233, Records of the U.S. House of Representatives, Center for Legislative Archives.

“Thanksgiving 1939: The Year We Had Two Thanksgivings,” documents from online exhibit of the Museum at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library, <http://docs.fdrlibrary.marist.edu/THANKSG.HTML>.

Telegram from Leota and Helen Care, Alliance Restaurant, Alliance, Ohio

Letter from John Taylor; the Budget Press. Calendars. "Gifts" cards, Salem, Ohio; Dated August 15, 1939

Letter from Downtown Association of Los Angeles; Dated October 2, 1933

Allow students, in groups or individually, to examine the documents located at the above links while answering the questions below in order. The questions are designed to guide students into a deeper analysis of the source and sharpen associated cognitive skills.

**Level 1: Description**

1. Who were the authors?
2. Who were they writing to?
3. When were they written?
4. What medium or form was the document communicated? (Newspaper, government document, letter)

**Level 2: Interpretation**

1. How would you describe the author's tone of voice? (Formal, angry, excited, respectful, or

questioning?)

2. What purpose did the authors have in writing the letters?
3. What was the interval between the initial document and the final document?

**Level 3: Analysis**

1. What might have influenced the writers in their opinion of the possible change in the date of Thanksgiving?
2. Can you detect bias of any words or terms in the documents?
3. What ideas justify the decision the President and Congress made to change the date?









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# DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION

OF LOS ANGELES

424 A. G. BARTLETT BUILDING :: SEVENTH AND SPRING  
 TELEPHONE VANDIKE 1428

October 2, 1933.

**DAIN STURGES**  
 SECRETARY

COMMITTEES FOR 1933

*Call 10-4-33  
 em*

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt,  
 President of the United States,  
 White House,  
 Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

Thanksgiving, this year, according to the usual custom, would fall upon November 30th, the last Thursday in November, which would leave but twenty shopping days before Christmas.

It is an established fact that Christmas buying begins vigorously every year in the retail stores the day following Thanksgiving and that the Thanksgiving to Christmas period is the busiest retail period of the whole year.

The Downtown Association of Los Angeles feels that Abraham Lincoln's Proclamation of 1864 setting aside a day for Thanksgiving to be the 4th or last Thursday in November of each year can be carried out to the letter by designating in your Thanksgiving Proclamation this year, November 23rd, the fourth Thursday in November as the day of Thanksgiving.

You will appreciate the importance that an additional week incorporated in this great holiday season will have upon the distribution activities of the entire United States and the added impetus that will be given thereby to the efforts of the administration and the N.R.A. to increase employment and purchasing power.

The Downtown Association of Los Angeles respectfully requests your consideration of this practical suggestion, believing that your approval would have the deep appreciation of the merchants of the entire country.

Respectfully yours,

*Dain Sturges*  
 Secretary.

DS:S