THANKSGIVING GAMES

6 easy-to-lead activities | Mixers • Relays • Team challenges

1 Pumpkin Challenge

Partners hold one ball together, with each teammate keeping one hand on it at all times. Move around and try to make other teams drop their balls without dropping yours. Last pair holding their ball wins.

Demo: instagram.com/reel/DNf5ZgONJII/

SUPPLIES: One ball per pair (orange if available)

2 Hoop the Pumpkin

In a team relay, partners use one hula hoop to keep an orange balloon in the air. Guide it to the finish and drop it into a bucket. Tag the next pair.

Demo: instagram.com/reels/DbWr7ZdTxpb/

SUPPLIES: Orange balloons, hula hoops, buckets

3 Thanksgiving Four-Corners Mixer

Call a prompt; everyone moves to the corner that matches their answer. Have students share with someone in their corner.

1. Thanksgiving morning: Turkey trot / Help cook / Watch football / Sleep in. Share your name and plans.
2. Favorite food: Turkey / Mashed potatoes / Pie / Rolls. Share your name and least favorite food.
3. Dream guest: Athlete / Actor / Pop-culture icon / Singer or band. Name your guest.

SUPPLIES: Four marked corners

4 Head, Shoulders, Knees, Turkey!

Partners face each other with a turkey cup between them. The leader calls “head,” “shoulders,” or “knees” in any order; players touch that body part. On “TURKEY!” race to grab the cup. Winners advance.

SUPPLIES: Turkey-decorated cups

5 Tic-Tac-Toe Turkey

Two teams take turns making a basket or successfully flipping a cup. After a success, place a team marker on a giant tic-tac-toe grid, then tag the next player. First team with three in a row wins.

SUPPLIES: Tape or rope grid, two sets of markers, basketball/hoop or flip cups

6 Thanksgiving Eats & Treats

Teams rotate a writer and a dice roller. The writer lists Thanksgiving foods until the roller gets doubles. Then the roller becomes the writer, the writer moves to the back, and the next person rolls. Most unique foods after 2 minutes wins.

SUPPLIES: Paper, pens and two dice per team

CHRISTMAS GAMES

5 festive activities | Mixers • Music • Friendly competition

1 Christmas Mixer

Complete three quick partner challenges. Switch partners each round and introduce yourselves.

1. Find someone with your birthday month; share favorite Winter Olympic events.
2. Find someone in a different grade; share favorite Christmas movies.
3. Find someone new; tell two truths and a lie about Christmas gifts you have received. Have them guess the lie.

SUPPLIES: None

2 Christmas Musical Chairs

Arrange chairs in a circle, one fewer than the number of players. Play Christmas music while students walk around; pause the music and everyone finds a seat. Remove one chair each round until one player remains.

SUPPLIES: Chairs and speaker with Christmas music

3 Cocoa Toss

Place mugs on tables. Players toss mini marshmallows from a marked line into their team mug. After the time limit, count marshmallows in each mug; the most wins.

SUPPLIES: Mini marshmallows, mugs, tables

4 Cookie Slide: Face Challenge

In groups, players take turns putting a cookie on their forehead. Without using hands, move the cookie toward the mouth using facial movements. First team to complete three successful slides wins.

SUPPLIES: Cookies (check food allergies first)

5 Cookie Slide: Table Challenge

Divide into two teams and give each 10 cookies. Players slide cookies down a table toward three scoring zones. Near zone = 1 point, middle = 2, far zone = 3. Add each team’s points after all turns.

SUPPLIES: 10 cookies per team, table, tape for scoring zones