



Thanksgiving Math Riddles

25 riddles from easy to tricky. Write your answer on the line. Answers are on the last page.

Easy riddles ★

- 1 There are 5 pies on the dessert table. Grandma walks in with 3 more. How many pies are on the table now?
ANSWER _____
- 2 Each paper hand turkey has 4 finger feathers (the thumb is the head). The class makes 6 hand turkeys. How many feathers is that?
ANSWER _____
- 3 The basket starts with 20 dinner rolls. The family eats 11. How many rolls are left?
ANSWER _____
- 4 There are 2 tables, and each one has 8 seats. How many people can sit down for dinner?
ANSWER _____
- 5 The parade starts at 9:00 in the morning and lasts 3 hours. What time does it end?
ANSWER _____
- 6 Leo folds 7 napkins and Ava folds 8. How many napkins did they fold together?
ANSWER _____
- 7 A turkey has 2 drumsticks. How many drumsticks do 3 turkeys have?
ANSWER _____
- 8 Today is Thursday, November 19. Thanksgiving is the next Thursday, November 26. How many days until Thanksgiving?
ANSWER _____

Medium riddles ★★

- 9 The recipe says to roast the turkey for 15 minutes for every pound. The turkey weighs 12 pounds. How many hours will it cook?
ANSWER _____
- 10 The turkey goes into the oven at 11:30 in the morning and needs 3 hours and 30 minutes. What time does it come out?
ANSWER _____
- 11 Pies cost \$9 each at the bakery. Dad buys 4 pies and pays with a \$50 bill. How much change does he get?
ANSWER _____
- 12 30 guests are coming, and each table seats 6. How many tables do you need?
ANSWER _____

- 13 Grandpa's mashed potatoes use 2 pounds of potatoes for every 4 people. How many pounds does he need for 20 people?
ANSWER _____
- 14 There are 3 pies, and each pie is cut into 8 slices. The 20 guests each eat one slice. How many slices are left?
ANSWER _____
- 15 The farm stand sells corn at 4 ears for \$2. How much do 12 ears cost?
ANSWER _____
- 16 Aunt May drives 120 miles to Thanksgiving dinner at 60 miles per hour. How long is the drive?
ANSWER _____
- 17 A Thanksgiving morning "turkey trot" race is 5 kilometers long. A runner has gone 3,200 meters so far. How many meters are left?
ANSWER _____

Tricky riddles ★★ ★

- 18 In the US, Thanksgiving is on the fourth Thursday of November. In 2026, November 1 is a Sunday. What date is Thanksgiving?
ANSWER _____
- 19 There were 32 dinner rolls, and three-quarters of them were eaten. How many rolls are left?
ANSWER _____
- 20 For every 2 slices of pumpkin pie eaten, 1 slice of apple pie was eaten. 18 slices were eaten in all. How many were pumpkin?
ANSWER _____
- 21 A cranberry sauce recipe uses 12 ounces of cranberries and makes 8 servings. How many ounces do you need for 20 servings?
ANSWER _____
- 22 The four cousins at the kids' table are 6, 8, 9 and 13 years old. What is their average age?
ANSWER _____
- 23 Five relatives arrive at once, and every one of them shakes hands with every other one exactly once. How many handshakes is that?
ANSWER _____
- 24 A frozen turkey needs 1 day in the fridge to thaw for every 4 pounds. The turkey weighs 16 pounds. On which day of the week should it go into the fridge to be ready on Thanksgiving Thursday morning?
ANSWER _____
- 25 In the fall of 1621, the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag people shared a three-day harvest feast that many people call the first Thanksgiving. How many years before Thanksgiving 2026 was that?
ANSWER _____

Answers

Thanksgiving Math Riddles · answer key · print or fold this page away before you hand out the sheet

1. 8 pies. $5 + 3 = 8$.
2. 24 feathers. $6 \times 4 = 24$.
3. 9 rolls. $20 - 11 = 9$.
4. 16 people. $2 \times 8 = 16$.
5. 12:00 noon. $9 + 3 = 12$.
6. 15 napkins. $7 + 8 = 15$.
7. 6 drumsticks. $3 \times 2 = 6$.
8. 7 days. $26 - 19 = 7$.
9. 3 hours. $12 \times 15 = 180$ minutes, and $180 \div 60 = 3$.
10. 3:00 in the afternoon. $11:30 + 3 \text{ hours} = 2:30$, and 30 more minutes is 3:00.
11. \$14. $4 \times \$9 = \36 , and $\$50 - \$36 = \$14$.
12. 5 tables. $30 \div 6 = 5$.
13. 10 pounds. $20 \div 4 = 5$ groups, and $5 \times 2 = 10$.
14. 4 slices. $3 \times 8 = 24$, and $24 - 20 = 4$.
15. \$6. $12 \div 4 = 3$ bundles, and $3 \times \$2 = \6 .
16. 2 hours. $120 \div 60 = 2$.
17. 1,800 meters. 5 km = 5,000 m, and $5,000 - 3,200 = 1,800$.
18. November 26. The first Thursday is November 5, then 12, 19 and 26.
19. 8 rolls. One quarter is left, and $32 \div 4 = 8$.
20. 12 pumpkin slices. $18 \div 3 = 6$ groups, each with 2 pumpkin slices, so $6 \times 2 = 12$ (and 6 apple).
21. 30 ounces. $12 \div 8 = 1.5$ ounces a serving, and $20 \times 1.5 = 30$.
22. 9 years old. $6 + 8 + 9 + 13 = 36$, and $36 \div 4 = 9$.
23. 10 handshakes. $4 + 3 + 2 + 1 = 10$.
24. Sunday. $16 \div 4 = 4$ days, and 4 days before Thursday is Sunday.
25. 405 years. $2026 - 1621 = 405$.

Need a hint? Every riddle has one at riddlepedia.com/thanksgiving-math-riddles/, where you can also play them as a game.