

# THE CORNUCOPIA AND THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving is coming up, and people are getting ready for the big event. Homes filled with delicious foods cooked with lots of love and dedication. Between stuffed turkeys and pumpkin pies, I have always liked this typical symbol of the day, the cornucopia, or the horn of plenty.

Likely, you have seen it in countless places, such as television advertisements, propaganda, tablecloths, pictures, cards, and, of course, in your home. It is a symbol of wealth, abundance, and prosperity. It usually is represented by a horn-shaped container from which a variety of harvest foods such as corn, pumpkins, wheat, legumes, apples, nuts come out.



Originally, the cornucopia was made from the horn of a goat with food collected in the harvest in it.



Supposedly, this symbol comes from Greek mythology. According to legend, the god Zeus (father of the gods and men ruler of Olympus) was little was playing with his rays without paying much attention to his surroundings. Unfortunately, one of those rays hit a goat and cut off one of its horns. Seeing this disaster, Zeus filled the horn with grains, fruits, flowers, legumes, and vegetables so that whoever had it in his power would have great wealth and abundance in his life.

This story is just a legend, but it is nice to think about its meaning. When you put a cornucopia in your home, you are celebrating the gratitude of having an abundance of goods.

If we analyze the name cornucopia, we realize that it comes from Latin, where "cornu" means horn, and "copia" means abundance.

Typically, when we decorate our house, this horn of plenty is bought in the form of a wicker basket shaped like a horn. Then, it gets filled with grains, fruits, nuts, and vegetables from the fall harvest. It is placed in a conspicuous place in the home, such as the living room furniture or in the center of the Thanksgiving dinner table itself.



Some people cook cornucopia-shaped desserts to serve at the end of dinner to represent the horn of plenty. Others paint or embroider placemats for table use with this lovely symbol.



The cornucopia is not just typical of Thanksgiving Day. It also appears in many books, engravings, and shields. For example, it is common to see the cornucopia in the shield of Colombia, Panama, Peru, and Venezuela, whose meaning represents the wealth of those countries.

I am sure that you look at the cornucopia differently from now on. Right? So now, if you have one in your home, you already know its beautiful meaning.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# THE CORNUCOPIA AND THANKSGIVING

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS.

1. The cornucopia is also known as the \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. horn of fruits and vegetables
- b. horn of plenty
- c. horn of Zeus
- d. horn of the harvest



2. The cornucopia is a common symbol of \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. Christmas
- b. World Peace Day
- c. Thanksgiving
- d. Halloween

3. Originally, the cornucopia was made from \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. a wicker basket
- b. a piece of wood
- c. a walnut shell
- d. the horn of a goat



4. The legend of Zeus tells that he \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. cut off a goat's ear to make his own cornucopia
- b. grew fruits and vegetables to put in his cornucopia
- c. accidentally cut off a goat's horn and gave it powers to make up for it
- d. bought a basket to decorate his home for Thanksgiving

5. Traditionally, the cornucopia is \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. placed in a visible place in the house
- b. filled with sweets and candies
- c. eaten for dessert
- d. painted and given away at the end of the Thanksgiving dinner



# ANSWERS

# THE CORNUCOPIA AND THANKSGIVING

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS.

1. The cornucopia is also known as the \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. horn of fruits and vegetables
- b. horn of plenty
- c. horn of Zeus
- d. horn of the harvest



2. The cornucopia is a common symbol of \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. Christmas
- b. World Peace Day
- c. Thanksgiving
- d. Halloween

3. Originally, the cornucopia was made from \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. a wicker basket
- b. a piece of wood
- c. a walnut shell
- d. the horn of a goat



4. The legend of Zeus tells that he \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. cut off a goat's ear to make his own cornucopia
- b. grew fruits and vegetables to put in his cornucopia
- c. accidentally cut off a goat's horn and gave it powers to make up for it
- d. bought a basket to decorate his home for Thanksgiving

5. Traditionally, the cornucopia is \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. placed in a visible place in the house
- b. filled with sweets and candies
- c. eaten for dessert
- d. painted and given away at the end of the Thanksgiving dinner





Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# THE CORNUCOPIA AND THANKSGIVING

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS.

6. The cornucopia is a unique symbol of Thanksgiving.

- a. true
- b. false



7. The cornucopia is represented in \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. engravings
- b. books
- c. shields
- d. All the answers are correct.

8. The cornucopia is synonymous with \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. abundance and wealth
- b. bad luck
- c. good behavior
- d. poverty and disappointment



9. The name cornucopia comes from Greek and means horn of plenty.

- a. true
- b. false

10. The cornucopia is often placed as the centerpiece on Thanksgiving.

- a. true
- b. false



# ANSWERS

## THE CORNUCOPIA AND THANKSGIVING

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS.

6. The cornucopia is a **unique** symbol of Thanksgiving.

a. true

b. false

7. The cornucopia is represented in \_\_\_\_\_.

a. engravings

b. books

c. shields

d. All the answers are correct.

8. The cornucopia is synonymous with \_\_\_\_\_.

a. abundance and wealth

b. bad luck

c. good behavior

d. poverty and disappointment

9. The name cornucopia comes from Greek and means horn of plenty.

a. true

b. false

10. The cornucopia is often placed as the centerpiece on Thanksgiving.

a. true

b. false

