

Thanksgiving Problem Solving

Making an organized list is one type of problem solving used in math. Use this sample to help yourself get started.

Christopher's mother said that he could buy one book about Pilgrims and one book about Native Americans. He liked the Pilgrim books called *The Mayflower* and *Thanksgiving*. He liked the Native American books *Legends and Lore* and *Native American Tribes*. How many possible choices did he have?

He can choose these:

1. *The Mayflower* and *Legends and Lore*
2. *The Mayflower* and *Native American Tribes*
3. *Thanksgiving* and *Legends and Lore*
4. *Thanksgiving* and *Native American Tribes*

Christopher has **four** different choices.

Here are more Thanksgiving problems to solve by using an organized list. Make your list on another sheet of blank paper.

1. Isabel's family is trying to plan a menu for Thanksgiving dinner. The choices for the main course are turkey or chicken. The choices for a side dish are stuffing or potatoes. How many different menus can be planned?
2. Debbie is planning on having pies with different toppings for dessert. The pie choices are pumpkin, apple, and cherry. The topping choices are whipped cream or ice cream. How many different desserts can be served?
3. The first grade class is having a Thanksgiving feast. For their snack, they may choose popcorn, pretzels, or crackers. The choices of drinks are apple juice, fruit punch, or milk. How many different snacks can be chosen?
4. Mr. Lowrey's fourth grade class is performing at the Thanksgiving day assembly. They can perform one song and one poem. Their poem choices are "Leftovers" and "The Thanksgiving Parade," both by Jack Prelutsky. Their possible songs are "Run, Turkey, Run" and "What's for Dinner?" How many choices will they have?
5. Carol is making a Thanksgiving art project. She can make her turkey out of a paper plate or a paper bag. She can choose one of the following materials to decorate her turkey: glitter, feathers, or sequins. How many choices will she have?

Answer Key

1. There are four possible menus.
 - turkey, stuffing
 - chicken, stuffing
 - turkey, potatoes
 - chicken, potatoes
2. There are six desserts.
 - pumpkin, whipped cream
 - apple, whipped cream
 - cherry, whipped cream
 - pumpkin, ice cream
 - apple, ice cream
 - cherry, ice cream
3. There are nine snack choices.
 - popcorn, apple juice
 - pretzels, apple juice
 - crackers, apple juice
 - popcorn, fruit punch
 - pretzels, fruit punch
 - crackers, fruit punch
 - popcorn, milk
 - pretzels, milk
 - crackers, milk
4. There are four choices.
 - “Leftovers,” “Run, Turkey, Run”
 - “Thanksgiving Parade,” “Run, Turkey, Run”
 - “Leftovers,” “What’s for Dinner?”
 - “Thanksgiving Parade,” “What’s for Dinner?”
5. There are six choices.
 - plate, glitter
 - plate, feathers
 - plate, sequins
 - bag, glitter
 - bag, feathers
 - bag, sequins