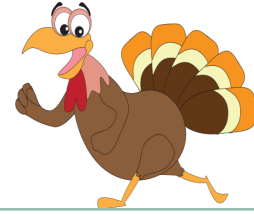


Zany Turkey Trivia

Grade Level: 2+



Overview

This lesson will help students understand everything they ever wanted to know, and maybe some things they didn't, about turkeys and Thanksgiving. This lesson can be used as part of a science lesson to learn more about the biology of turkeys or as a fun activity to break up the monotony of the day and celebrate Thanksgiving.

Lesson Goals

Students should:

1. Learn popular as well as little known facts about turkeys.
2. Receive a handout with fill in the blank portions to fill out in class.

Materials

- Printable (at end of this lesson)
- Pencil
- Crayons

Teaching the Lesson

Start the lesson by asking students what types of things they like to eat at Thanksgiving. Allow them to call out answers, such as pie, rolls, etc. Make sure at least one person says "turkey."

Next, tell the students that you also have turkey at your Thanksgiving dinner (if you do) and that there are 51,150,000 turkeys eaten on Thanksgiving day each year.

Explain that there are both wild and domestic turkeys and then share some of the information from the resources below.

Finally, pass out copies of the trivia worksheet to each student and ask them to fill in the blanks as you read through the facts. There is a second copy with an answer key that you can read from for this lesson.

Concluding Activity

Encourage students to share some of the facts they've learned with their families at Thanksgiving dinner this year.

Turkey Trivia Worksheet

Student Name: _____

Fill in the blanks as your teacher reads the facts out loud to the class.

1. Each Thanksgiving, _____ turkeys are eaten. Families spend about _____ on food for Thanksgiving dinner.
2. Even though the turkeys most families eat at their Thanksgiving feasts are domestic, these turkeys are descended from _____.
3. Turkeys can make at least _____ different sounds and the male can gobble loudly that it can be heard as much as _____ away.
4. Turkeys are social with one another and seem to develop _____.
5. A wild turkey can fly as fast as _____ miles per hour. However, they can only fly for very _____ distances.
6. Turkeys have about _____ tail feathers. The males can spread their tail feathers out like a _____.
7. It is rumored that _____ wanted to make the wild turkey the national bird of the United States. He never actually proposed this, but he did say it was "more respectable" than the bald eagle.
8. An adult male turkey weighs between an average of _____ and _____ pounds.
9. Baby turkeys are called _____.
10. Domestic turkeys are raised on farms and are _____ the size and weight of wild turkeys.
11. The flap of skin under the turkey's chin is called a _____. When a turkey is angry or is courting, the flap turns a vivid _____.
12. Turkeys eat small stones, which go into the part of their stomachs called the _____. This helps the turkey break down larger pieces of food, since turkeys don't have teeth. Turkeys have _____ stomachs.
13. Wild turkeys sleep _____. This protects them from predators.
14. The five subspecies of wild turkeys are _____, _____, _____, _____ and _____'s.

Turkey Trivia

Teacher Copy to Read Out Loud

Student Name: _____

Read out loud to the class and instruct them to fill in the blanks.

1. Each Thanksgiving, 51,150,000 turkeys are eaten. Families spend about \$2,876,000,000 on food for Thanksgiving dinner.
2. Even though the turkeys most families eat at their Thanksgiving feasts are domestic, these turkeys are descended from wild turkeys.
3. Turkeys can make at least 20 different sounds and the male can gobble loudly that it can be heard as much as a mile away.
4. Turkeys are social with one another and seem to develop friendships.
5. A wild turkey can fly as fast as 55 miles per hour. However, they can only fly for very short distances.
6. Turkeys have about 5,000 tail feathers. The males can spread their tail feathers out like a peacock.
7. It is rumored that Benjamin Franklin wanted to make the wild turkey the national bird of the United States. He never actually proposed this, but he did say it was "more respectable" than the bald eagle.
8. An adult male turkey weighs between an average of 16 and 22 pounds.
9. Baby turkeys are called poults.
10. Domestic turkeys are raised on farms and are twice the size and weight of wild turkeys.
11. The flap of skin under the turkey's chin is called a wattle. When a turkey is angry or is courting, the flap turns a vivid red.
12. Turkeys eat small stones, which go into the part of their stomachs called the gizzard. This helps the turkey break down larger pieces of food, since turkeys don't have teeth. Turkeys have two stomachs.
13. Wild turkeys sleep in trees. This protects them from predators.
14. The five subspecies of wild turkeys are Eastern, Osceola, Merriam's, Rio Grande and Gould's's.