

KEEPING STUDENTS WELL INFORMED AT HOME WHILE THEY'RE DISTANCE LEARNING.



WORLD OF WONDER

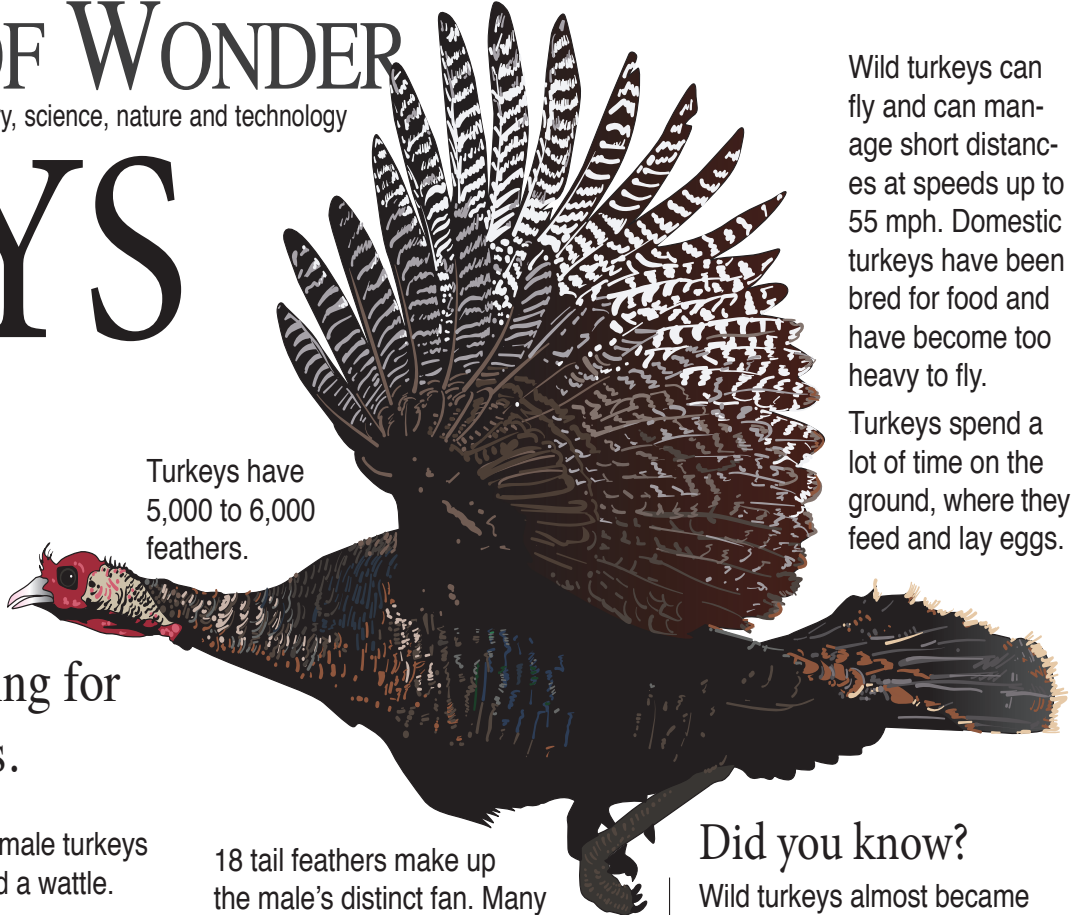
Exploring the realms of history, science, nature and technology

TURKEYS

Wild turkeys can fly and can manage short distances at speeds up to 55 mph. Domestic turkeys have been bred for food and have become too heavy to fly.

Turkeys spend a lot of time on the ground, where they feed and lay eggs.

Considered sacred in ancient Mexican cultures and a close competitor for the national bird of the United States, the wild turkey lives in the woods of North America. Turkeys spend their days foraging for food and their nights in low tree branches.



Turkeys have 5,000 to 6,000 feathers.

In a word

The North American turkey has little to do with Turkey the country. The bird got its name in the mid-1500s when British settlers confused it with the **African guinea fowl**, a bird known at that time as a **turkey chicken**.

A group of turkeys is called a **rafter** or a **flock**. Male turkeys are called **toms** or **gobblers**, after the sound they make when trying to attract a mate. Females are called **hens**, and babies are called **poults**.

Wild species

There are five subspecies of wild turkeys: eastern, Osceola, Rio Grande, Merriam's, and Gould's.

The pilgrims hunted and ate the **eastern wild turkey**. These birds are sometimes called forest turkeys.

Dinnertime

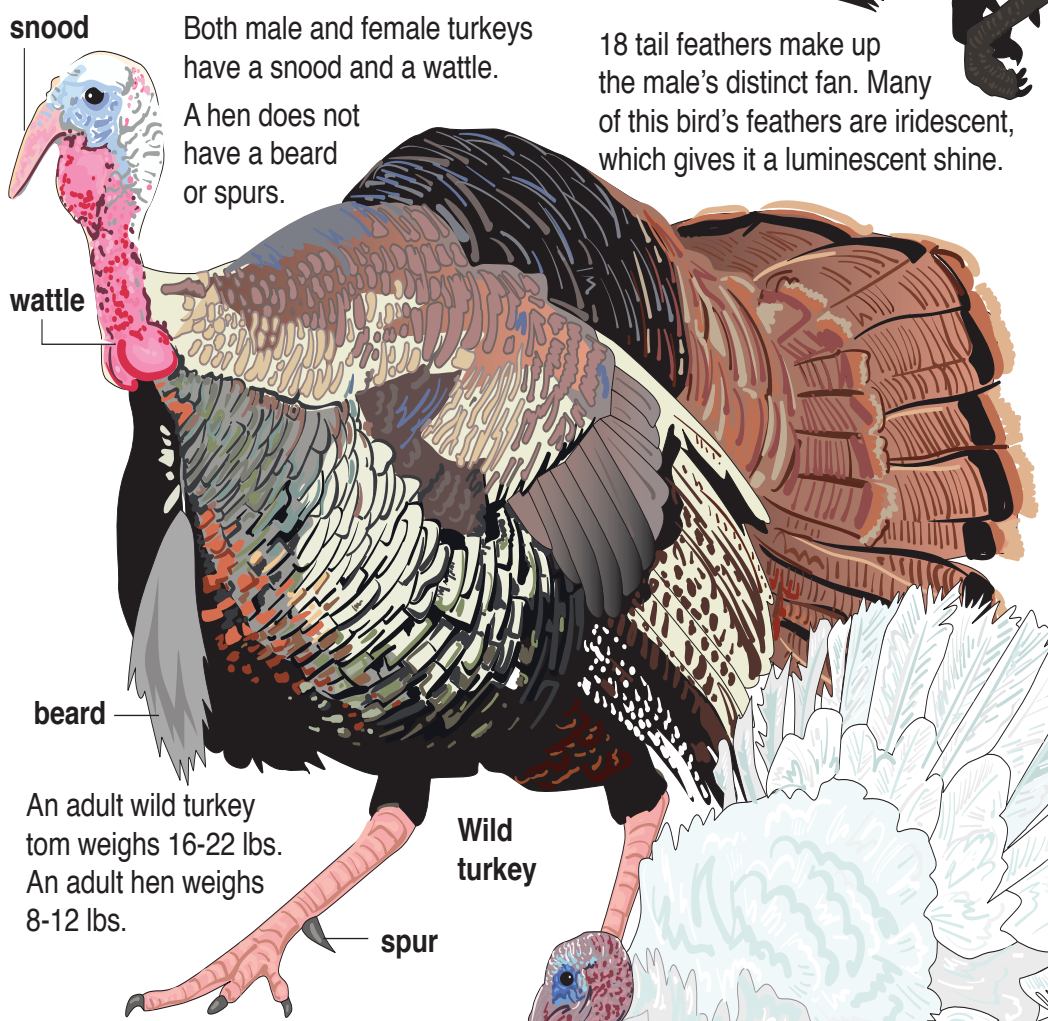
Wild turkeys are omnivorous and eat a variety of food. They eat grasses, grains, insects, nuts, berries and small reptiles. Domestic turkeys are typically fed nutritional food pellets, but they may also enjoy vegetable snacks.

Bringing up baby

Wild turkeys mate in early spring. Shortly after mating, the female prepares a nest on the ground and lays her eggs.

The eggs incubate for about a month. The poults are **precocial**, which means they are born well developed and ready to forage for themselves in about 24 hours. They are born with feathers but cannot fly for the first two weeks. The mother stays with them on the ground, keeping them safe and warm until they are ready to roost in the trees.

The young turkeys stay with their mother for a year or so. The male has very little to do with raising the babies.



snood Both male and female turkeys have a snood and a wattle.

wattle A hen does not have a beard or spurs.

18 tail feathers make up the male's distinct fan. Many of this bird's feathers are iridescent, which gives it a luminescent shine.

beard An adult wild turkey tom weighs 16-22 lbs. An adult hen weighs 8-12 lbs.

Wild turkey

Domestic turkey

Domestic breeds

Domestic turkeys were first raised by Native Americans in Mexico and Central America, who began breeding them about 2,000 years ago.

Today, there are many domestic turkey breeds found around the world, but not nearly as many as chicken or duck breeds.

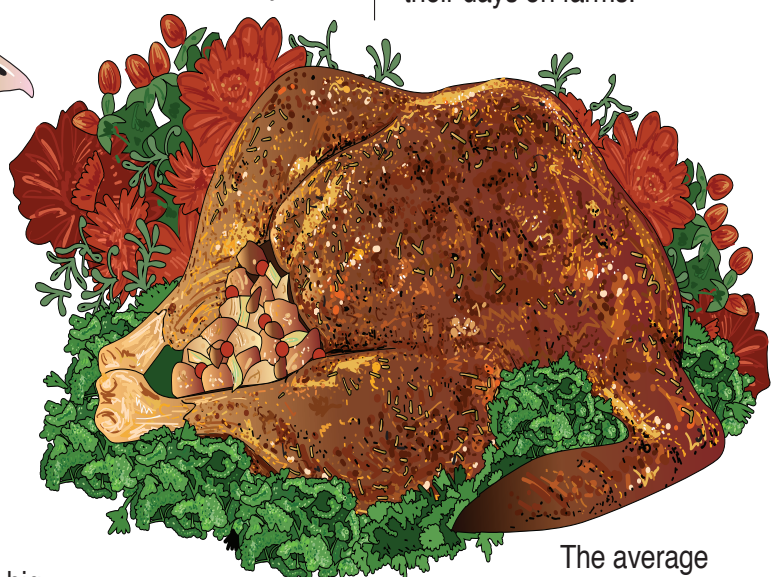
A turkey hen will lay a clutch of 10 to 18 eggs at a time.

Thanksgiving is sometimes called "Turkey Day" because this bird is traditionally served as dinner on that holiday.



Poult Young poults know their mother's alarm call and will respond by freezing or running to hide if she sounds the alarm.

Juveniles are as big as adults by winter.



More turkeys are consumed on Thanksgiving than on any other holiday.

The average American eats 18 pounds of turkey annually.

SOURCES: World Book Encyclopedia, World Book Inc.; <https://onekindplanet.org>; <https://www.roysfarm.com>; <https://www.livescience.com>; <https://forum.americanexpedition.us>; <https://www.fws.gov>; <https://www.allaboutbirds.org>

LEARN ABOUT CORN IN THE NEXT INSTALLMENT OF WORLD OF WONDER

CASA GRANDE
Dispatch
Pinal County's Daily Newspaper



OUR WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS IN EDUCATION PAGE CAN BE A FUN LEARNING TOOL FOR YOUR KIDS. CHECK BACK EACH THURSDAY FOR A NEW, EXCITING TOPIC!

CASA GRANDE
Dispatch

TO SUBSCRIBE:
(520) 423-8685

