Let’s Talk Turkey – Student Worksheet

How many calls do you think a Wild Turkey can make? (Circle one):
1 to 10 10 to 20 20 to 30

They make __________ different calls.

A female turkey is called a ________________.

A young male turkey is called a ________________.

An adult male turkey is called a ________________.

Where does a turkey build her nest? (Circle one): Tree Ground Bush

How many feathers do you think a Wild Turkey has? (Circle one):
100 to 500 5,000 to 6,000 15,000 to 20,000

A Wild Turkey has _______________ feathers.

Feathers are used for three main functions. They are:
_____________________________________
_____________________________________
_____________________________________

A Wild Turkey is a(n) (Circle one): Carnivore Herbivore Omnivore

Label Tom the Turkey:
Beard Spur
Caruncles Tail feathers
Snood Wing feathers
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1 to 10  10 to 20  20 to 30

They make ______ different calls.

A female turkey is called a __________.
A young male turkey is called a __________.
An adult male turkey is called a __________.

Where does a turkey build her nest? (Circle one):  Tree  Ground  Bush

How many feathers do you think a Wild Turkey has? (Circle one):
100 to 500  5,000 to 6,000  15,000 to 20,000

A Wild Turkey has ______ feathers.

Feathers are used for three main functions. They are:
flight
thermoregulation
 camouflage

A Wild Turkey is a(n) (Circle one):  Carnivore  Herbivore  Omnivore

Label Tom the Turkey:
Beard  Spur  Caruncles  Tail feathers  Snood  Wing feathers
LET’S TALK TURKEY

Objective
For students to create a turkey call which mimics the sound of a female turkey (hen).

Materials
Not Provided
Plastic drinking straw
Leather lace
Plastic pony beads
Masking tape
Scissors
Feathers from a craft store

Background
Turkeys are wary and hard to fool. Generations of turkey hunters will all agree. By using a call, a person is imitating, not the male turkey, but the turkey hen. The male turkey gobbles to let the hens know where he is. The hens then come to the male to breed. A hunter uses the call of the hen to broadcast to the toms that “she” is out there. He in turn gobbles to let “her” know where he is. Young turkeys, also known as poults, inherit the ability to make calls from their parents.
To use your turkey call, place the uncut end in your mouth, halfway between the front of your lips and the corner of your mouth. Cup your hands over the end of the call to create a kind of echo chamber for the sound. Now suck on it in little short breaths, much like making a “kissing” noise. You should be making the sound of a hen turkey. It gets easier with practice.

Procedure
1. Cut a 13 centimeter piece of the plastic drinking straw.
   Discard the rest.
2. On one end, cut out a scoop on one side only. It should be about 1.5 centimeters long.
3. Take the leather lace, hold both ends together, and slide on two (2) of the plastic pony beads. Slide them up until they are about five (5) centimeters from the loose ends.
4. Slip the length of plastic straw between the two (2) beads. Push them together to hold it in place.
5. Slide three (3) pony beads on each of the two loose ends of the leather lace. Leave about 1.5 centimeters beneath the lowest bead.
6. Attach the feathers by sliding each one up under the three beads on the end of each lace.
7. Wrap a piece of masking tape around the uncut end of the straw to form a mouthpiece. Be careful not to cover up the end of the straw.