



Name: _____

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 28 different calls.

A female turkey is called a hen.

A young male turkey is called a jake.

An adult male turkey is called a gobbler or tom.

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 5,000 to 6,000 feathers.

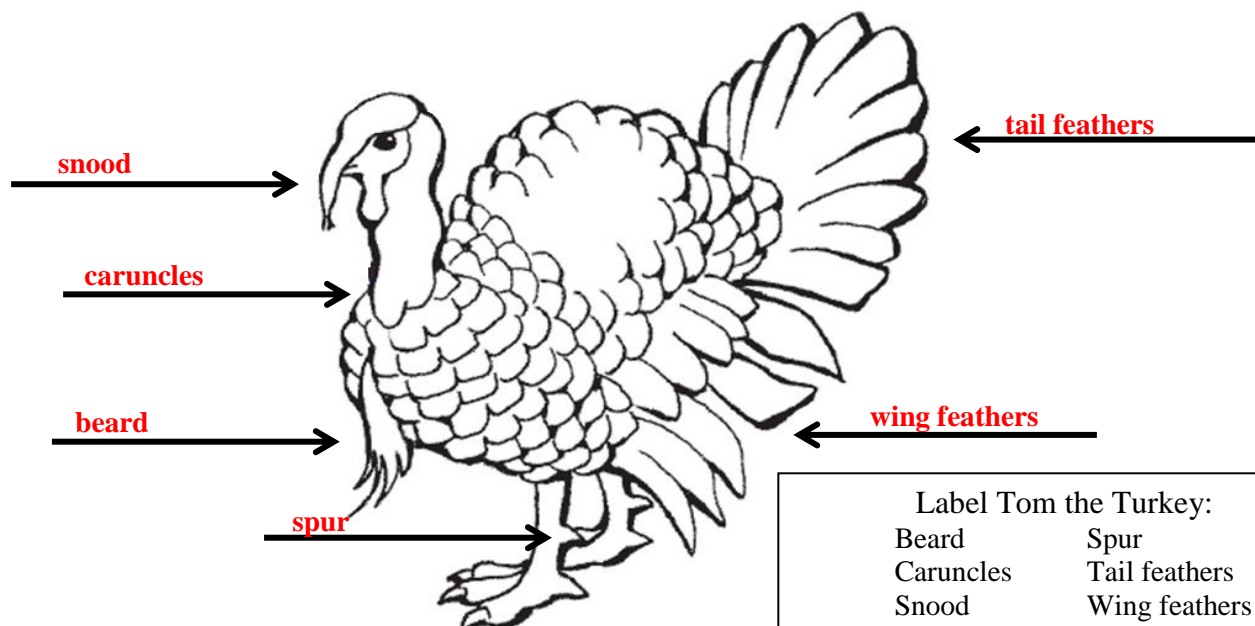
Feathers are used for three main functions. They are:

flight

thermoregulation

camouflage

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



LET'S TALK TURKEY



Objective

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

Materials

Not Provided

- Plastic drinking straw
- Masking tape
- Scissors
- Leather lace or yarn (optional)
- Plastic pony beads (optional)
- Feathers from a craft store (optional)
- Glue (optional)



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Background

By using a call, a person is imitating not the male Wild Turkey, but the Wild Turkey hen. The male turkey, also known as a Tom or Gobbler, makes a gobble sound to alert the hens to his location. 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 in the area. The tom in turn gobbles to let “her” know of his location and then may travel to the location of the call. Young turkeys, also known as poults, inherit the ability to make calls from their parents.

Procedure

1. Cut a 13 centimeter piece of the plastic drinking straw. Discard the rest.
2. Wrap a piece of masking tape around the uncut end of the straw several times.
The masking tape thickens the end of the straw, forming a ‘mouthpiece’ which is easier to suck on than the straw alone. Be careful not to cover up the end of the straw.

To use the turkey call, place the taped end of the straw 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 an echo chamber for the sound. Now suck on the straw in little short breaths, much like making a “kissing” noise. The sound mimics a call of a hen turkey. It gets easier with practice.

Ideas for decorating the call (optional)

1. Cut a piece of leather lace or yarn, between 30 and 60 centimeters long. Holding the ends together, slide on two (2) plastic pony beads. Slide the beads at least five (5) centimeters from the loose ends.
2. Separate the plastic beads several centimeters apart and insert the straw between the pieces of leather lace. Push the beads together to hold the straw in place.
3. Slide additional pony beads on each loose end.
4. Attach feathers by inserting the end of the feather inside the end pony beads, alongside the leather lace.
5. If using yarn, the beads and feathers may require glue to stay in place.

