

10/29/23

How Much Do You Know About...

Estimated play time: Approximately 15 minutes

Number of players: Unlimited

Supplies needed: Tokens (for scorekeeping); Prizes (small) for winner(s)

Suitable for visually impaired players.

Overview:

In this game, we look at one subject in depth – it could be a person, place, event, or thing. This Thanksgiving week, let's see how much you know about ... **TURKEYS**.

Instructions:

1. This game can be played by individuals or teams.
2. Read the first question. Discussion is permitted among teammates. Prior to the start of the game, a method to signal when a team is ready to answer must be determined. Ringing bells and New Year's blowers are just two inexpensive noisemakers. Raised hands work, but the host must be vigilant to watch for whose hand went up first. The host always has the final say in any disputes.
3. After a team is recognized as the first to signal, they may give one answer. If the first answer is incorrect, the other teams may 'buzz' in and answer.
4. Keep score (10 points for each answer) after each question is answered correctly. Play until all questions have been asked and answered.

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INSTRUCTIONS: Just answer the questions to find out how much you know about today's subject ... **TURKEY'S.**

1. Despite their name, turkeys did not originate in the country of Turkey. They're actually native to which continent?
2. Historians believe that wild turkeys were first domesticated by native Mexicans, who used them for religious sacrifices. They also used their meat for food, and this part of the turkey for decoration.
3. In 1519, Spanish explorers took domesticated Mexican turkeys back to Spain. From there, turkeys spread to France and later to England. Ironically, several turkeys were aboard this famous ship that set sail from Plymouth, England in 1620.
4. There is one key difference between wild and domesticated turkeys. Can you guess what wild turkeys can do that domesticated birds cannot?
5. Millions of turkeys are bred each year for their meat. In the United States, the most prized portion of a turkey is the white meat. Besides the breast, what other part of a turkey consists of white meat?
6. Because Americans like white meat so much, turkeys are bred to produce large breasts. Our domesticated turkeys have such large chests that male turkeys can weigh up to 40 pounds or more! What is the name for a male turkey?
7. Only adult male turkeys make the "gobble, gobble" sound. Female turkeys makes a gentle clicking noise. Female turkeys are also usually smaller than toms, averaging 15 pounds or less. Do you know what a female turkey is called?
8. The soft, floppy growth on the front of a turkey's head, which dangles downward over the beak, is called the snood. The pouch-like area at the front of his throat is called a wattle. Both are usually a dull reddish color, except for a certain time each year when they turn brilliantly red. Do you know why?

9. The female wild turkey builds a nest of leaves in a shallow depression in the ground and lays 12-15 eggs in a clutch, which incubate for about a month from mid-March to late April. In general, only about 40% of the eggs actually hatch. Can you guess the two main reasons why the hatch rate is so low?
10. When you buy your Thanksgiving turkey, there's a bag inside the cavity. What parts of the turkey are included in that bag?
11. What is the gizzard?
12. What well known part of the turkey skeleton is technically known as the *furcula*?
13. Which Founding Father thought that the wild turkey should be the US national bird? He wrote that the eagle was a coward, but the turkey was respectable — and a Native American to boot!
14. Without turkeys, this children's television character would be naked. Although he is not a turkey, his costume is decorated with nearly 4,000 white turkey feathers, which have been dyed to create the character's distinct yellow color.
15. What ballroom dance was named for the short, jerky steps a turkey makes?

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ANSWERS

1. North America. However, turkeys are named after the country of Turkey because the European settlers who first saw them thought they were related to a Turkish bird.
2. Feathers
3. *The Mayflower*. The Pilgrims did not know that wild turkeys were common in New England — as they still are.
4. Fly. Wild turkeys can fly at short bursts at speeds up to 55 miles per hour.
5. The wings
6. Tom
7. Hen
8. The snood and the wattle are called secondary sex characteristics. They turn bright red during mating time because the female bird is attracted to the bright colors.
9. Bad weather and predators, such as skunks, snakes, crows, possums, raccoons, dogs, and coyotes ... all of which find turkey eggs yummy!
10. The neck, liver, heart, gizzard. Collectively, they're called giblets.
11. The gizzard is basically the bird's stomach, although it works much differently from ours. Turkeys ingest small rocks that remain in the gizzard and grind down the seeds, fruits, nuts, worms, and insects that turkeys like to eat.
12. The wishbone
13. Benjamin Franklin
14. Big Bird from *Sesame Street*
15. The Turkey Trot