

Name: _____

The Wild Turkey



*Head of a
white turkey*

A Wild Turkey is a species of bird from North America. It originally came from Mexico thousands of years ago. It is related to other birds that eat off the ground, such as chickens and quail.

A male turkey is called a tom. A female turkey is called a hen, and a baby turkey is called a poult or turkeyling. A tom weighs between 11 and 24 pounds, while a hen is usually smaller.

The tom usually has dark shiny feathers and a large tail. He can spread his tail like a fan when he wants to attract a female. Toms also have a wattle, or a red piece of skin, on the throat.

A hen has dark, dull feathers. She has no wattle, and her tail is small. She will lay 10 to 14 eggs at a time. The eggs hatch after 28 days. The small poults leave the nest in about a day.

Humans have tamed, or domesticated, Wild Turkeys. The domestic turkey is usually white. Turkeys are raised as food, especially for holiday dinners, such as Thanksgiving and Christmas.

While a turkey is known for making a “gobble” sound, it makes other sounds, too. It can cackle, whine or cluck. When a turkey makes a gobbling sound, it can be heard for a long way.



A male Wild Turkey

Find the Answer in the Text

Answer the following questions about the Wild Turkey. Write the sentence or phrase from the text that gives the answer.

What is the usual color for the domestic turkey?

What is a female turkey called?

What is the red skin on the throat of a tom called?

Name: _____

The Wild Turkey



*Head of a
white turkey*

A Wild Turkey is a species of bird from North America. It originally came from Mexico thousands of years ago. It is related to other birds that eat off the ground, such as chickens and quail.

A male turkey is called a tom. A female turkey is called a hen, and a baby turkey is called a poult or turkeyling. A tom weighs between 11 and 24 pounds, while a hen is usually smaller.

The tom usually has dark shiny feathers and a large tail. He can spread his tail like a fan when he wants to attract a female. Toms also have a wattle, or a red piece of skin, on the throat.

A hen has dark, dull feathers. She has no wattle, and her tail is small. She will lay 10 to 14 eggs at a time. The eggs hatch after 28 days. The small poults leave the nest in about a day.

Humans have tamed, or domesticated, Wild Turkeys. The domestic turkey is usually white. Turkeys are raised as food, especially for holiday dinners, such as Thanksgiving and Christmas.

While a turkey is known for making a “gobble” sound, it makes other sounds, too. It can cackle, whine or cluck. When a turkey makes a gobbling sound, it can be heard for a long way.



A male Wild Turkey

Find the Answer in the Text

Answer the following questions about the Wild Turkey. Write the sentence or phrase from the text that gives the answer.

Actual wording of answers may vary.

What is the usual color for the domestic turkey?

white “The domestic turkey is usually white.”

What is a female turkey called?

hen “A female turkey is called a hen...”

What is the red skin on the throat of a tom called?

wattle “Toms also have a wattle, or a red piece of skin, on the throat.”