

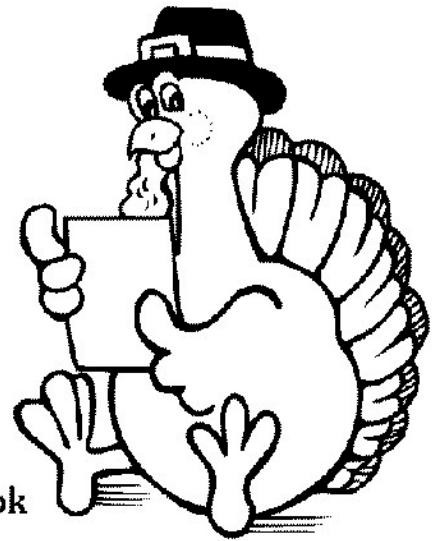
Turkey Time Activities!

The North American wild turkey was native to our land long before the arrival of the Pilgrims. These wild turkeys were a vital source of food and clothing for many of the East Coast Indians. Turkey feathers were also used to make arrows.

These early American turkeys were much different than the domesticated turkeys of today. These wild turkeys were tough, sinewy birds that had to fly to survive. It took many careful hours of cooking to make the meat tender enough to eat.

Some people believe that the turkey was named for the country Turkey, but this isn't so. Actually the name "turkey" resulted from a mistake made by Spanish explorer Hernando Cortez. During his conquest of Mexico, Cortez discovered a large, meaty bird that had been domesticated by the people of Mexico. Cortez took this bird back to Spain, mistaking it for the peacock. The Spaniards began calling this new bird "toka," an Indian word for peacock. Later, the word changed to "tukki" and eventually "turkey."

The Spaniards gradually bred the birds to be more meaty and tender. It is said that the turkey was "one of the most beautiful presents which the New World has given to the Old." Today, more than 500 million turkeys a year find their way to our Thanksgiving tables.



TURKEY TASKS

1. Write the directions for cooking a Thanksgiving turkey. List specific ingredients as well as cooking times and temperature.
2. Describe what Thanksgiving dinner will be like in the year 2050.
3. Write a thank you note to the member of your family that hosted your Thanksgiving feast.
4. Imagine that you can ask anyone in the world to your Thanksgiving dinner. Who would you invite and why?
5. Write a paragraph on today's turkeys and how they are different from the ones eaten at the first Thanksgiving.
6. To "talk turkey" means to speak bluntly. Write three "talk turkey" sentences about turkeys.
7. Using ads from the newspaper, plan a Thanksgiving feast for your family. Find the price of each item you would need to buy. Add up your total to find the cost of your Thanksgiving meal.