

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Wild Turkeys

By Guy Belleranti

The turkeys people eat at Thanksgiving were raised on farms. However, they are not much different from wild turkeys that live in the woods all across North America. Many years ago, wild turkeys were an important food for Native Americans and pioneers.



Wild turkeys are omnivores. Omnivores eat plants and meat. Wild turkeys spend their days looking for food on the ground. They often eat insects, berries, seeds, nuts, flowers, grain and small lizards and frogs. At night they fly up into trees and sleep, safe from predators.

Male wild turkeys can be called toms or gobblers. Females are called hens. A baby turkey is called a poult.

Males are much bigger than females and are brightly colored. Males have long hair-like feathers on their chests called beards. In early spring males make loud gobble sounds and fan their tails to attract females.

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extinct. However, great conservation efforts saved the turkeys. Today, the United States has over seven million wild turkeys.

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1. Where do wild turkeys find most of their food?
  - a. in trees
  - b. in lakes and streams
  - c. on the ground
  - d. underground



2. What is an omnivore? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Where do wild turkeys sleep?

4.  **~ PREVIEW ~**  
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5. Male turkeys are called \_\_\_\_\_.

Female turkeys are called \_\_\_\_\_.

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Draw straight lines to match each vocabulary word on the left with its definition on the right.

1. omnivore • • ability to blend into one's surroundings; difficult to see
2. woods • • place where an animal lives
3. pioneers • • animals who hunt other animals;

4.



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5.

6. habitat • • early settlers or explorers

## ANSWER KEY

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1. Where do wild turkeys find most of their food? **c**
- a. in trees
  - b. in lakes and streams
  - c. in fields and woods



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