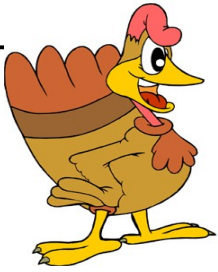
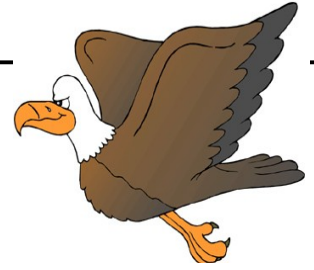


Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# America's National Bird: Eagle or Turkey?

by Kelly Hashway



When we think of turkey, we think of Thanksgiving. When we think of symbols for America, the bald eagle comes to mind. But did you know that Benjamin Franklin once said the wild turkey would be a better symbol of America than the bald eagle?

When the bald eagle became the official symbol of America in 1782, Benjamin Franklin had some objections. He even wrote a letter to his daughter explaining why he thought the bald eagle was a poor choice to represent our country. In the letter, Franklin said the bald eagle was a lazy thief

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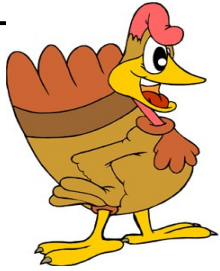
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Franklin's other complaint was that the drawing of the bald eagle used in the great seal actually looked more like a wild turkey. This made Franklin compare the two birds, and he decided the wild turkey would have been a better symbol for our country. He said that the turkey was a more respectable bird since it was not afraid of others birds and was native to America.

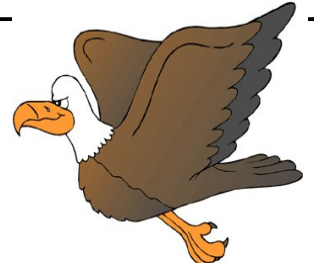
Did Franklin really want the wild turkey to be the national symbol? We may never know for sure, but he definitely was not happy about having a symbol that could be associated with laziness, theft, and cowardice either. Franklin only expressed his concerns through a letter to his daughter, but imagine what it would have meant for our country if Franklin had rallied people around the wild turkey being used as our national symbol. Thanksgiving may have been very different.

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



# America's National Bird: Eagle or Turkey?

by Kelly Hashway



1. Why did Benjamin Franklin think the bald eagle was a lazy thief?

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2. Why did Benjamin Franklin think the bald eagle was a coward?

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3. Why c



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- b. Wild turkeys are brave.
- c. Wild turkeys can fly higher and faster.
- d. Wild turkeys are smarter than bald eagles.

4. If the wild turkey was a national symbol for America, do you think people would still eat it on Thanksgiving? Explain your answer.

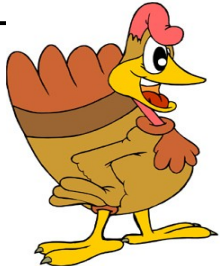
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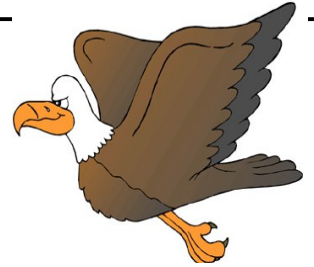
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# America's National Bird: Eagle or Turkey?

by Kelly Hashway



Tell whether each statement is a fact or opinion.  
Write out the word fact or opinion on each line.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. The bald eagle has been an official symbol for America since 1782.

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. The wild turkey would be the best symbol for America.

\_\_\_\_\_  **PREVIEW** aining that  
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\_\_\_\_\_ 5. The bald eagle is one of the bravest birds in America.

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. Bald eagles sometimes steal fish from other birds.

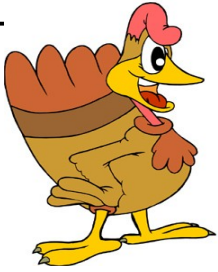
\_\_\_\_\_ 7. Many American families eat turkey on Thanksgiving.

\_\_\_\_\_ 8. Turkey is the most delicious part of Thanksgiving dinner.

Write your own opinion about wild turkeys, eagles, or Thanksgiving.

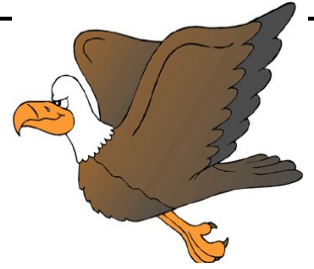
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# America's National Bird: Eagle or Turkey?

by Kelly Hashway



1. Why did Benjamin Franklin think the bald eagle was a lazy thief?

A bald eagle will let other birds catch fish, then it will swoop down and steal it from them.

2. Why did Benjamin Franklin think the bald eagle was a coward?

Eagles will run away from other birds who are protecting their nests.

3. Why c



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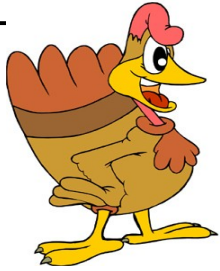
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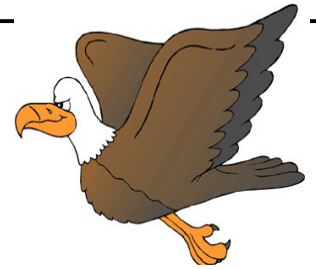
Answers will vary.

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



# America's National Bird: Eagle or Turkey?

by Kelly Hashway



Tell whether each statement is a fact or opinion.  
Write out the word fact or opinion on each line.

**fact**

1. The bald eagle has been an official symbol for America since 1782.

**opinion**

2. The wild turkey would be the best symbol for America.

**fact**



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laining that

**opinion**

ks more

**opinion**

5. The bald eagle is one of the bravest birds in America.

**fact**

6. Bald eagles sometimes steal fish from other birds.

**fact**

7. Many American families eat turkey on Thanksgiving.

**opinion**

8. Turkey is the most delicious part of Thanksgiving dinner.

Write your own opinion about wild turkeys, eagles, or Thanksgiving.

**Answers will vary.**