

Turkey Turmoil

Help Wild Tom and Domestic Nicholas remember who they are!

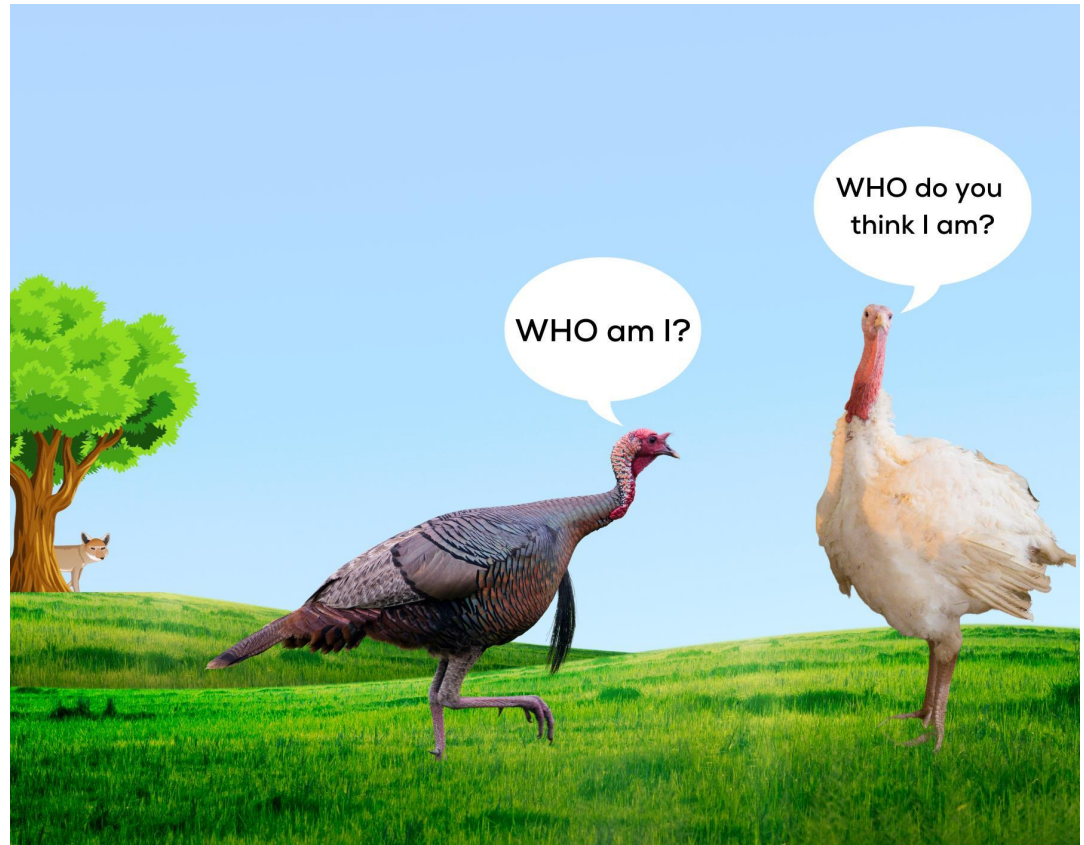
Scenario

Wild Tom, a wild turkey, and Domestic Nicholas, a domestic turkey, were going about their daily routines when their worlds were flipped and turned upside down! Both turkeys woke up from their afternoon naps unsure of what happened or where they were. But most importantly, they didn't even recognize themselves!

"WHO am I?" questioned Wild Tom, most alarmed.
"WHO do you think I am?" wondered Domestic Nicholas.

Meanwhile, the sneaky coyote watched from behind the trees as the confused turkeys wandered around questioning who they were and where they are from. The coyote is the prime suspect. We think he stole the turkey's identities and memory and left them in the middle of nowhere!

Now, it's up to YOU to return each turkey to where they belong, either in the wild or on the farm. Use evidence about their instincts, characteristics, diet, and habitat to guide you and help the turkeys return home!



Habitat



Read about the turkey habitats. Then, look through the pictures to help Wild Tom and Domestic Nicholas find the correct home.

Question to Consider:

1. Where do Wild Tom and Domestic Nicholas belong?

Use your research about where turkeys live, to help the class decide what kind of turkeys we are working with!



Domestic Turkeys

Domestic turkeys are raised on farms. Turkey farmers work hard to keep their birds healthy and comfortable by raising them in barns. Turkey barns are warm and dry in the winter. In the summer, the barns are cooled by big fans. Scientists, engineers, and farmers have worked to design and build turkey barns to provide the best place for turkeys to live.

Turkey flocks living in barns are protected from predators, disease, and bad weather. A turkey barn is about the size of one and a half football fields put together. About 10,000 turkeys make up a flock living in a turkey barn.

In the barn, there is food and water for turkeys. Turkey barns have automatic feeds and waterers to give turkeys feed or water whenever they want.

Turkey farmers care for their turkeys. Farmers check on their turkeys at least twice a day. They make sure the feeders, waterers, and fans are working. The farmers watch over a listen to their turkeys to make sure the animals are healthy and comfortable.





Wild Turkeys

Wild turkeys live outdoors in forests, woodlands, and grasslands. The turkeys find their food on the forest floor and in tall grasses.

Wild turkeys live in flocks ranging from 5-50 turkeys. The flocks **roost**, or sleep, in trees. This helps to protect them from predators.

For most of the year, the **hen** (female turkey) and her **poults** (young turkeys) live together in a family flock. A **tom** (adult male turkey) will live in a flock with other toms and hens.



Diet



Helping Wild Tom and Domestic Nicholas remember their favorite meal to eat will help us return them to their proper homes! Your decision will help tell us where the turkey lives, based on what they eat!

Questions to Consider:

- Which feed items would domestic turkeys prefer?
- What do wild turkeys like to eat?
- Which turkey eats in barn?
- Which turkey eats in the wild?



Domestic Turkeys

Turkeys need food and water, just like humans. The food turkeys eat is called feed. It is made up of ground corn, soybeans and a mix of vitamins and minerals.

Turkey farmers feed their turkeys with automated feeders. The feed travels through long pipes and tubes in the barn to the automatic feeder, giving turkeys access to feed whenever they want. Farmers, nutritionists and the feed mill work together to make the best feed for the turkeys.





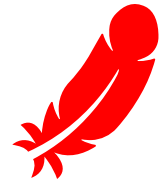
Wild Turkeys

Wild turkeys search the forest floor and grassland for nuts, seeds, grains, fruits, berries and insects to eat.

When wild turkeys are feeding and searching for their food, it's called **foraging**. Wild turkeys forage for food in the early morning after sunrise and for a few hours before sunset.



Characteristics



Figuring out Wild Tom and Domestic Nicholas's characteristics can help them remember who they are! Use the information provided in this file to find out what characteristics belong with each turkey!

Questions to Consider:

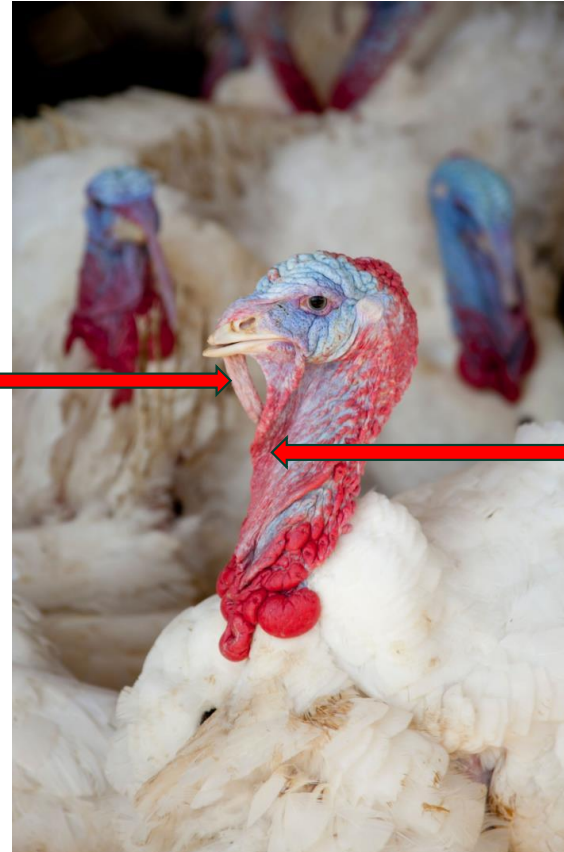
- What are major characteristics of turkeys?
- What are some special features, or qualities, of a domestic turkey?
- What are some special features, or qualities, of a wild turkey?

Domestic Turkeys

The most popular domestic turkey breed is called a “Broad Breasted White”. This turkey is white feathered and produces a lot of breast meat, which consumers love! Turkeys grow white feathers, have blue heads, a red **wattle** under their beak and a red **snood** on top of their beak.

Most domestic turkeys have white feathers because dark feathers leave marks on the skin of the turkey. A fully grown domestic turkey weighs an average of 41 pounds. That means they are producing lots of meat for consumers!

Snood



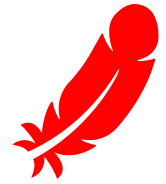
Wattle



Wild Turkeys

Wild turkeys are a large bird with dark feathers. They have long, thin legs that help them run fast and fly short distances. Their dark feathers and fast legs are very important! These features help them blend into the forest and grasslands. When an animal blends in it's called **camouflage**.

Their speed helps them fly to perch in trees. This helps protect them from predators. Wild turkeys weigh less than domestic turkeys. This makes it possible for them to run fast and fly in the air for short distances. A wild **tom** (male) will range from 15-25 pounds. A wild **hen** (female) will range from 8-12 pounds.



Instincts



- Since our turkeys do not remember much about themselves, we need to remind them of what they like to do each day. Let's help our turkey friends get back on track!

Questions to Consider:

- What does a domestic turkey do each day?
- What does a wild turkey do each day?
- What protects a domestic turkey?
- What protects a wild turkey?



Domestic Turkey

Domestic turkeys are social and noisy birds who live with their flock in a barn. They are taken care of by farmers. Their daily routine is to keep comfortable, eat food and drink water whenever they want.

A domestic turkey has an important job. Each day they grow bigger to one day become a food product. Domestic turkeys spend their time eating and hanging out in their barn. They are safe from bad weather, predators and disease when living in a barn.



Wild Turkeys

Wild turkeys spend all their time in the great outdoors! Wild turkeys must **forage**, or search for their food in the forests and grasslands. They typically forage before sunrise or right at sunset. Wild turkeys have great eyesight. This helps them see the landscape and watch out for predators. At night, they fly into the trees to **roost**, or sleep, above ground where predators cannot reach them.

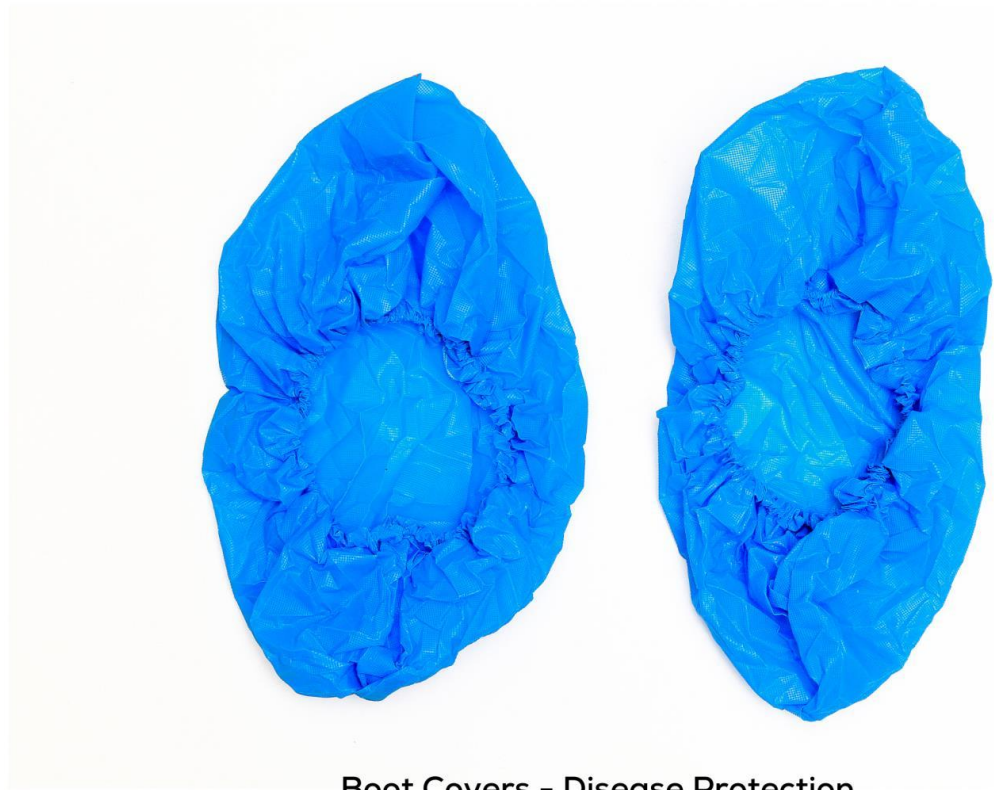
Wild turkeys have long, thin legs that help them run fast. They can run as fast as 25 miles per hour! They also have big, strong wings to help them fly short distances. They can use these wings to fly up to 55 miles per hour and can fly up to a mile in distance.

Wild turkeys communicate but are quieter than domestic turkeys. Wild turkeys have over 30 different calls they can make. These calls help them communicate with the rest of the flock.

Wild turkeys stay busy foraging for food, roosting in trees and traveling fast when they need to. Wild turkeys also have **camouflaged** feathers to help them blend into their environment and stay safe from predators.



EVIDENCE



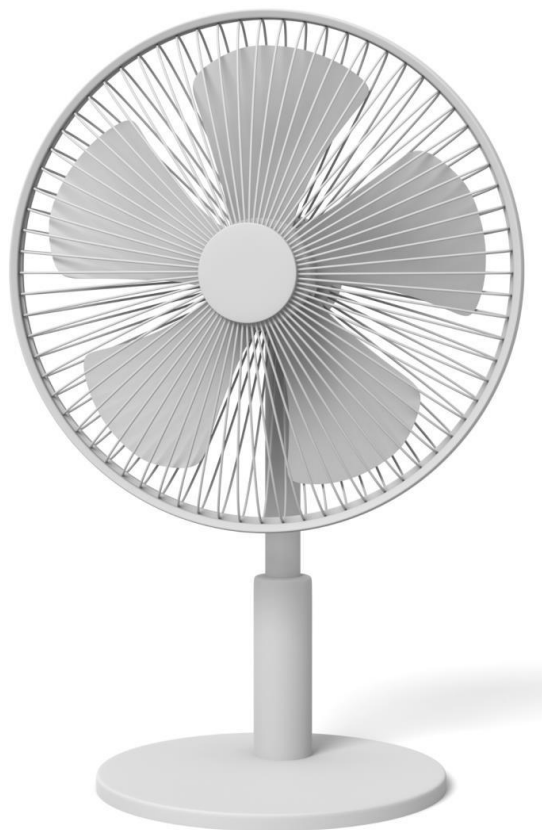
Boot Covers - Disease Protection

EVIDENCE



Neck Pillow - Comfort

EVIDENCE



Fan - Comfort

EVIDENCE

4



Wooded or Grassland Area

EVIDENCE

1



Corn and Soybeans

EVIDENCE

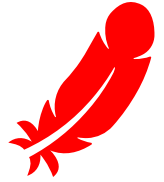
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Nuts, Seeds, and Berries

EVIDENCE

1



Long Legs - Fast

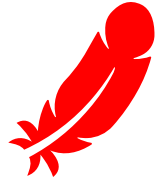
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EVIDENCE

3



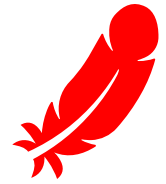
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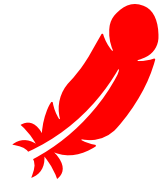


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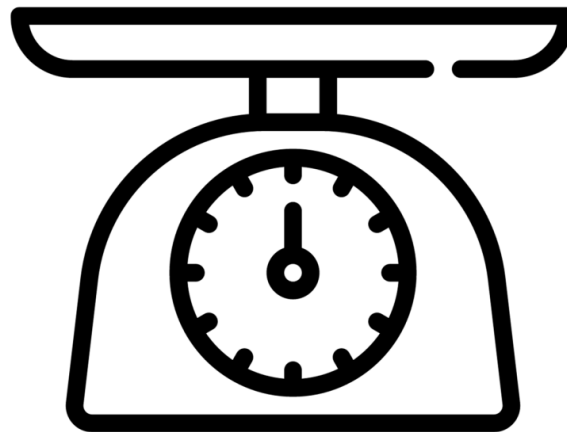
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EVIDENCE



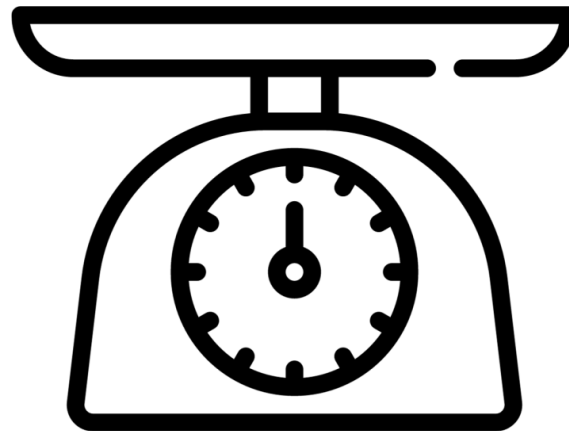
41 Pounds



EVIDENCE



15 - 25 Pounds



EVIDENCE



Loud Animal

EVIDENCE

2



Social Animal

EVIDENCE

3



Instinct to Hide

EVIDENCE

4



Great Eyesight

HELLO
MY NAME IS

Wild Tom

HELLO
MY NAME IS

Domestic
Nicholas