

**National Bird Debate
FACTS & OPINIONS**

A **fact** is something that can be measured and/or proven. An **opinion** tells how people think or feel about something.

First read the story about the National Bird Debate on this page.

Write 3 FACTS about TURKEYS:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Write 3 FACTS about BALD EAGLES:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

In your opinion, which bird do you think makes the best national bird?

Support your opinion with 3 FACTS.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

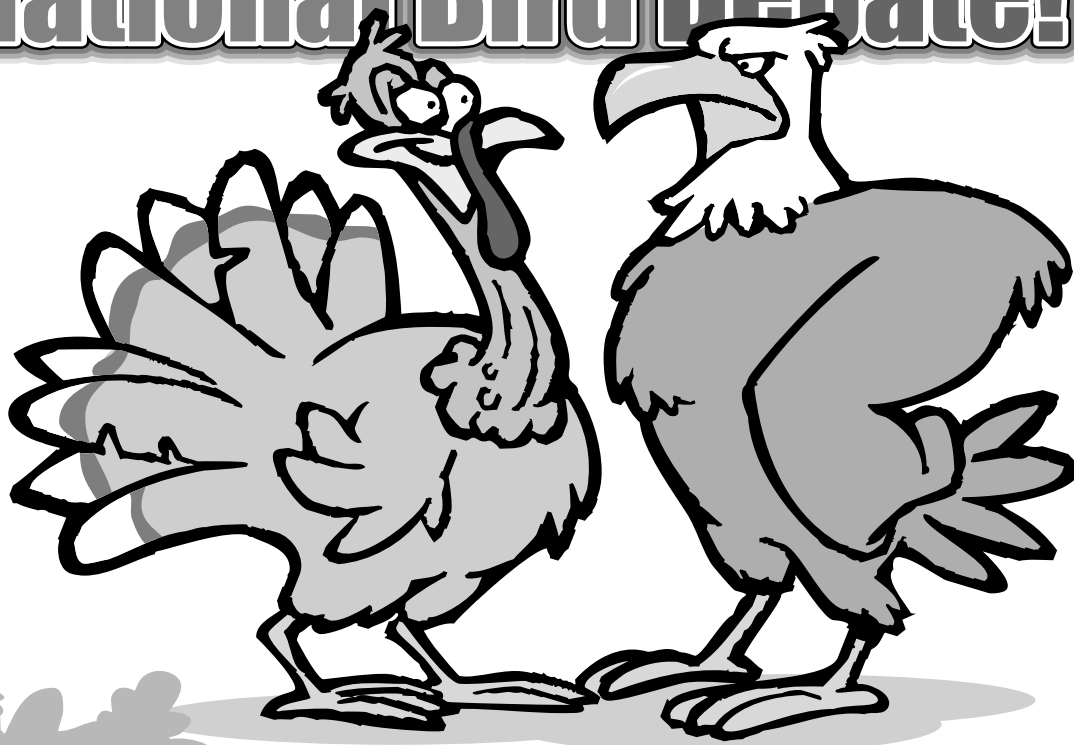
The Great National Bird Debate!

Eagle or Turkey? What do you think?

Which would make a better _____ of the United States – a bald eagle or a turkey?

More than 200 years ago, the Founding Fathers wanted to choose an animal for the great seal of the United States. They wanted an animal that would _____ what the newly formed United States of America was all about.

For six years, _____ bitterly debated which animal would be the country's symbol. Finally in 1782 the bald eagle was selected.



Vote for the turkey!

Not everyone thought the bald eagle was the right animal. Benjamin Franklin thought the turkey was a better symbol. Franklin wrote to his daughter, referring to the eagle's "bad moral character," saying, "I wish the bald eagle had not been chosen as the representative of our country! The turkey is a much more respectable bird, and withal a true original native of America."

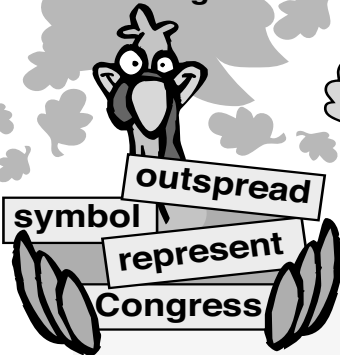
Vote for the bald eagle!

The bald eagle supporters finally had their way and it has been the national bird of the United States since 1782, when it was placed with _____ wings on the great seal of our country.

But, Ben Franklin's words remind us that the turkey is also a special creature. In truth, if someone calls you a turkey, take it as a compliment!

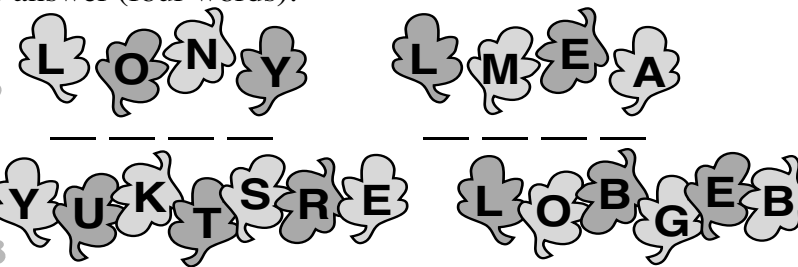
Standards Link: History: Students recognize national symbols such as the bald eagle.

Tim Turkey removed some of the words in this story. Can you figure out where each one belongs?



Do all turkeys gobble?

Unscramble the letters in each leaf pile to discover the answer (four words).



Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

What does a national bird do?

As the national symbol of the United States, the bald eagle appears in many government buildings and on official documents, making it the most pictured bird in all of America. The eagle also appears on the President's flag and billions of bills and coins.

Nice try, turkey!

Look at these quarters. Find each matching pair. Which ones do not belong?



Standards Link: Visual Discrimination: Sort objects that are similar and different.

Extra! Extra!

Thanksgiving Hunt

Look through today's newspaper to find:

- the word **Thanksgiving**
- something you are thankful for
- the word **turkey** or a picture of one
- an interesting news story to discuss at Thanksgiving dinner

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension. Follow simple written directions.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Turkey Puzzle

In 2011, about 272 million turkeys were raised. About 46 million of those turkeys were eaten at Thanksgiving, 22 million at Christmas and 19 million at Easter. How many were eaten during the rest of the year?



Space Turkey

When Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin sat down to eat their first meal on the moon, their foil food packets contained roasted turkey and all of the trimmings.

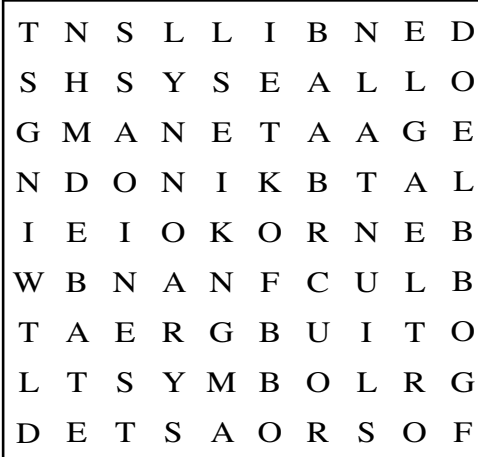


Standards Link: Number Sense: Calculate sums and differences to millions.

Double Double Word Search

- TURKEY
- EAGLE
- NATIONAL
- COINS
- SYMBOL
- ROASTED
- BILLS
- GREAT
- GOBBLE
- WINGS
- SEAL
- BALD
- MOON
- DEBATE
- THANKFUL

Find the words by looking up, down, backwards, forwards, sideways and diagonally.



Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE LESSON LIBRARY

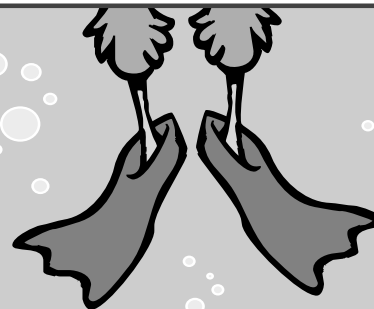
Giving Time

Look in the newspaper for information about people helping others in your community. Is there something you and your friends can do to help others?

Standards Link: Social Science: Students recognize the importance of public virtue and the role of citizens.

What has feathers and webbed feet?

ANSWER: A turkey in scuba gear.



Write On!

Turkey For a National Bird?

Do you think the turkey would be a better national bird than the bald eagle? Why or why not?

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