

Wild Turkeys



Read the passage. Then answer the questions in full sentences.

Name _____ Date _____

The wild turkey is a big bird from North America. It likes places with both woods and open fields, and it finds food by scratching in the fallen leaves.

A male turkey is called a tom. He is very large and dark, with a bare red and blue head and shiny bronze feathers. A female is called a hen. She is smaller and less shiny. In spring, the toms gobble to call the hens. They puff out their feathers and spread their tails like a fan.

The hen makes a shallow nest on the ground. She lays about 10 to 14 eggs over several days. Then she sits on them for about a month, and she raises her young alone.

Baby turkeys are called poults. They hatch covered in soft down, and within a day they can leave the nest. For their first month, poults eat mostly insects. Later they eat seeds and berries too, and in fall, grain and acorns. In winter, turkeys stay together in flocks.

1. What is a male turkey called?

2. Where does the hen make her nest?

3. What do poults eat in their first month, and what do they eat later?

4. A chicken egg hatches in 21 days. Which hatches later, a chicken egg or a turkey egg? How do you know?

Answer key

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1. What is a male turkey called?
A tom.
2. Where does the hen make her nest?
On the ground, in a shallow nest.
3. What do poults eat in their first month, and what do they eat later?
Mostly insects at first; later seeds and berries too, and in fall, grain and acorns.
4. A chicken egg hatches in 21 days. Which hatches later, a chicken egg or a turkey egg? How do you know?
Sample answer: a turkey egg, because the hen sits on her eggs for about a month, and a month is longer than 21 days.