



My nature connection

WILD
ABOUT
TURKEYS

GRADES: 3+
TIME: 50-60 min.

DID YOU KNOW: TURKEYS
CAN RUN UP TO 25 MPH!

TURKEYS IN MINNESOTA

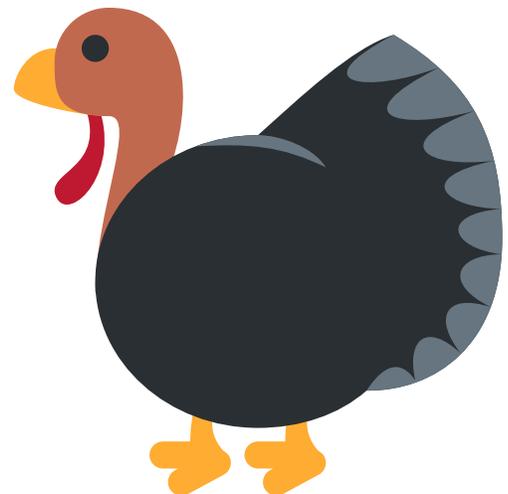
Believe it or not, turkeys used to be rare in Minnesota. Today, wild turkeys are becoming a common sight throughout all of Minnesota. There's an estimated 7 million turkeys roaming around compared to the 1970's, when just under 30,000 were left due to overhunting.

During the day, you can spot a wild turkey roaming the woods and streets for any food they can find. At night, if you look closely at the branches of trees, you could catch a turkey snoozing. They sleep in trees at night to stay away from predators.

So what makes these birds so special? Not only do they have a lot of fat, which is ample to feed a big family, but they hold cultural significance to many around the world.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Construction paper
 - 1 red piece
 - 1 brown piece
 - 1 yellow piece
 - 1 red piece
- stapler
- scissors
- black marker



Indigenous Culture & Turkeys

Turkeys hold a very important role in Indigenous culture. Their feathers are used for traditional dress and to construct arrows. Their meat was used as a food source to feed large families. Turkey bones were carved into tools and used as part of ritual ceremonies. No part of the turkey went to waste.

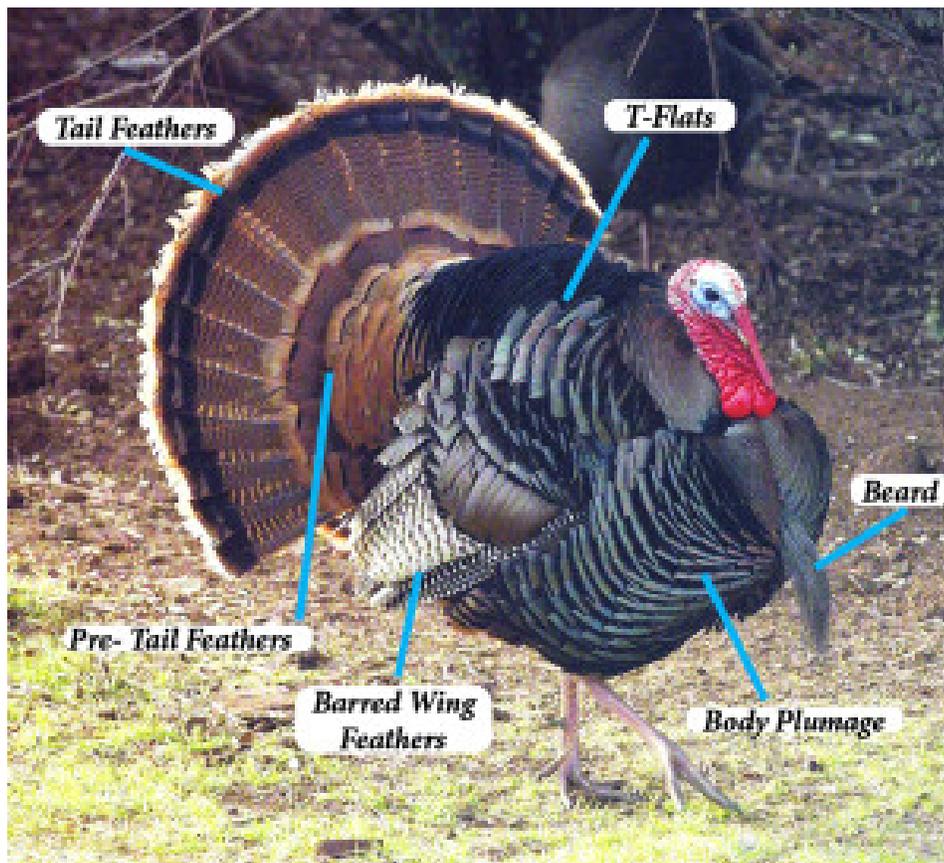
According to the Wandering Bull (a Native American craft supplies store), "Turkeys play a variety of roles in the folklore of different Native American tribes.

In some legends, Turkey is portrayed as a wily, overly-proud trickster character. In others, he is shy and elusive. The Pima people consider the turkey a rain spirit, and have folk beliefs about turkeys being able to predict the weather. A turkey is the symbol of wildness on earth."



Parts of the Turkey

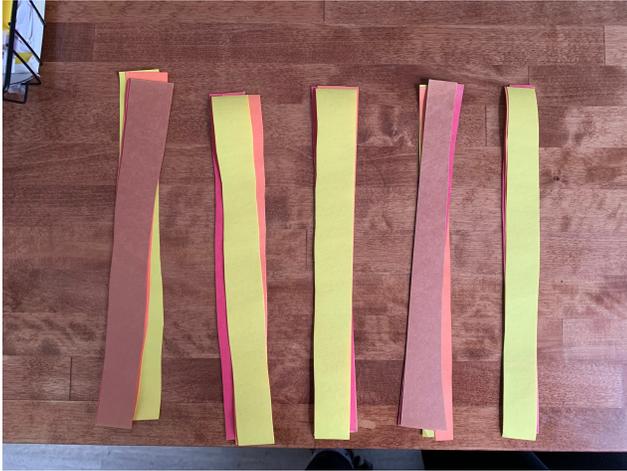
Turkeys have a lot of the same body parts as a chicken such as: eyes, earlobes, thighs, tails, spurs, claws, and toes. What differs from a chicken is that a turkey has a snood and caruncles, which is the red part on its face.



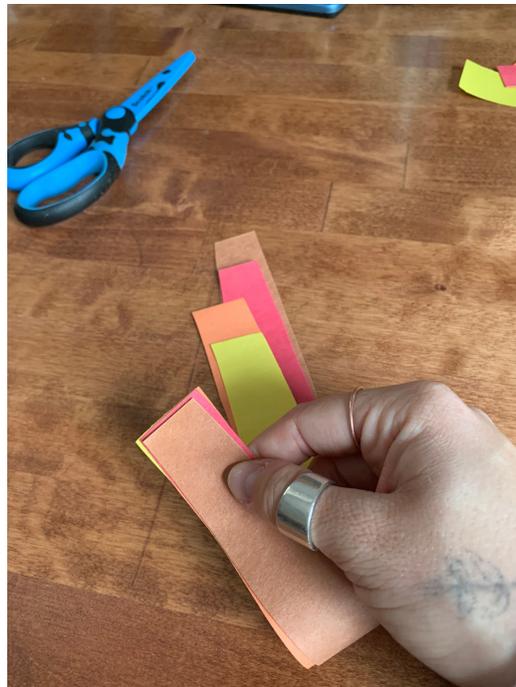
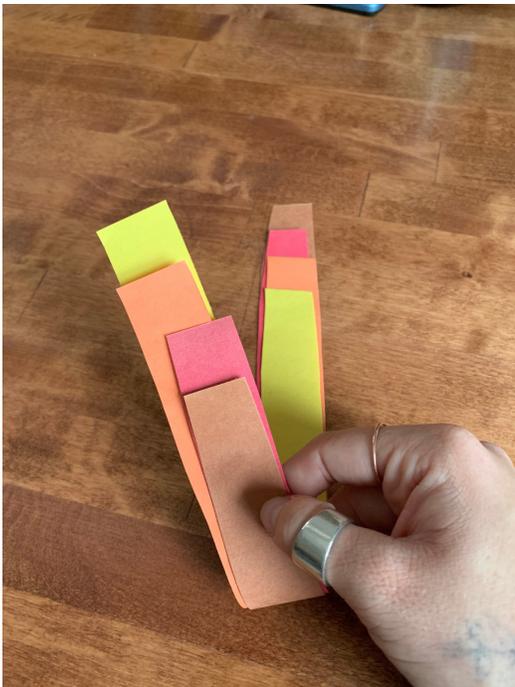
Turkey Craft

In this activity, you will be constructing your own model turkey out of paper. Follow the steps below to create your feathered friend.

1. Start by cutting your construction paper (red, orange, yellow, brown) into one-inch strips.
2. Create five piles of four strips.
3. Stagger the ends about one-inch.



4. Flip one end of the stack up and cut across.



5. Bring all of the ends together in a teardrop shape and staple together.



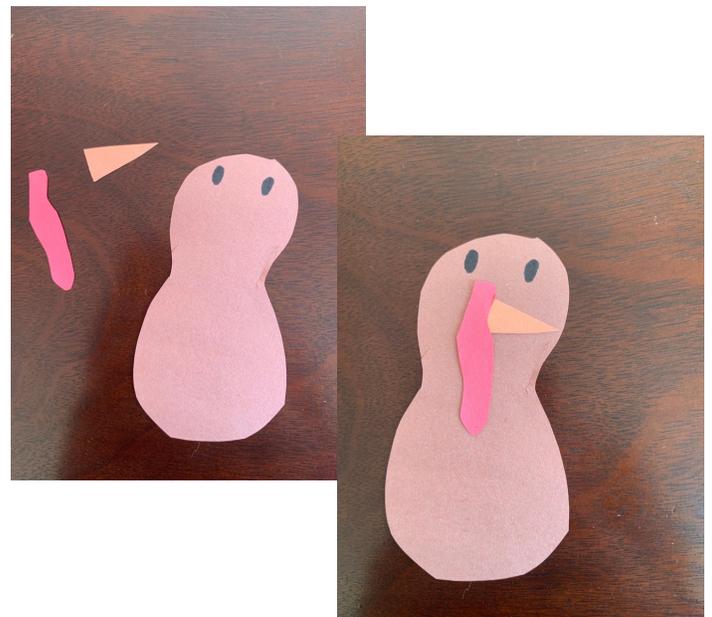
6. Repeat steps 2-5 four more times, creating five teardrop shapes.



7. Staple each side together until all five are attached.



8. Next, cut out a shape of the turkey body, the beak, and the wattle. Draw on eyes, and glue all the parts together like so.



9. Almost done! Now that you have created the body, beak, and eyes for your turkey, glue it to your teardrop (the feathers) shape and you have a turkey!



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

<https://wanderingbull.com/turkey-feathers-history/#:~:text=Turkey%20feathers%20were%20used%20to,of%20different%20Native%20American%20tribes.&text=A%20turkey%20is%20a%20symbol,symbolizes%20abundance%2C%20pride%20and%20fertility.>

https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/livingwith_wildlife/turkeys/index.html

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2016/11/161121111328.htm>

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

take a short survey at:

campfiremn.org/mynatureconnection

or here:

Kids Survey - [click here](#)

Teachers/Parents Survey - [click here](#)