Zany Turkey Trivia
Grade Level: 2+

Overview
This lesson will help students understand everything they ever wanted to know, and maybe some things they didn’t, about turkeys and Thanksgiving. This lesson can be used as part of a science lesson to learn more about the biology of turkeys or as a fun activity to break up the monotony of the day and celebrate Thanksgiving.

Lesson Goals
Students should:

1. Learn popular as well as little known facts about turkeys.
2. Receive a handout with fill in the blank portions to fill out in class.

Materials
- Printable (at end of this lesson)
- Pencil
- Crayons

Teaching the Lesson
Start the lesson by asking students what types of things they like to eat at Thanksgiving. Allow them to call out answers, such as pie, rolls, etc. Make sure at least one person says “turkey.”

Next, tell the students that you also have turkey at your Thanksgiving dinner (if you do) and that there are 51,150,000 turkeys eaten on Thanksgiving day each year.

Explain that there are both wild and domestic turkeys and then share some of the information from the resources below.

Finally, pass out copies of the trivia worksheet to each student and ask them to fill in the blanks as you read through the facts. There is a second copy with an answer key that you can read from for this lesson.

Lesson Resources
Websites
- [http://www.onekind.org/be_inspired/animals_a_z/turkey/](http://www.onekind.org/be_inspired/animals_a_z/turkey/)

http://kids.lovetoknow.com/wiki/Thanksgiving_Lessons_for_Kids
• http://www.kidzone.ws/animals/turkey.htm
• http://www.eatturkey.com/why-turkey/history

Videos

• https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Hpl0oGcx3o=https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=faUYJ9fMiGg
• http://www.history.com/topics/thanksgiving/history-of-thanksgiving/videos/kids-history-the-first-thanksgiving
• http://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/turkey_wild
• https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IpteDzY5iVY
• https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uL1aJNT-95o

Books for Kids

• 10 Fat Turkeys by Tony Johnston
• Turkeys by Wendy Strobel Dieker
• A Plump and Perky Turkey by Teresa Bateman
• Turkey Trouble by Wendi Silvano
• A Turkey for Thanksgiving by Eve Bunting

Concluding Activity

Encourage students to share some of the facts they've learned with their families at Thanksgiving dinner this year.
Turkey Trivia Worksheet

Student Name: __________________________________

Fill in the blanks as your teacher reads the facts out loud to the class.

1. Each Thanksgiving, ________________ turkeys are eaten. Families spend about _____________________ on food for Thanksgiving dinner.
2. Even though the turkeys most families eat at their Thanksgiving feasts are domestic, these turkeys are descended from ________________.
3. Turkeys can make at least ____ different sounds and the male can gobble loudly that it can be heard as much as ____________________ away.
4. Turkeys are social with one another and seem to develop ________________.
5. A wild turkey can fly as fast as ______ miles per hour. However, they can only fly for very ___________________ distances.
6. Turkeys have about ____________ tail feathers. The males can spread their tail feathers out like a ________________.
7. It is rumored that ____________________ wanted to make the wild turkey the national bird of the United States. He never actually proposed this, but he did say it was "more respectable" than the bald eagle.
8. An adult male turkey weighs between and average of ______ and ____________ pounds.
9. Baby turkeys are called ____________________.
10. Domestic turkeys are raised on farms and are ____________ the size and weight of wild turkeys.
11. The flap of skin under the turkey’s chin is called a ________________. When a turkey is angry or is courting, the flap turns a vivid ________________.
12. Turkeys eat small stones, which go into the part of their stomachs called the ________________. This helps the turkey break down larger pieces of food, since turkeys don't have teeth. Turkeys have _______ stomachs.
13. Wild turkeys sleep ____________________. This protects them from predators.
14. The five subspecies of wild turkeys are ____________________.

http://kids.lovetoknow.com/wiki/Thanksgiving_Lessons_for_Kids
Turkey Trivia
Teacher Copy to Read Out Loud

Student Name: ______________________________________________

Read out loud to the class and instruct them to fill in the blanks.

15. Each Thanksgiving, **51,150,000** turkeys are eaten. Families spend about $2,876,000,000 on food for Thanksgiving dinner.
16. Even though the turkeys most families eat at their Thanksgiving feasts are domestic, these turkeys are descended from **wild turkeys**.
17. Turkeys can make at least **20** different sounds and the male can gobble loudly that it can be heard as much as a **mile** away.
18. Turkeys are social with one another and seem to develop **friendships**.
19. A wild turkey can fly as fast as **55** miles per hour. However, they can only fly for very **short** distances.
20. Turkeys have about **5,000** tail feathers. The males can spread their tail feathers out like a **peacock**.
21. It is rumored that **Benjamin Franklin** wanted to make the wild turkey the national bird of the United States. He never actually proposed this, but he did say it was “more respectable” than the bald eagle.
22. An adult male turkey weighs between **16** and **22** pounds.
23. Baby turkeys are called **poults**.
24. Domestic turkeys are raised on farms and are **twice** the size and weight of wild turkeys.
25. The flap of skin under the turkey’s chin is called a **wattle**. When a turkey is angry or is courting, the flap turns a vivid **red**.
26. Turkeys eat small stones, which go into the part of their stomachs called the **gizzard**. This helps the turkey break down larger pieces of food, since turkeys don’t have teeth. Turkeys have **two** stomachs.
27. Wild turkeys sleep **in trees**. This protects them from predators.
28. The five subspecies of wild turkeys are **Eastern, Osceola, Merriam’s, Rio Grande**, and **Gould’s**.