

WILD TURKEYS

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WHAT THEY EAT

Leaves
Grass
Seeds
Berries
Insects
Worms
Snails
Frogs
Small reptiles

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WHERE THEY LIVE

Woods

Mountain forests

Wooded swamps

Fields

WHEN THE FIRST TURKEY WAS DISCOVERED



The wild turkey was discovered by Europeans in Mexico in the early 1500s. However, the domestication of turkeys dates back nearly 3,000 years.



Osceola Turkey



Gload's Turkey



Rio Grande



Eastern Turkey



Merriam's Turkey

TYPES OF TURKEYS



WHAT TURKEYS ARE USED FOR

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Turkeys were used both as a food source and for their feathers and bones, which were used in both practical and cultural contexts. Compared to wild turkeys, domestic turkeys are selectively bred to grow larger in size for their meat.



WHAT TURKEY'S BONES AND FEATHERS ARE USED FOR



BONES

Throughout the ancient U.S. Southwest, turkey bones were worked into awls, tubes, beads, flutes, whistles, and more.

FEATHERS

Besides boas, turkey feathers are also popular for costume masks, wreaths, pen quills, bedding, cat toys and much more. Shirley Davenport, whom works for Arkansas Valley Feathers has said, “A lot of the turkey feathers are packaged and used in crafts.” Turkey feathers are not just recycled as costume accessories. Many turkey processors turn leftover feathers into feather meal or compost.

WHY WE EAT TURKEY FOR THANKSGIVING



There were a few reasons for this. First, the bird was rather plentiful. One expert estimated that there were at least 10 million turkeys in America at the time of European contact. Second, turkeys on a family farm were almost always available for slaughter.



THE END

