

Trivia

did you know that ...

Turkeys have 5000 to 6000 feathers.

Turkeys are known to exhibit over 20 distinct vocalizations. Including a distinctive gobble, produced by males, which can be heard a mile away.

Individual turkeys have unique voices. This is how turkeys recognize each other.

Turkeys are intelligent and sensitive animals that are highly social. They create lasting social bonds with each other and are very affectionate; rather similar to dogs.

Baby turkeys (poults) flock with their mother all year. Although wild turkeys roost in the trees, as poults are unable to fly for the first couple of weeks of their lives, the mother stays with them at ground level to keep them safe and warm until they are strong enough to all roost up in the safety of the trees.

Turkeys have outstanding geography skills. They have the ability to learn the precise details of an area over 1,000 acres in size.

Like peacocks, male turkeys puff up their bodies and spread their elaborate feathers to attract a mate.

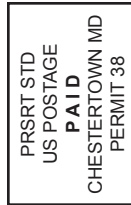
The long fleshy object over a male's beak is called a snood.

Wild turkeys are able to fly at up to 55 mph, however only for relatively short distances. Most domestic turkeys however are unable to fly due to being selectively bred to be larger than would be suitable in wild circumstances.

Benjamin Franklin wished to have wild turkeys as the national bird of the USA, rather than the bald eagle.

The area of bare skin on a turkey's throat and head vary in color depending on its level of excitement and stress. When excited, a male turkey's head turns blue, when ready to fight it turns red.

(onekind.org)



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Dates in History

1532 As explorers arrived in the New World, they heard tales of riches beyond the imagination—stories of golden cities. Spanish explorer Francisco Pizarro was no exception when he landed in South America. He destroyed entire Incan cities which had been built by an advanced civilization that worshipped the sun and treated gold as a gift from their god. On November 16th, Pizarro took the Incan emperor Atahualpa prisoner and demanded a ransom of gold. The Incans paid, but Pizarro murdered his prisoner in the name of Christianity. What Pizarro didn't destroy on that day was a treasure that remained concealed high up in the clouds, protected by the sun god. It was Machu Picchu, the last city of the Incans.

1968 On November 17th, the Oakland Raiders scored two touchdowns in nine seconds to beat the New York Jets—and no one saw it, because they were watching the movie Heidi instead. With just 65 seconds left to play, NBC switched off the game in favor of its previously scheduled programming, a made-for-TV version of the children's story about a young girl and her grandfather in the Alps. Viewers were outraged, and they complained so vociferously that network execs learned a lesson they'll never forget: "Whatever you do," one said, "you better not leave an NFL football game."

2002 November 26th was the day that President George W. Bush issued a humorous but sincere presidential pardon to a lucky turkey that otherwise might have ended up on someone's Thanksgiving Day dinner table. In doing so, he continued a tradition begun in 1947 when the National Turkey Foundation first presented Thanksgiving turkeys to President Harry S. Truman.

(history.com)
(excerpted from On This day in History)

On the Lighter Side

5 Things Nobody Wants To Hear On Thanksgiving

1. "There's no more room at the adults table this year."
2. "Everyone into the living room for the vacation photo slideshow!"
3. "The pie is all gone but we saved you a slice of fruit cake."
4. "The turkey is overdone."
5. "There aren't enough mashed potatoes to go around."

Funny Quotations

"I like football. I find it's an exciting strategic game. It's a great way to avoid conversation with your family at Thanksgiving."
- Craig Ferguson

"Every Thanksgiving I'm thankful I decided to wait until New Years to start my diet."
- Melanie White

"Thanksgiving is an emotional holiday. People travel thousands of miles to be with people they only see once a year. And then discover once a year is way too often."
- Johnny Carson

"Most frequently used word at Thanksgiving dinner: Heimlich."
-David Letterman

"You can tell you ate too much for Thanksgiving when you have to let your bathrobe out."
-Jay Leno

"A new survey found that 80 percent of men claim they help cook Thanksgiving dinner. Which makes sense, when you hear they consider saying "that smells good" to be helping."
-Jimmy Fallon

"The perfect way to get back at a man for forgetting Valentine's Day is to forget to cook Thanksgiving dinner."
-Melanie White

(huffingtonpost.com)
(funny-jokes-quotes-sayings.com)