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Turkey Riddles



30 riddles from easy to tricky. Write your answer on the line. Answers are on the last page.

Easy riddles ★

1. I'm a big bird with a fan of tail feathers and a red, wiggly flap under my chin. I say "gobble, gobble," and I'm famous every November. What am I?

   ANSWER _____

2. I'm the loud, wobbly sound a male turkey makes to say "I'm here!" Other turkeys can hear me a mile away. What sound am I?

   ANSWER _____

3. I'm a grown-up male turkey. I'm bigger than the females, and I'm the one who gobbles. What two names do people call me?

   ANSWER _____

4. I'm a grown-up female turkey. I lay the eggs and keep my babies safe. What am I called?

   ANSWER _____

5. I'm a fluffy baby turkey, just hatched from my egg. My name sounds a lot like the word "poultry." What am I?

   ANSWER _____

6. When a tom wants to show off, he lifts me up and spreads me out behind him in a big, round half-circle. What am I?

   ANSWER _____

7. A big group of turkeys walking through the woods together is called this. Sheep and birds use the same word. What is it?

   ANSWER _____

8. Why did the turkey join the band?

   ANSWER _____

9. Why did the turkey cross the road?

   ANSWER _____

10. What is a turkey's favorite dessert?

    ANSWER _____

Medium riddles ★★

11. I'm a long, fleshy flap that hangs down over a turkey's beak. When a tom is excited, I grow longer and turn bright red. What am I?

ANSWER _____

12. I'm the red, wrinkly skin that dangles under a turkey's chin and neck. Roosters have me too. What am I?

ANSWER _____

13. I'm a tuft of stiff, hair-like feathers that sticks out of a tom's chest. I look like something a grandpa might grow on his chin. What am I?

ANSWER _____

14. Wild turkeys don't sleep on the ground at night, where foxes and coyotes could catch them. They fly up to sleep somewhere safer. Where?

ANSWER _____

15. Can a wild turkey fly?

ANSWER _____

16. A wild turkey is running away from you as fast as it can. About how fast is it going?

ANSWER _____

17. When a tom gets excited, the bare skin on his head and neck can change colors in seconds. Which three colors can it turn?

ANSWER _____

18. The tom puffs out his feathers, fans his tail, drags his wings on the ground and walks slowly back and forth to impress the hens. What is this proud walk called?

ANSWER _____

19. I'm a small nut with a little cap, and I fall from oak trees in autumn. Wild turkeys gobble me up to fatten up for winter. What am I?

ANSWER _____

20. Turkeys don't take baths in water. Instead, they flop in loose dirt and flap it through their feathers to keep them clean. What is this kind of bath called?

ANSWER _____

Tricky riddles ★★★

21. In 1784, I wrote a letter to my daughter. I called the bald eagle a bird of "bad moral character" and said the turkey was "a much more respectable bird." Who am I?

ANSWER _____

22. Every November, a lucky turkey (sometimes two) gets brought to the White House and sent off to live on a farm instead of becoming dinner. What does the President do for it?

ANSWER _____

23. I'm a country that shares my name with the bird in English, but in 2022 I asked the world to call me "Türkiye." What country am I?

ANSWER _____

24. Every turkey has two drumsticks. Nine people at the table each want a whole drumstick. What is the fewest number of turkeys you need to cook?

ANSWER _____

25. A farmer has 17 turkeys. All but 9 run off into the woods. How many turkeys does the farmer have left?

ANSWER _____

26. What do you call a turkey on the day after Thanksgiving?

ANSWER _____

27. Baby turkeys don't wait in the nest for weeks like baby robins. How soon after hatching do poults follow their mom out of the nest?

ANSWER _____

28. Turkeys have no teeth, so they swallow tiny stones. The stones sit in a strong, muscly pouch in their body and grind up hard seeds and nuts. What is that pouch called?

ANSWER _____

29. I'm made of a bird's two collarbones joined together in a V. At Thanksgiving, two people pull me apart for luck. What am I?

ANSWER _____

30. It's very hard to sneak up on a wild turkey, even from the side or from a little behind it. What about its eyes makes that so hard?

ANSWER _____

Answers

Turkey Riddles · answer key · print or fold this page away before you hand out the sheet

1. **A turkey**
2. **A gobble**
3. **A tom, or a gobbler**
4. **A hen**
5. **A poult**
6. **His tail feathers**
7. **A flock**
8. **Because it had the drumsticks!**
9. **To prove it wasn't chicken.**
10. **Peach gobbler**
11. **The snood**
12. **The wattle**
13. **A beard**
14. **In trees.** Sleeping up high like this is called roosting.
15. **Yes.** Wild turkeys can fly short distances, fast and low. Most farm turkeys are bred to be so heavy that they can't fly.
16. **About 25 miles per hour, faster than most people can sprint.**
17. **Red, white and blue**
18. **Strutting**
19. **An acorn**
20. **A dust bath**
21. **Benjamin Franklin.** He praised the turkey in that letter, but he never officially asked for it to become the national bird.
22. **The President pardons it.**
23. **Türkiye** (Turkey)
24. **5.** Four turkeys give 8 drumsticks, so you need a fifth for the ninth person (and someone gets a bonus).
25. **9.** "All but 9" means 9 stayed behind.
26. **Lucky**
27. **Within about a day.** Poults hatch with their eyes open and fluffy down, ready to walk.
28. **The gizzard**
29. **The wishbone**
30. **Its eyes are on the sides of its head, so it can see almost all the way around without turning.**

Need a hint? Every riddle has one at riddlepedia.com/turkey-riddles/, where you can also play them as a game.