

Name: _____



America's National Bird: Eagle or Turkey?



By Kelly Hashway

When we think of turkey, we think of Thanksgiving. When we think of symbols for America, the bald eagle comes to mind. But did you know that Benjamin Franklin once said the wild turkey would be a better symbol of America than the bald eagle?



Preview

Please log in to download the printable version of this worksheet.

something that was both brave and honest.

Franklin's other complaint was that the drawing of the bald eagle used in the great seal actually looked more like a wild turkey. This made Franklin compare the two birds, and he decided the wild turkey would have been a better symbol for our country. He said that the turkey was a more respectable bird since it was not afraid of others birds and was native to America.

Did Franklin really want the wild turkey to be the national symbol? We may never know for sure, but he definitely was not happy about having a symbol that could be associated with laziness, theft, and cowardice either. Franklin only expressed his concerns through a letter to his daughter, but imagine what it would have meant for our country if Franklin had rallied people around the wild turkey being used as our national symbol. Thanksgiving may have been very different.

Name: _____



America's National Bird: Eagle or Turkey?



By Kelly Hashway

1. Why did Benjamin Franklin think the bald eagle was a lazy thief?



Preview

Please log in to download the printable version of this worksheet.

- a. Wild turkeys are a symbol of Thanksgiving.
 - b. Wild turkeys are brave.
 - c. Wild turkeys can fly higher and faster.
 - d. Wild turkeys are smarter than bald eagles.
-
4. If the wild turkey was a national symbol for America, do you think people would still eat it on Thanksgiving? Explain your answer.

Name: _____



America's National Bird: Eagle or Turkey?



By Kelly Hashway

Tell whether each statement is a fact or opinion.
Write out the word *fact* or *opinion* on each line.

1. _____ The bald eagle has been an official symbol for America.



Preview

Please log in to download
the printable version of this worksheet.

_____ more like a turkey than an eagle.

5. _____ The bald eagle is one of the bravest birds in America.

6. _____ Bald eagles sometimes steal fish from other birds.

7. _____ Many American families eat turkey on Thanksgiving.

8. _____ Turkey is the most delicious part of Thanksgiving dinner.

Write your own opinion about wild turkeys, eagles, or Thanksgiving.

ANSWER KEY

America's National Bird: Eagle or Turkey?



Preview

Please log in to download
the printable version of this worksheet.



ANSWER KEY

America's National Bird: Eagle or Turkey?



Preview

Please log in to download
the printable version of this worksheet.



Write your own opinion about wild turkeys, eagles, or Thanksgiving.

Answers will vary.
