

Outdoor Recreation

is

Outdoor Education

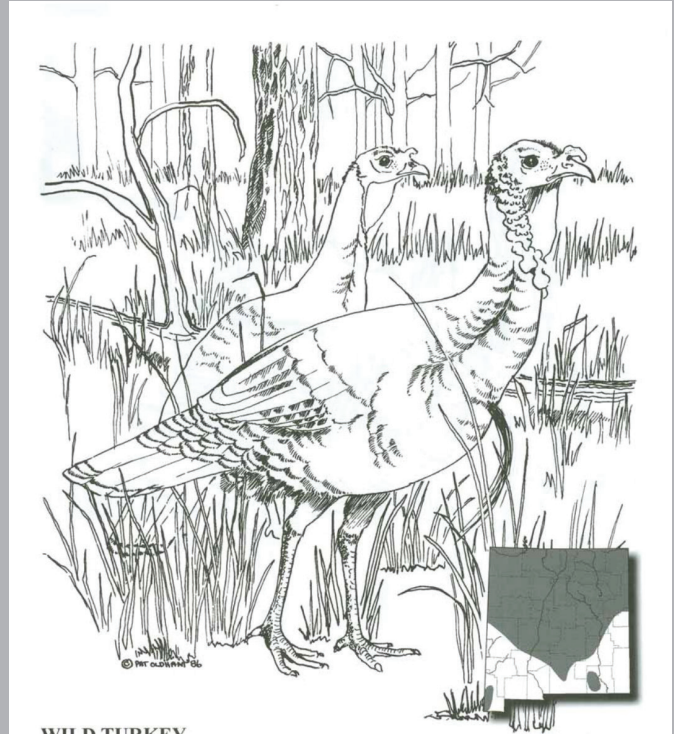
Learning by Coloring - Turkey

Grade level:

Pre-K to 4th

Objective:

Learn about turkey in New Mexico by coloring the following illustration while reading about them. The wild turkey is the largest game bird in the United States. Though wild turkey populations decreased with over hunting in the late 1800s, translocation of birds has helped to re-establish turkeys throughout much of their native range. Transplants have occurred in New Mexico since 1939 to reintroduce turkeys to their native historic range, and to improve genetics in isolated population areas. New Mexico has three sub-species of wild turkey: Merriam's, Rio Grande and Gould's. Male turkeys are well known for their spring courtship displays. Males will gobble to attract females and strut with their tail fanned.



WILD TURKEY

Three different subspecies of *wild turkeys* (Rio Grande, Merriam and Goulds) live in New Mexico in open woodland country and along river bottomlands. The male turkeys perform an elaborate display to attract female turkeys during courtship. Wild turkeys are very intelligent birds, wary and good at hiding. At night they roost up in tall, mature trees but females nest on the ground. They feed on nuts, berries, grass, insects and fruit. Predators on wild turkey include bobcats, coyotes, raccoons and humans during the spring and fall hunting season. Largely absent in the state by the early 1920's, wild turkey have been restored to almost all of their historic range.



New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

www.wildlife.state.nm.us

888-248-6866

