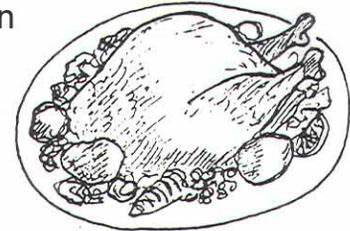


**TEACHER MATERIALS - A Turkey Grows Up**

**CONCEPT:** Math, Science, and Technology  
 -Standard 3.2- Number and Numeration  
 -Standard 3.5- Measurement  
 -Standard 4.1, 4.6- Living Environment  
 Career Development  
 -Standard 3a.1- Basic Skills



**OBJECTIVE:** The students will learn how a turkey grows.

**BACKGROUND:** See Teacher Information page.

**ACTIVITY:** 1. Have the students cut apart the pictures and assemble the pictures into the sequence as to the process of a turkey from hatching to market.

2. Discuss what other animals hatch from eggs.
- |          |             |
|----------|-------------|
| chickens | reptiles    |
| ducks    | amphibians  |
| geese    | other birds |
| robins   |             |



3. Complete the Language Arts lessons on farm animal names and **"Feed the Turkey."**
4. Have the students play the **"Wild Turkey Trot."**
5. The Cornell Cooperative Extension (4-H) in your county has a chick embryology program which you may want to use.
6. Have the students complete the **"Hatch It!"** activity.

## Teacher Information - Turkey



### History

Turkey is not only an All American celebration meal at Thanksgiving, it is also an All American bird. Unlike the native peoples, turkey survived and even thrived with the arrival of European colonists. More than a million years ago the turkey ranged from the Rocky Mountains to the Atlantic coast and Maine to Mexico. Indians kept turkeys as pets in the Southwestern United States as well as for food and feather production more than 1,000 years ago.

The Aztecs of Mexico were required to pay tribute to Chief Montezuma of one turkey every 20 days (one per person). Aztecs must have raised turkeys in great numbers to meet this demand. Turkeys were used in Montezuma's kitchen and to feed the vast quantity of hunting birds kept including eagles and falcons.

Cortes (Cortez) not only enjoyed dining on turkey but was also presented with six beautifully wrought turkeys of gold. Montezuma was a courteous host, Cortez not quite so gracious a guest. Cortez, of course, repaid this hospitality by conquering the Aztec nation.

Spanish conquistadors returned to Europe with some of the Indian domesticated turkeys. They were later imported to Spain for breeding. Turkeys thrived in Spain and soon traveled to Italy where they became quite popular. By 1575, the turkey was a popular food at Christmas banquets in England.

When colonists traveled to North America in the 1600's, domesticated turkeys came with them as did another American native—the potato. Both American foods came full circle back to America. Wild turkeys were also very plentiful. North American Indians (with the single exception of the Pueblos) hunted rather than raised turkeys. Wild turkeys were so plentiful that it was unnecessary to raise them. Often hunting turkeys was left to the children because it was so easy.

Colonists hunted or netted wild turkeys, used their eggs (when found), and used turkey fat in place of butter. Through 1818, turkeys were a cheap, plentiful food, at times even given away.

As with all else, the colonists over did it, hunting turkeys until they became scarce. Happily, the wild turkey is enjoying an explosive comeback. The author recently had a

flock of 15 wild turkeys cross the road in front of her. The typist owns ten acres and sometimes sees turkeys on her land.

### **Today's Domestic Turkeys**

The broad breasted, white meat turkey of today is far removed from its wild ancestor. Tom and hen turkeys are raised separately from the time they are poults. This is to prevent fighting of the toms and the breeding of hens. Turkeys are raised indoors to control their eating habits and predators. Dogs, hawks, fox, owls, coyotes, bobcats, house cats, weasels, snakes, hawks, and skunks—will all kill young or older turkeys. Squirrels, raccoons, skunks, opossums, and crows will eat turkey eggs. Turkeys are raised on the ground, not in cages because of their sheer weight. Turkeys have been bred to be very docile and are, therefore, somewhat stupid.

The turkey today has a larger body, vastly larger breast, shorter neck, and shorter legs than its wild counterpart.

### **Wild Turkeys**

The predators listed for domestic turkeys are the same as those of wild turkeys. Wild turkeys roost in trees so a wooded habitat is a crucial environment. The hen builds a ground nest and hatches her young there. Within ten days, the poults are tree roosting under their mother's wings. Two or more hens often share nursing responsibilities in raising poults. Wild turkeys eat fresh grasses, grains, seeds, grasshoppers, and a few other insects, wild onions, wild leeks, acorns, pine needles, pine nuts, sumac seeds, tree buds, and more. Where wild turkeys are not as plentiful as the whitetail deer, as their numbers increase, we should expect higher car/turkey accidents on our highways. Keep your eyes open.

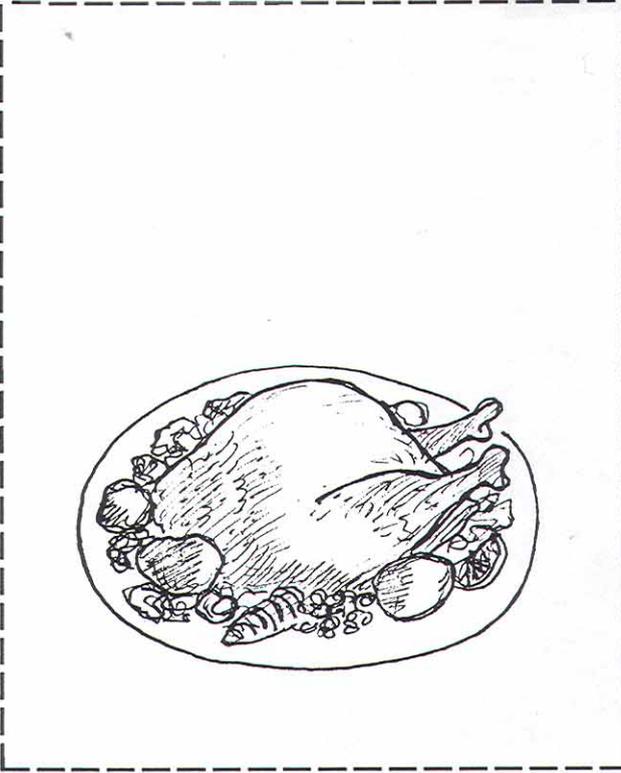
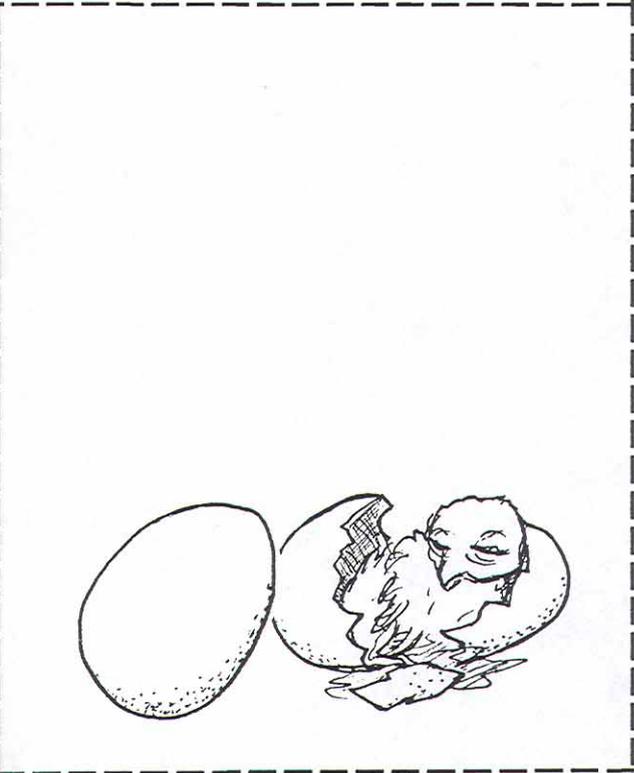
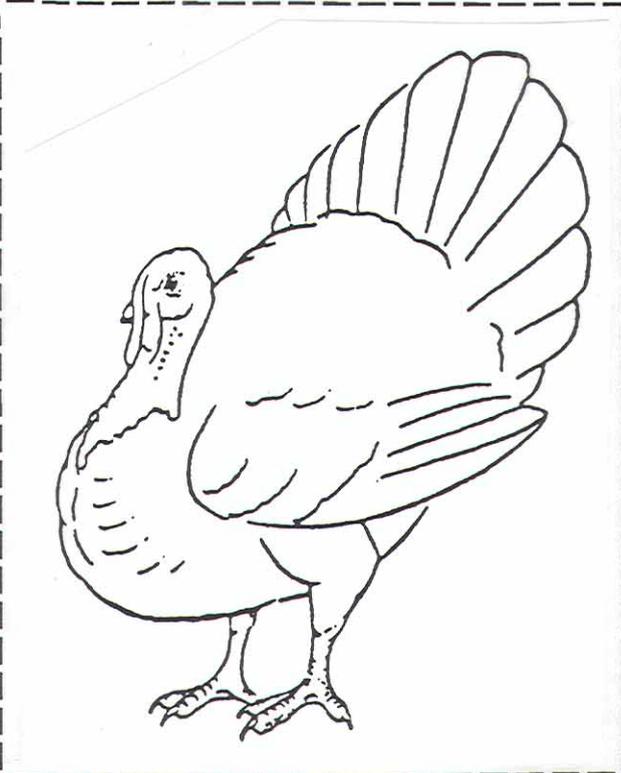
### **How did the turkey get its name?**

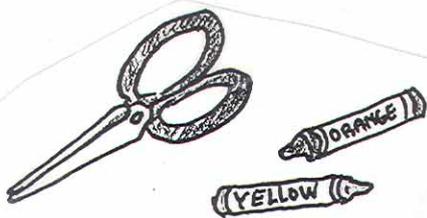
As with Indians and corn, we have another European name goof-up here. The colonists thought that this large bird they found in America's forest was a type of guinea fowl similar to that in the "old world." The country of Turkey and Western Asia was home to this large guinea fowl. Linking the two, America's plentiful bird became known as a "turkey."

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# How Turkeys Grow

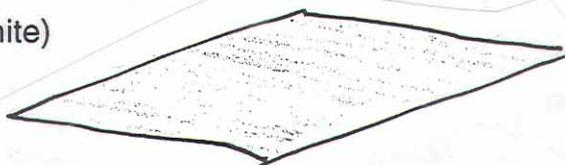
1	2
3	4



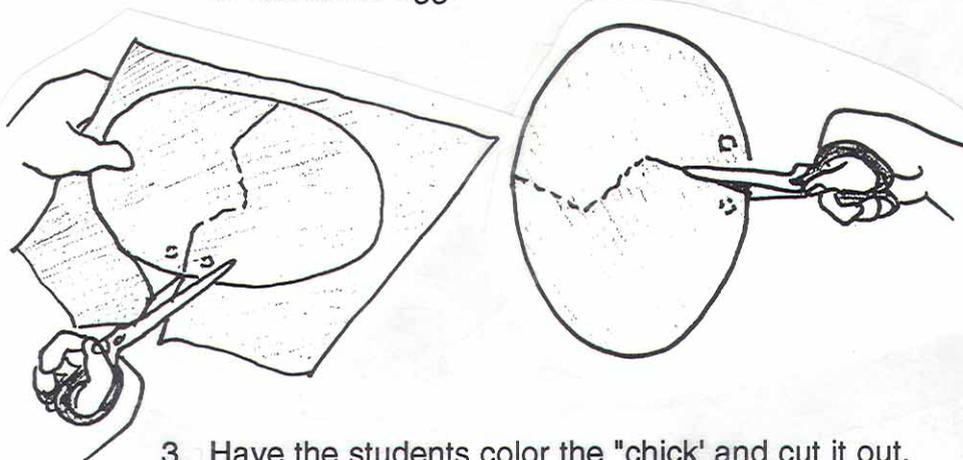


## Hatch It!

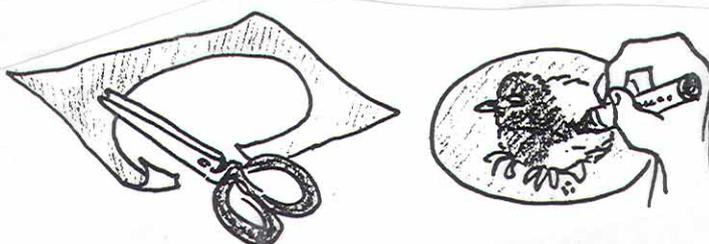
**MATERIALS:** construction paper (white)  
crayons  
scissors  
brass clasps



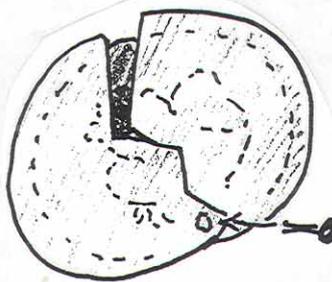
- ACTIVITY:**
1. Make copies of pages K-108 through K109, one for each student.
  2. Have the students cut out the eggs and cut across the dotted line to "crack the egg."



3. Have the students color the "chick" and cut it out.



4. Assemble the chick and two halves of the egg with the brass clasp inserted where marked.

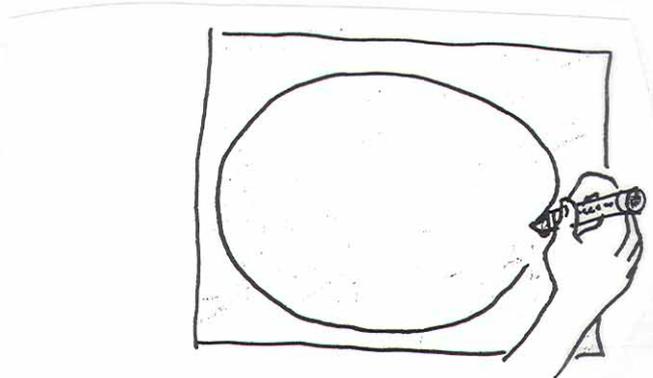


5. Close the egg to hide the chick and then "hatch it."

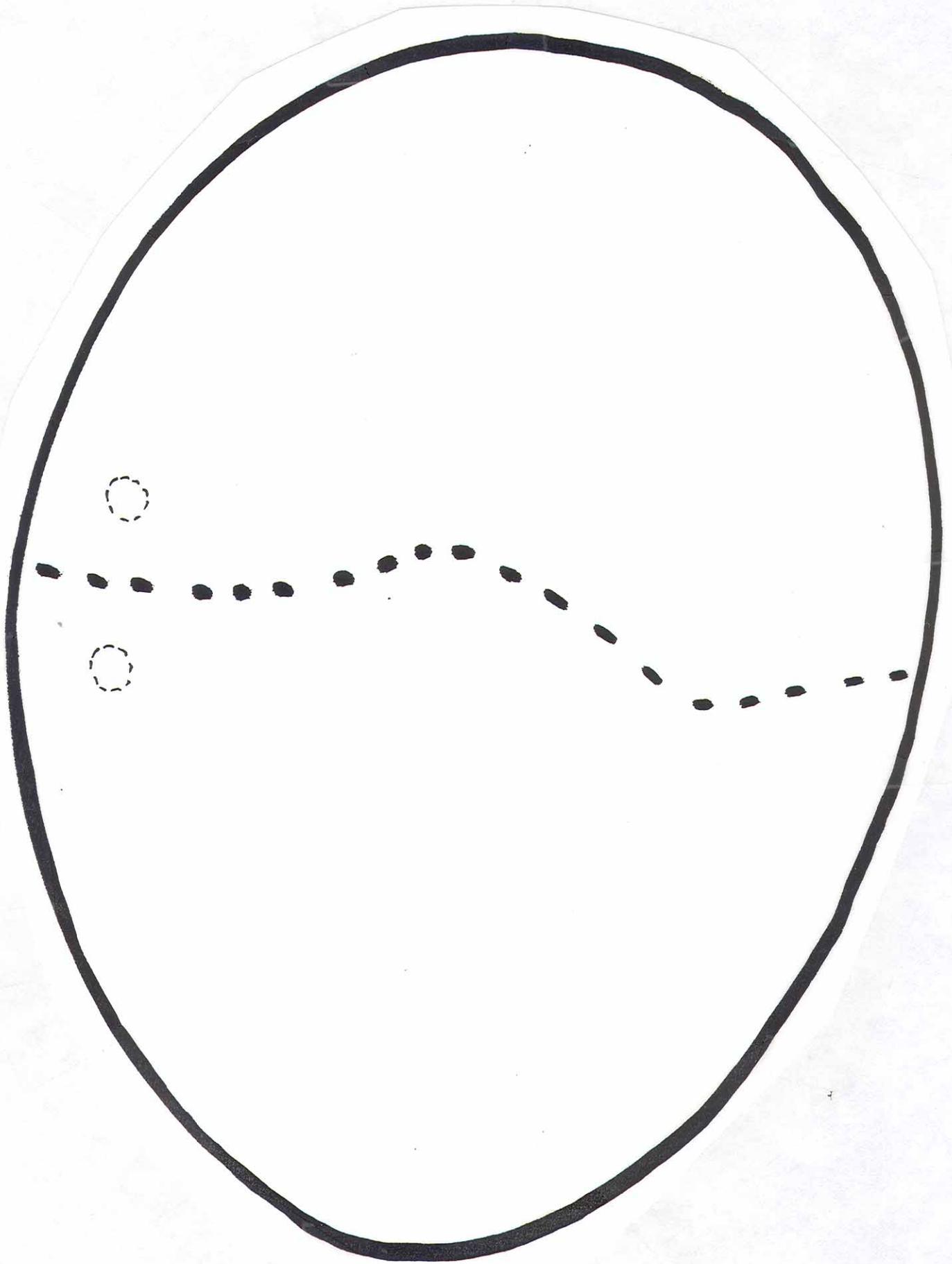


**Alternative:**

1. Have the student do their own artwork on 2 pieces of paper.



**Suggested book:** Heller, Ruth. Chickens Aren't the Only Ones. New York: Grosset & Dunlap, 1986.



K-108

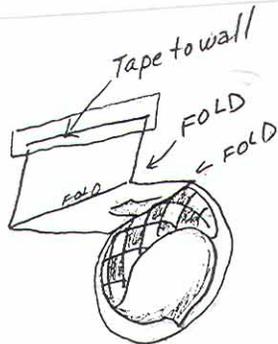


# The Wild Turkey Trot

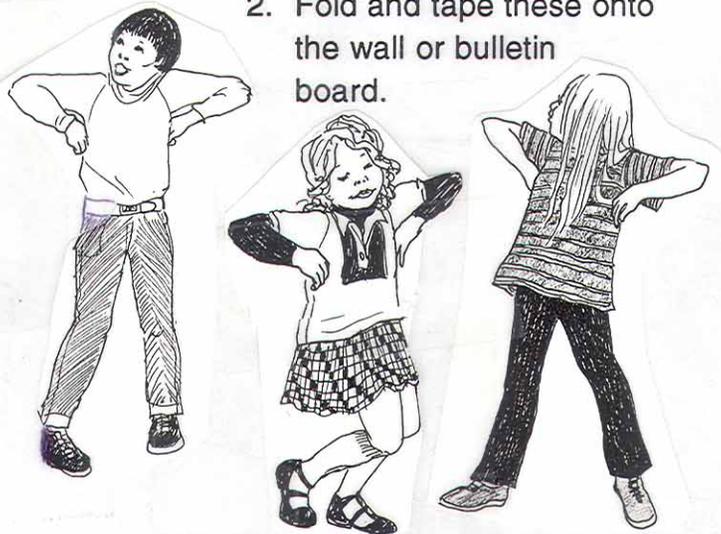
*Wild turkeys move very quickly on the ground, they fly only short distances. This running game will make students think about turkeys running and that turkeys have to consider nutrition just like they do.*

**MATERIALS:** copies of the acorns, seeds, and grasshopper page one per student  
tape

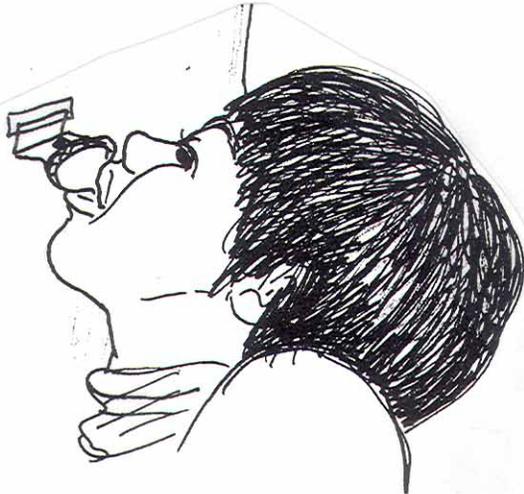
**ACTIVITY:** 1. Have the students color and cut out the wild turkey foods (acorns, seeds, and grasshoppers) on page K-111.



2. Fold and tape these onto the wall or bulletin board.

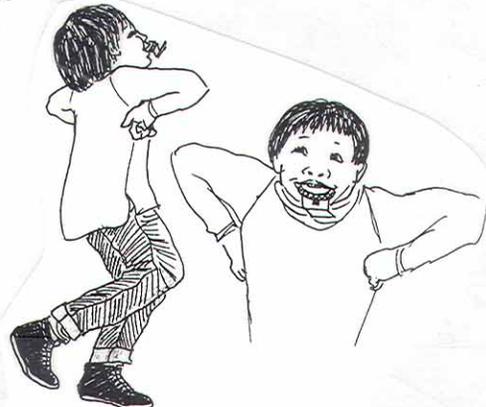


3. Have the students tuck their hands under their armpits to make wings and bob their heads like turkeys.



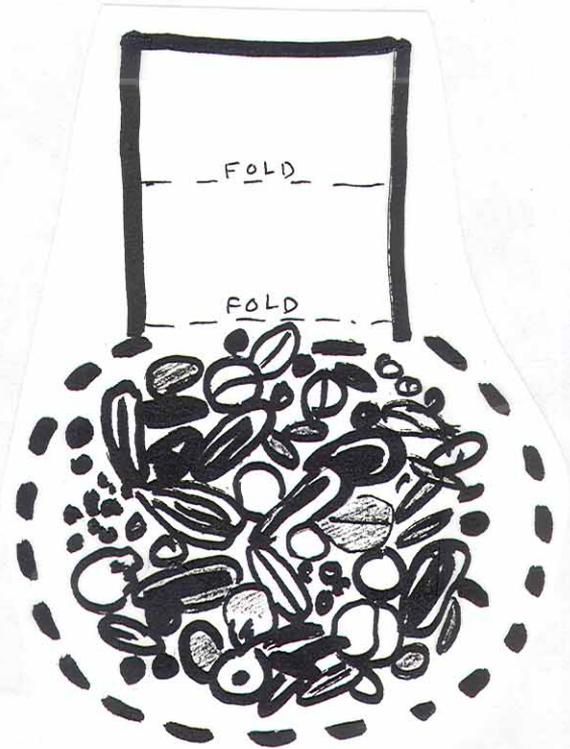
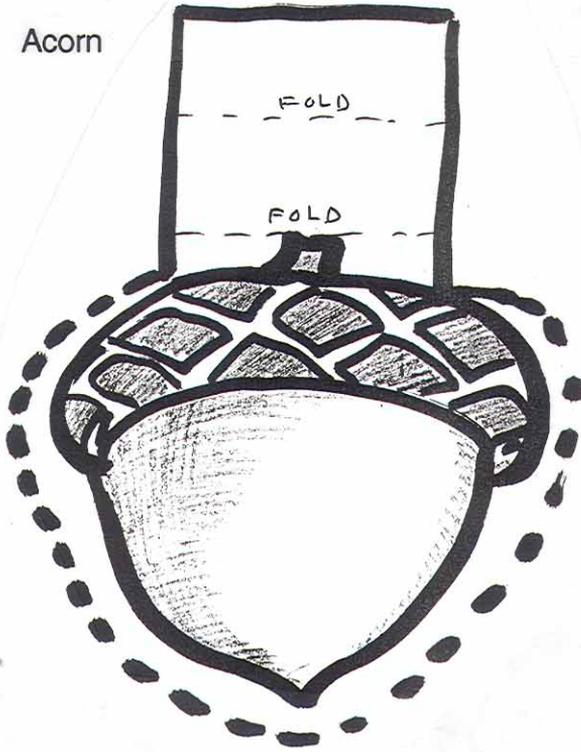
4. Have the turkeys line up opposite the bulletin board. The objective of the game is to "trot" over to the bulletin board, remove one food with their mouth, "trot" back to the starting line, drop the food, gobble, and repeat until they have all three foods. The student with three foods first, wins.

5. To alter the game, have winning students become predators and tag out the turkeys before they can eat.



# Wild Turkey Foods

Acorn



Seeds

Grasshopper

