

Thanksgiving

Grades 6-7

READING COMPREHENSION BUNDLE

READING PASSAGES,
CONTEXT CLUES COLOR
BY NUMBER AND A TEXT
MESSAGE ACTIVITY

Name: _____

Turkeys

In the United States, turkeys enjoy around Thanksgiving. Turkey products are popular when Thanksgiving rolls around, turkeys become their ascend in popularity is due to the number serving these curious animals for dinner. While people don't know much about turkeys.

Turkeys may be compared to chickens, but they have a markedly different appearance than that called a tom and the female is known as a hen and they have bigger wattles, a red pig on the turkey's neck. A turkey takes about 16 weeks. The eggs of the turkeys hatch in 28 days.

There are different types of turkeys native to North America and acorns. Surprisingly, turkeys eat snakes. Turkeys in the southwestern part of the United States were introduced to care for turkeys. They brought the turkeys to the United States.

Turkeys are divided into groups and when attacked by the turkey, the behavior towards people live, will vary. There are wild turkeys. The problem on ways that humans and turkeys interact.

It is not two theories and Turkey. The first theory says that the turkeys there were other theory says that the birds were introduced to the United States.

Name: _____

Context Clues

Look back in the passage and use context clues to determine the meaning of each word. Circle the answer, then write down the context clues from the text that helped you determine the answer.

Name: _____

Comprehension Questions

Answer the following questions using evidence from the text to support your answer.

1. What is the central idea of the passage? List two supporting details to support your answer.

2. Why do turkeys become popular?

3. Why would Native Americans use turkeys?

4. The author states that turkeys are used in many ways. Give two examples to support this claim?

5. What is the connection between turkeys and Thanksgiving?

place _____
mistakenly _____
erupt _____
populated _____

Name: _____

Text Message Analysis

Deante

Did you ask your grandma about that I am going to pick up the pumpkin tonight?

Yeah, he said he's not going to to you. He said it has been in the family for years and it's a secret.

What you promised me? What you would get it? I already told my mom that's what I'm making. What are you going to do?

I'm sorry. He is an adult and I can't make him do anything. There are some online. Use one of those.

Renee

Oh my gosh. This year has been the best. I can't believe that my mom and your dad can still be together.

I know that they are brother and sister but this happens every year. They're late old far that.

But this year it was over who got to spend the holiday. Who even wants to be the host? It was a competition to watch.

Thanksgiving is just hard to watch. I'm sure they'll be over it by New Year's.

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THE FIRST THANKSGIVING

DIFFERENTIATED READING PASSAGE & ACTIVITIES

Name: _____

The First Thanksgiving

In the United States, Thanksgiving takes place on the fourth Thursday in November. It is a time when many families overindulge in an array of food and spend time together. The celebration of Thanksgiving in the United States was inspired by the Pilgrims, who held the first Thanksgiving celebration in 1621.

In 1620, a group of settlers who later were called Pilgrims, left Europe for the land that would become the United States. They sailed on *The Mayflower*. The weather and adverse sea conditions forced them off their planned route. They landed during the winter and the bad weather and a lack of supplies took its toll on the settlers. Many succumbed to disease. Only about half of the settlers survived to spring.

The next spring, the settlers worked with the nearby Native American tribe, the Wampanoag. One Native American, Tisquantum, who was also known as Squanto, was very helpful. He spoke English and helped build relations between the settlers and the Wampanoag. He introduced the settlers to corn and pumpkins. Also, he taught the settlers to bury fish near their crops, which would add beneficial nutrients to the soil.

The settlers had a copious harvest that fall. Celebrating a good harvest was a tradition for both Europeans and Native Americans. The governor of the Plymouth Colony planned a celebration to give thanks for their crops. The celebration took place in early fall and the Wampanoag chief, Massasoit, was there. Some versions of the story state that the settlers invited him. Others state that Massasoit was there because he was either suspicious of the Pilgrims or because he wanted to discuss their use of the land. No matter which version of the story is true, he did attend, along with about ninety other members of his tribe.

The celebration lasted three days. While pumpkin pie may be one of the most iconic Thanksgiving foods in the United States, there was none that first Thanksgiving. Members of the Wampanoag brought deer that was cooked along with turkey and fish. They also ate the crops they planted, which included corn and pumpkin. The pumpkin was not baked into a pie because the Pilgrims did not have butter and flour, which are requisite ingredients for the crust. Despite the differences between the first Thanksgiving and the way it is celebrated today, the roots were planted for a tradition that has lasted many centuries.

3

Name: _____

The First Thanksgiving

In the United States, Thanksgiving is celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November. It is a time when many families get together to overindulge in food and spend time with each other. The celebration of Thanksgiving in the United States was inspired by the Pilgrims, who held the first Thanksgiving celebration in 1621.

In 1620, a group of settlers who later became known as Pilgrims, left Europe for the land that would later become the United States on *The Mayflower*. They had planned to establish a colony farther south, but the weather and adverse sea conditions forced them north. They landed during the winter and the harsh climate combined with a lack of supplies took its toll on the settlers. Many of the settlers succumbed to disease and only about half of the settlers survived the winter.

During the next spring, the settlers of the Plymouth Colony began working with the nearby Native American tribe, the Wampanoag. One Native American, Tisquantum, who was also known as Squanto, was especially helpful. He served as a translator to help build relations between the settlers and the Wampanoag. He introduced the settlers to the traditional Native American crops of corn and pumpkins. Also, he showed the settlers how to fertilize their crops by burying fish, which would add beneficial nutrients to the soil.

With the help of the Wampanoag, and particularly Squanto, the settlers had a copious harvest that fall. Celebrating a good harvest had long been a tradition for both Europeans and Native Americans, and the governor of the Plymouth Colony organized a celebration to give thanks for their farming success. The celebration took place in early fall and the Wampanoag chief, Massasoit, was in attendance. Some versions of the story state that the settlers invited him, while others suggest that Massasoit attended because he was either suspicious of the Pilgrims or because he wanted to discuss their use of the land. No matter which version of the story is true, he did attend, along with about ninety members of his tribe.

The celebration lasted three days. While pumpkin pie may be one of the most iconic foods eaten on Thanksgiving in the United States, it was not served the first Thanksgiving. Members of the Wampanoag tribe brought five deer that the women of Plymouth cooked along with turkey and fish. They also ate the fruits of their harvest, which included corn and pumpkin. The pumpkin was not baked into a pie because the Pilgrims did not have access to butter and flour, which are requisite ingredients for the crust. Despite the differences between the first Thanksgiving and the way it is celebrated today, the roots were planted for a tradition that has endured many centuries.

2

Name: _____

Context Clues

Look back in the passage and use context clues to determine the meaning of each word. Write the answer, then write down the context clues from the text that helped you determine the answer.

- array
a. dish b. pan c. selection
context clues: _____
- adverse
a. unfavorable b. favorable c. peaceful
context clues: _____
- succumbed
a. withstood b. battled c. died
context clues: _____
- beneficial
a. poisonous b. helpful c. some
context clues: _____
- copious
a. plentiful b. small c. average
context clues: _____
- iconic
a. rare b. recognizable c. pervasive
context clues: _____
- requisite
a. necessary b. optional c. unnecessary
context clues: _____

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Name: _____

Context Clues

Look back in the passage and use context clues to determine the meaning of each word. Determine what each word means based on the way it is used in the passage, then write down the context clues from the text that helped you.

- array: _____
context clues: _____
- adverse: _____
context clues: _____
- succumbed: _____
context clues: _____
- beneficial: _____
context clues: _____
- copious: _____
context clues: _____
- iconic: _____
context clues: _____
- requisite: _____
context clues: _____

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Name: _____

Comprehension Questions

Answer the following questions using evidence from the text to support your answer.

- What is the central idea of the passage? List two supporting details to support your answer.

- What evidence in the text suggests that the Pilgrims were not prepared for their journey and mission?

- While the Pilgrims and the Native Americans may have seemed like they got along the first year, they did not always have a peaceful relationship. What evidence in the text suggests that the Native Americans may have been suspicious of the Pilgrims?

- Why might the Pilgrims have felt especially grateful in the fall of 1621?

- What foods present at the First Thanksgiving are still considered popular at Thanksgiving?

6

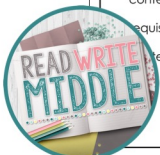
Name: _____

Writing Assignment

The success of the Pilgrims was possible because of the help provided by the Native Americans. Write about a time when someone helped you. What did you need help with? What do you think motivated that person to help you? What did you learn from the experience? In your writing, be sure to include the following:

- Explain when you needed help and how the person helped you.
- Explain what you think the person hoped you would learn from the experience.
- Make sure you proofread your writing to check for spelling and grammar issues.

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TURKEYS DIFFERENTIATED READING PASSAGE & ACTIVITIES

Name: _____

Turkeys

In the United States, turkeys enjoy a boost in popularity every year around Thanksgiving. Turkey products are popular throughout the year, but when Thanksgiving rolls around, turkeys become the star of the show. Of course, their **ascend** in popularity is due to the number of people who are planning on serving these curious animals for dinner. While popular on Thanksgiving, many people don't know much about turkeys.

Turkeys have a lot in common with chickens. They are larger and have a markedly different appearance. The male turkey is called a tom and the female is known as a hen. Toms are much larger than hens and they have bigger wattles, a red piece of flesh that hangs from the turkey's neck. A hen will lay one egg a day over the course of about two weeks. The eggs will **incubate** for 28 days, until they are ready to hatch. When the turkeys hatch from their eggs, they are known as poults.

There are two types of turkeys, wild and domestic. Wild turkeys are native to North America. Wild turkeys live with others in groups called flocks in different types of forests. They eat a variety of foods such as berries, nuts, fruits and acorns. Surprisingly, they also eat reptiles and are capable of killing and eating snakes. Turkeys were first domesticated by Native Americans in the southwestern part of the United States and in Mexico. Native Americans began to care for turkeys because they were a good source of food. Spanish explorers were introduced to these domestic turkeys when they reached Mexico and they brought the animals back to Europe.

Turkeys can be aggressive creatures. Turkeys form established social groups and when a new turkey is introduced, it is very likely that it will be attacked by the others. In addition, turkeys can demonstrate aggressive behavior towards humans. Turkeys that live near **residential** areas, where many people live, will sometimes chase after a human that they are not intimidated by. There are videos online of people running away from an **antagonistic** turkey. The problem is so bad that some towns have even released information on ways that humans can establish dominance towards a menacing bird.

It is not known for certain how turkeys got their names. There are two theories. One theory suggests that the name was derived from the country of Turkey. The first theory suggests that when Europeans first arrived in America, the turkeys they saw were mistaken for a different bird that was native to Turkey. The other theory speculates that the turkeys got their names because they arrived in Europe aboard ships that came from the Turkish Empire, so people believed that the birds were from there. Turkeys got their name from Turkey, but the birds represent the very American tradition of Thanksgiving.

Preview

Name: _____

Turkeys

In the United States, turkeys are in high demand every year around Thanksgiving. Turkey products are popular all year, but come Thanksgiving, turkeys become the star of the show. Of course, their **ascend** in popularity is due to the number of people who serve these curious animals for dinner. While popular on Thanksgiving, many people don't know much about turkeys.

Turkeys have a lot in common with chickens. They are larger and look markedly different. A male turkey is called a tom and the female is known as a hen. Toms are much larger than hens. A hen will lay one egg a day over the course of two weeks. The eggs will **incubate** for 28 days, until they are ready to hatch. Baby turkeys are called poults.

There are two types of turkeys, wild and domestic. Wild turkeys are from North America. Wild turkeys live in groups called flocks. They eat different foods such as berries, nuts, fruits and acorns. They also eat reptiles and can kill and eat snakes. Native Americans began to care for turkeys because they were a good source of food. Spanish explorers were introduced to these domestic turkeys when they reached Mexico. The explorers then brought the animals back to Europe.

Turkeys can be aggressive. They form social groups and when a new turkey is introduced, the others usually attack it. Also, turkeys can be aggressive towards humans. Turkeys that live near **residential** areas, where many people live, will sometimes chase after a human. There are videos online of people running away from an **antagonistic** turkey. Some towns have even released information on ways that humans can scare a menacing bird.

It is not known for certain how turkeys got their names. There are two theories. One theory suggests that the name was derived from the country of Turkey. The first theory suggests that when Europeans first arrived in America, the turkeys they saw were mistaken for a different bird that was native to Turkey. The other theory states that turkeys got their names because they came to Europe on ships from the Turkish Empire. Turkeys got their name from Turkey, but the birds represent the very American tradition of Thanksgiving.

Preview

Name: _____

Context Clues

Look back in the passage and use context clues to determine the meaning of each word. Circle the answer, then write down the context clues from the text that helped you determine the answer.

- ascend
a. fall
context clues: _____
- markedly
a. obviously
b. not
c. mistakenly
context clues: _____
- incubate
a. cook
b. develop
c. erupt
context clues: _____
- residential
a. uninhabited
b. forested
c. populated
context clues: _____
- antagonistic
a. aggressive
b. friendly
c. lonely
context clues: _____
- menacing
a. calm
b. threatening
c. helpful
context clues: _____
- derived
a. driven
b. agreeably
c. originated
context clues: _____

Preview

Name: _____

Context Clues

Look back in the passage and use context clues to determine the meaning of each word. Determine what each word means based on the way it is used in the passage, then write down the context clues from the text that helped you.

- ascend:
context clues: _____
- markedly:
context clues: _____
- incubate:
context clues: _____
- residential:
context clues: _____
- antagonistic:
context clues: _____
- menacing:
context clues: _____
- derived:
context clues: _____

Preview

Name: _____

Comprehension Questions

Answer the following questions using evidence from the text to support your answer.

- What is the central idea of the passage? List two supporting details to support your answer.

- Why do turkeys become popular every year?

- Why would Native Americans begin caring for turkeys?

- The author states that turkeys can be aggressive. What evidence do they give to support this claim?

- What is the connection between turkeys and the country named Turkey?

Preview

Name: _____

Writing Assignment

Turkeys are popular because they are an important main dish on Thanksgiving, but they are also very interesting animals. Write a letter to someone you know that describes two of the most interesting facts you learned in the passage. In your writing, be sure to include the following:

- Explain why turkeys become popular every year.
- List two interesting facts you learned from the passage.
- Explain why you think those facts are interesting.
- Make sure you proofread your writing to check for spelling and grammar mistakes.

Preview



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Name: _____

CONTEXT CLUES

10	8	10	8	10	8	10	8	10	8
8	10	10	10				10	8	10
10	8	10	2	2	2	10	10	8	
8	10	2	2	2	2	8	4	4	10
5	3	9	3	9	7	9	7	4	5
5	9	3	9	3	9	7	9	4	5
5	3	9	3	9	7	9	7	4	5
5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5
6	6	6	6	6	2	2	2	2	6
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

PREVIEW

PREVIEW