

Name: _____

Date: _____



Meet the Turkey Vulture!



Nature's cleanup crew with amazing adaptations!

FAST FACTS

- ★ Turkey vultures are large birds that soar high in the sky.
- ★ They have excellent senses of smell to find food.
- ★ They eat dead animals (carrion). This helps keep the environment clean and healthy.
- ★ They do not build nests. Instead, they use hollow trees, caves, rock ledges, or other safe places.
- ★ Female turkey vultures usually lay 1 or 2 eggs.
- ★ Young vultures are called chicks. They have gray down and dark faces when they hatch.
- ★ Turkey vultures spend the winter in warm places and return in spring to raise their young.

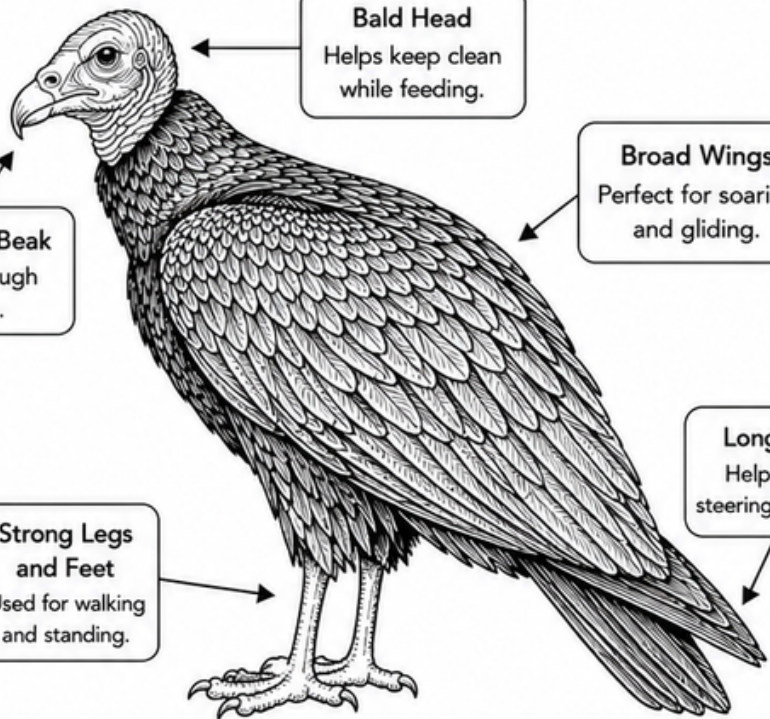
Hooked Beak
Tears tough meat.

Bald Head
Helps keep clean while feeding.

Broad Wings
Perfect for soaring and gliding.

Strong Legs and Feet
Used for walking and standing.

Long Tail
Helps with steering in flight.



AMAZING ADAPTATIONS!

Draw a line from each adaptation to what it helps the turkey vulture do.

1 Bald, featherless head

2 Strong sense of smell

3 Hooked beak

4 Broad wings

5 Defensive vomiting

Helps find dead animals from high in the sky.

Tears open tough skin and meat.

Lets it soar for long periods without flapping much.

Helps scare away predators when the vulture feels threatened.

Keeps the head cleaner while feeding.



NATURE DETECTIVE!

Look closely at the turkey vulture above.
What is one adaptation that you think is MOST amazing?
Why do you think so?

