

Turkey Drawing or Painting

Objective: Students will design and paint creative turkey portraits.

Materials: watercolor paper, plastic cups, pencils, markers, paint, paintbrushes and water, crayons

Opening activity: A Gobble- Gobble Chorus! Challenge students to line up in order from shortest to tallest, without making any noise other than turkey sounds. A little silly fun before we get down to the 'meat' of the lesson! Also, have you ever wondered WHY we eat TURKEY for Thanksgiving? This video has some theories:

<https://youtu.be/KiKm0knNTiE>

Core Activity: Walk students through the process of designing their bird! **“So, to draw a turkey....”**

Fold paper in half to achieve a crease line and place plastic cup on top of the crease line. This helps not only center the turkey but sets the stage for the turkey's size. Trace plastic cup with black crayon: this is the head of the bird! Draw two dots for eyes and an upside down triangle for a beak. Here's a video to help you draw: <https://youtu.be/zhNqpONK6L8>

Black crayon on crease line right next to the head and draw a BIG, FAT belly. Go all the way around to the other side of the head. Draw a GOBBLE GOBBLE WIGGLY SQUIGGLY shape under the head. Add two legs by drawing two straight lines connected by claws. Now draw the tail feathers: start by drawing a straight line above the head and go all the way to the top of the paper. Draw a big curve on both sides of the line as a feather. Repeat around the sides of the body until you have as many tail feathers as you desire. With paint and crayons, add lines, dots and patterns to the tail feathers and the body. Paint the bird!

Reflection: Have students take their paintings on a GOBBLE GOBBLE STRUT! Turkey Parade! And, as students clean up the space, ask them to share their memories of turkeys with the group. Why do we often prepare and eat turkeys for Thanksgiving? What other kinds of Thanksgiving traditions do they enjoy with their family?

