

Arizona Wildlife Podcast Comprehension Activity

Episode 15: Turkey Restoration

Part A: Determine whether each statement below is true or false. If it is false, correct the statement so that it will be true.

1. At one point, turkeys were completely gone from Arizona and New Mexico.
False. Turkeys were extirpated from Arizona. New Mexico has always had a small population.
2. Turkey populations are having trouble recovering from the devastating Rodeo-Chediski fire.
False. Turkeys are doing quite well now in the burned areas. Spring hunts are even allowed.
3. During the early relocations, turkeys were brought from Mexico.
True.
4. Today there are about 1,000 turkeys in Arizona.
True.

Part B: Define each of the terms below.

1. Extirpated – **an animal or plant that has gone extinct in a specific, local area like a state or country**
2. Gobbler – **a male turkey**
3. Hunt Unit – **an area of the state identified for hunting and management purposes**
4. Quarantine – **to place in isolation to prevent the spread of disease**
5. Tag – **an authorization to hunt a specific animal, tags are limited and available through a random drawing**

Part C: *Hunting is controversial but is considered a valid wildlife management tool. The following questions focus on turkey hunting in Arizona. Answer in complete sentences. The answers are not necessarily included in the content and may require some critical thinking.*

1. Turkeys are not endangered. In fact, they can be legally hunted in Arizona. However, you cannot hunt them in all the locations where they are found. Why?
Answers may vary. In some places, turkeys have been reintroduced and the populations are not stable yet. Hunting in this area could risk this population so it has been restricted until appropriate population numbers have been reached. In addition, some areas with a lot of turkeys are used to restore populations elsewhere. In these cases, the area may be temporarily closed to allow the trapping of turkeys for relocation.
2. During the fall, people can hunt for any type of turkey. However, during the spring, hunting is reserved to “bearded turkeys” only. Why?
Answers may vary. During the spring, turkey are likely reproducing. By not allowing female turkeys to be taken, there is a greater chance that the eggs will hatch and the young will survive to maintain the population.
3. How have hunters and hunting been beneficial to turkey populations in Arizona?
Answers may vary. Hunters have been the main ones pushing for turkey reintroductions in the state. In fact, it was the National Wild Turkey Federation, composed primarily of hunters, which initiated the restoration in the early 1980s. The money and volunteers they have contributed has made these restorations possible.