

ABC & Math Turkey Activities



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Wobbly Head ABC Turkeys

Use Thanksgiving crafts to teach ABCs, as well as art. The sponge painted ABC turkey pictured on the cover is a fun way to incorporate language arts into your art lesson.

Concentrate on a few letters at a time

If your students are just learning their ABCs, use only 3 or 4 sponge letters instead of the whole pack (less clean up too). Say the names of the letters often as you work with the students. E.G. "Please pass the Y to Alex, he hasn't had a chance to use it yet." or "I like the bright orange color you used to make your Bs..."

Art Tip #1- Let the kids explore the ABC sponges first!

Any time you plan to use new materials with preschool and kindergarten students, allow them plenty of time to play with them before actually using them for a project. Prior to making this Thanksgiving craft, place some sponge letters and paint in the art center.

Use different colors than you plan to use for your turkey activity. This will give the children time to squeeze and scrunch the letters, watch paint drip from them and smear paint around. Once they get this out of their system, you will get better results with your Thanksgiving art!

Art Tip #2 - Always try the art or craft yourself

The best way to be aware of the mistakes your students will make with any craft, is to create the project yourself before setting it out for the children. You will discover pitfalls such as forgetting to leave room to draw feet on the turkey, putting too much or not enough paint on the sponge letters or pressing down too hard when stamping the letters, creating blobs of paint rather than letters.

Materials you'll need to construct the turkey

- Background paper
- Construction paper for turkey body and head
- Small triangle orange stickers or paper beaks
- Circle tracers for body and head
- Scissors, crayons for tracing and eyes
- Red circle stickers for turkey's wattle

- Optional - wheat kernels and white glue
- Thin rectangle of card stock to join head to body

Materials for painting:

- 3 or 4 letters from a bag of ABC sponges
- Trays of creamy (not too thick) red, orange, yellow paint (refill often rather than filling too full)
- Paper towels

Making the ABC Turkeys

1. Trace, cut, and glue a body circle to the lower middle of the background paper (I put a red dot where they are to glue it)
2. Trace and cut a head circle, then attach it to the body with the small rectangle tab of cardboard (this will make the head poke out, teacher may have to help)
3. Draw feet, use crayons to enhance body feathers and head, draw eye
4. Stick red sticker wattle and snood (see below!) to the head
5. Take picture to paint station and GENTLY stamp letters to create the feathers (pressing hard creates blobs of paint!)
6. Optional - When the paint is dry, glue grain on each side of the turkey's feet

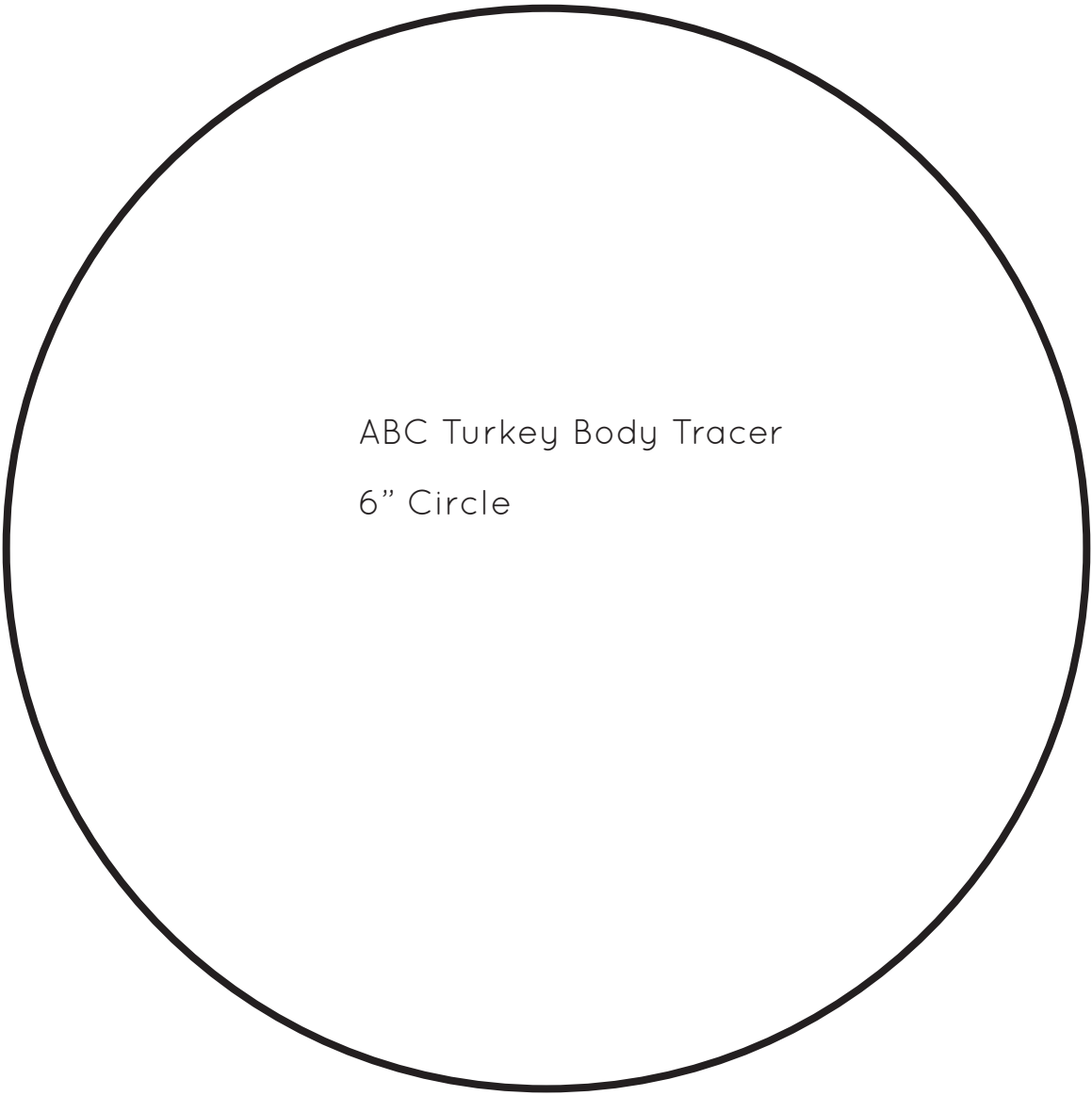
Fun wild turkey facts to share with your students...

- Adult male turkeys are called toms, females are called hens
- Very young turkeys are poults
- Juvenile males are jakes, juvenile females are jennies
- A group of turkeys is called a rafter or a flock
- The long fleshy area that grows from a turkey's forehead is called a snood

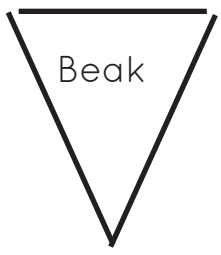
Did you know?

- Turkeys like to eat grass, seeds, acorns, nuts, berries and small insects such as grasshoppers
- Only the male turkey makes the gobble sound
- Wild turkeys prefer to sleep in tree branches because they are safe from predators
- Coyotes, foxes and raccoons like to munch on turkeys
- Wild turkeys often sleep in flocks

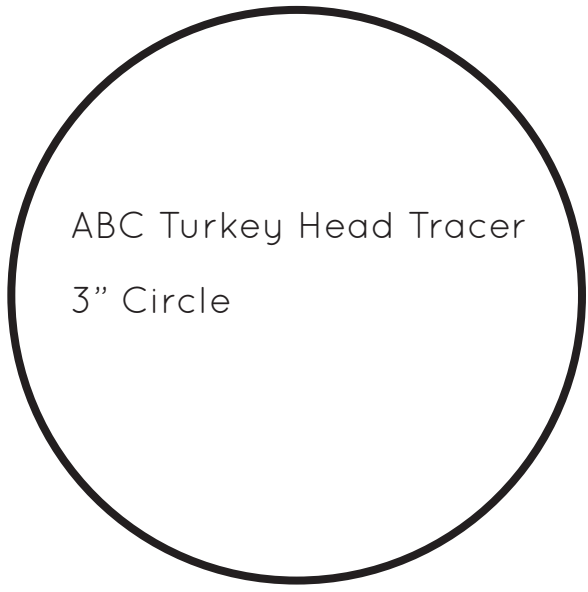




ABC Turkey Body Tracer
6" Circle



Beak



ABC Turkey Head Tracer
3" Circle

Repeat Pattern Turkeys

The turkey below uses art to teach or review the concept of pattern. Once all children have made their repeat pattern turkeys, use them to decorate your bulletin boards and add some colorful Autumn leaves. There is a set of leaf tracers at the end of this document if you need them.

Materials

- Make cardboard tracers for the students, using the body and feather tracers included (optional - you can just cut your own shapes)
- Background paper
- Construction paper for the turkey body
- Precut feathers - cut three colors of 9 x 12 construction paper in half horizontally, then accordion fold the paper and cut out many feathers at a time
- Scraps of orange and red paper for beaks, wattles, and snoods
- A circle tracer about 3" across

Yellow Red - Yellow Red - Yellow Red Pattern



Repeat Pattern Turkey Directions

- Pencils, scissors, glue sticks, crayons

Start with the the feathers

1. Children trace a small circle on the bottom part of their papers, leaving room to draw feet
2. Children arrange the colored feathers around the circle using a repeat pattern
3. Repeat pattern examples: yellow red, yellow red OR yellow red brown, yellow red brown
4. Children put glue on the circle, than attach one feather at a time using their repeat pattern (a lot less messy than putting the glue on the feathers)



Now for the Body & the Head

5. Each child traces, then cuts out one turkey body and one turkey head
6. Children glue the turkey body on top of the circle.
7. Children draw eyes, then cut out and glue on a small orange triangle beak and red raindrop shape wattles

Tip!

- Before you begin, give the kids a short lesson, showing them a close up view of a turkey head.
- Talk about the triangle shape of the beak and the raindrop shape of the wattle. Show them a picture of a turkey claw also.

Extension of Repeat Pattern turkeys

- When students have completed making repeat pattern turkeys, have each child place his/her turkey in a category, depending on the type of pattern he/she chose. As a group, count how many of each pattern (ABAB, ABCABC, etc.), then record how many in each group.

Laminate a Repeat Pattern Turkey for the Math Center...

Make, then laminate, a turkey, and about 20 feathers in three different colors of card. The children explore making many different repeat patterns ABAB, ABB, or ABC, with the laminated feathers, then record their favorite patterns by coloring the feathers on the turkey worksheet provided on page 6.

Repeat Pattern Turkey Addition

You can also use the Thanksgiving turkey pattern and feathers to review counting and addition.

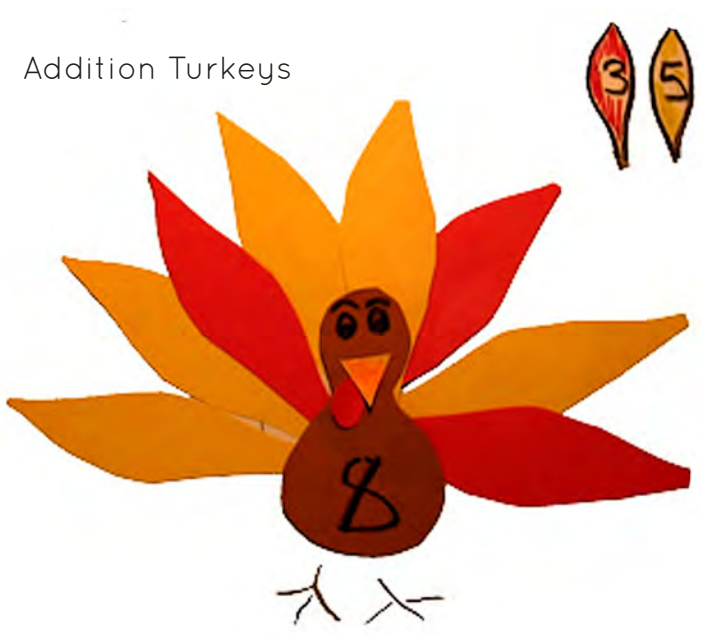
For Counting

- After the students give their turkeys a wonderful display of feathers, have them count the number of each color and record them on their paper.

Directions for Addition Turkeys

- Make the turkeys the same way as on page four but limit children's color choice to two colors only (you can use more if you want your students to add three or more numbers).
- Students count, then record the number of each color of feathers below the turkey. Then they record how many feathers all together (see sample on right).
- Students may also print how many feathers all together on the turkeys body.
- Optional - count one color of feather, print the number at the top, then draw the same color of feather around the number.


Addition Turkeys



3 ● + 5 ● = 8

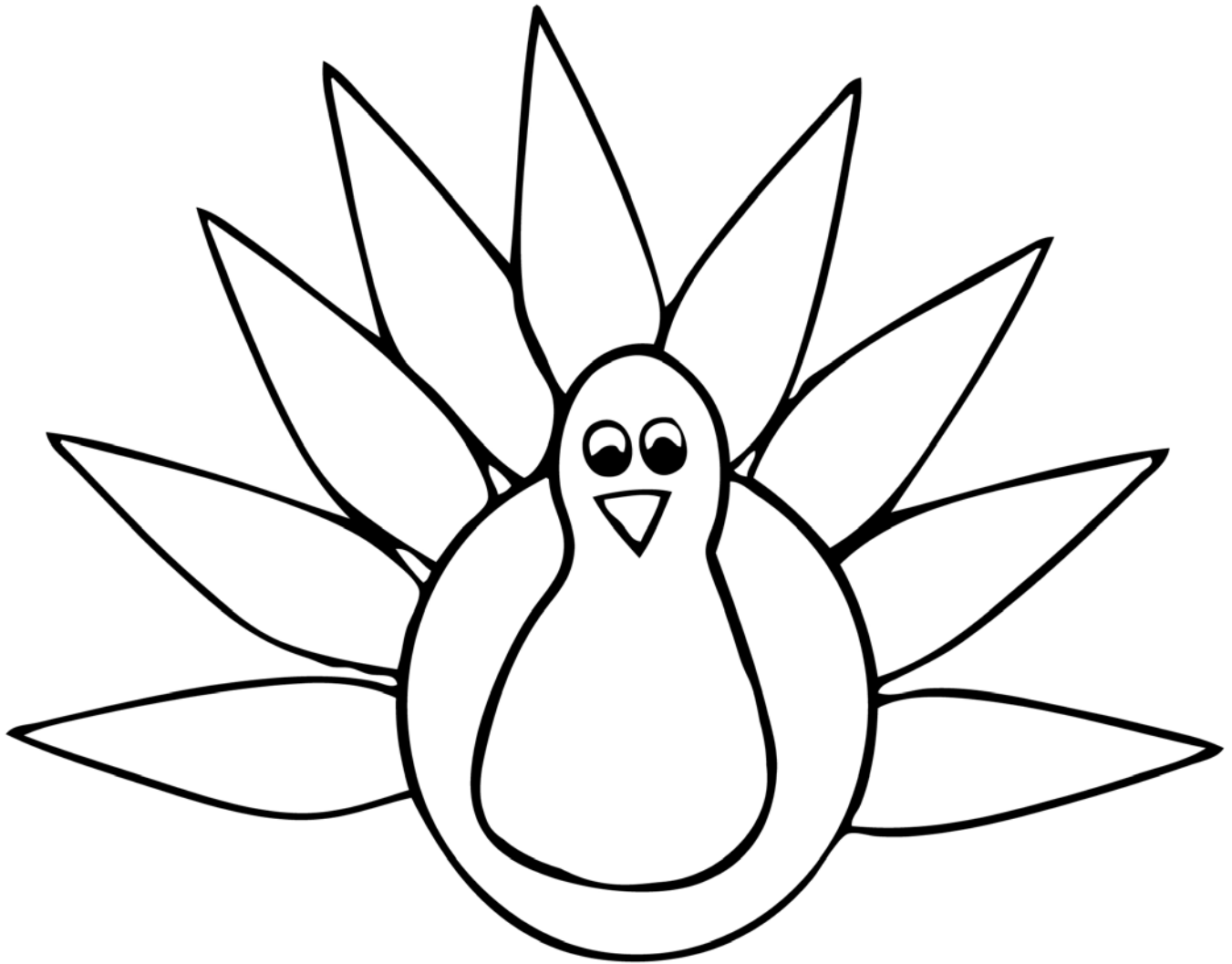
Optional

Instead of doing another art lesson for turkey addition, use the worksheet provided on page 6.



6 ● + 3 ● = 9

Turkey worksheet for repeat pattern and addition turkey.





**Turkey
Head/Body
Tracer**

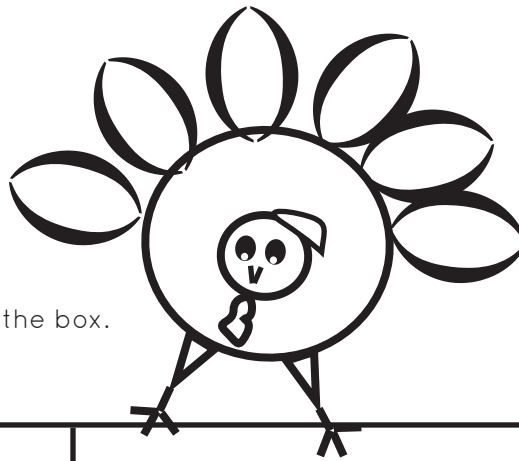
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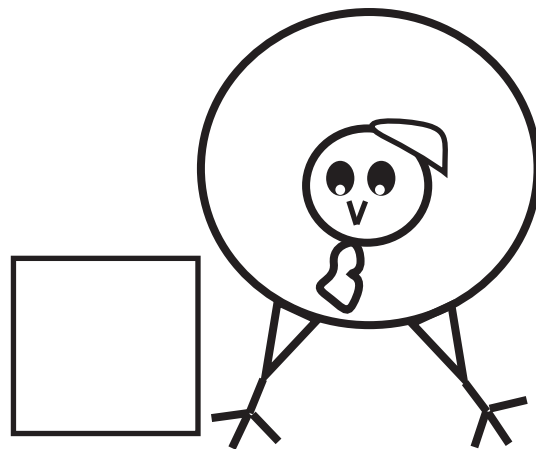
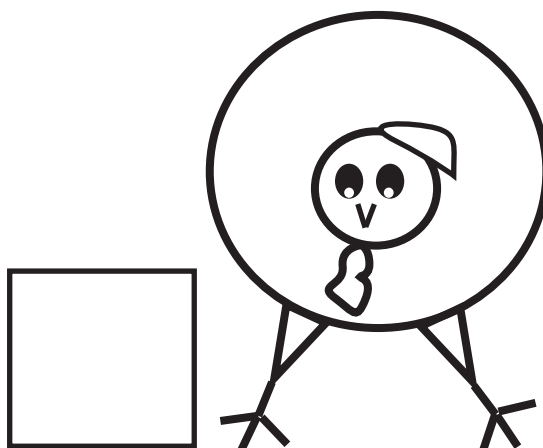
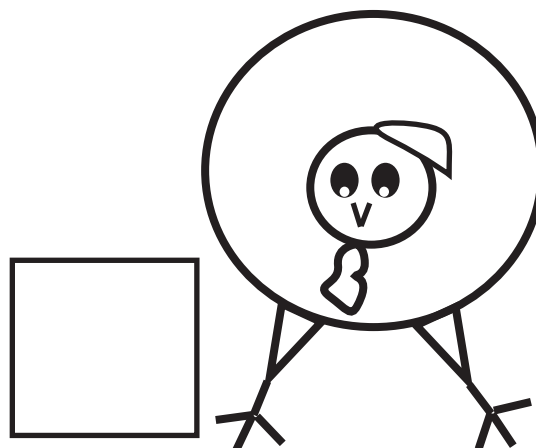
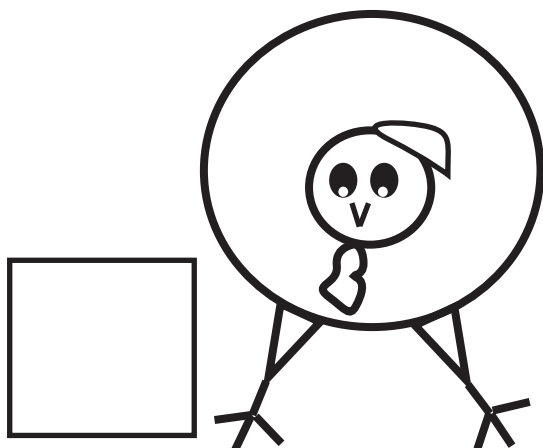
**Feather
Tracer**

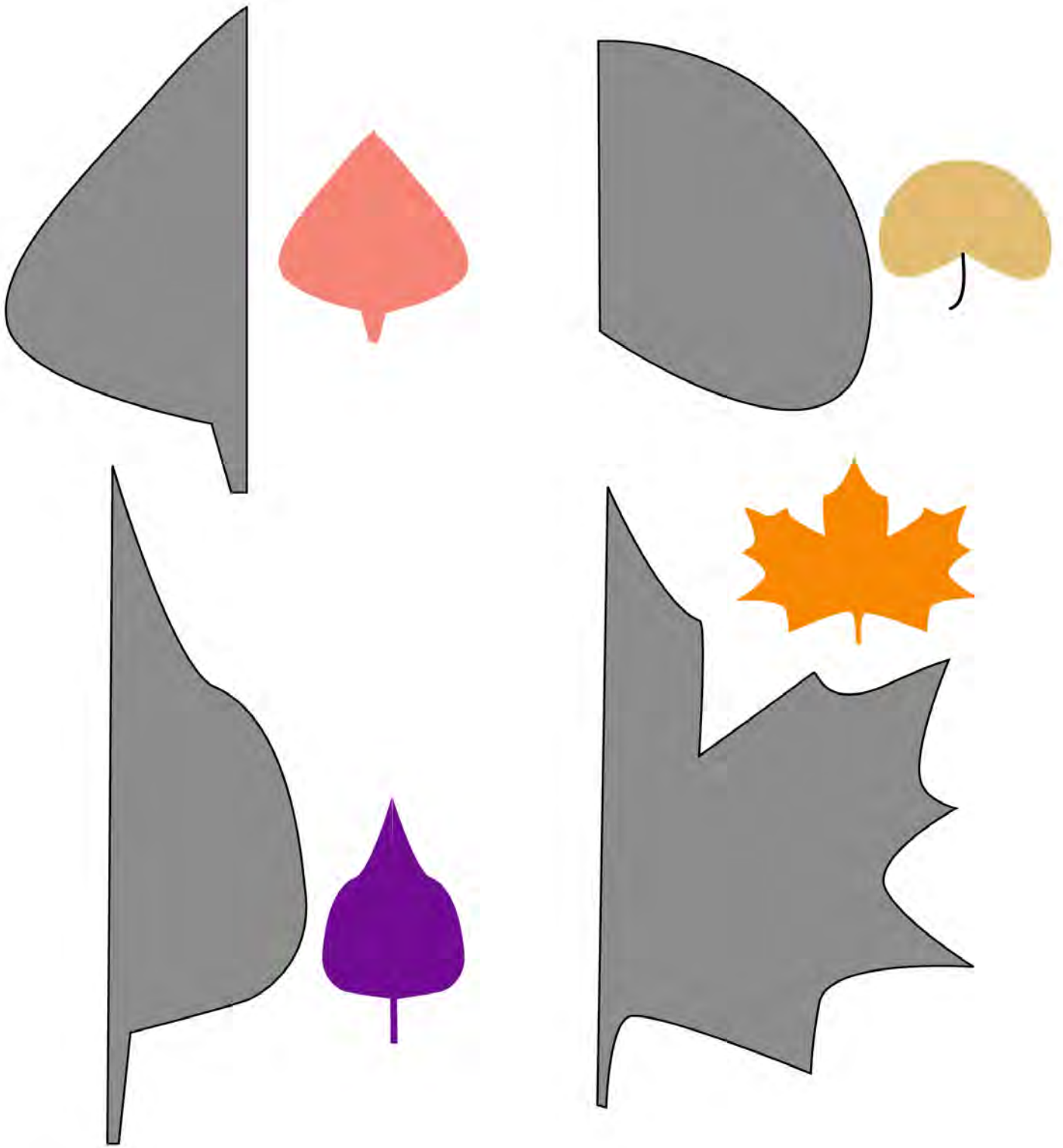
Give the turkey some tail feathers

- Draw feathers on each turkey.
- Color the feathers and the turkey.
- Put the number of feathers you drew in the box.



6





Leaf Tracers

Each child traces and cuts out a few leaves to help decorate an Autumn bulletin board.