

# Class Starters & Enders

## Making the Most of Instructional Time Five Minute Lessons

Class Starters and Enders help utilize the last minutes of class when a lesson ends but there is not enough time to start another, or for an interest approach at the beginning of class. Mini-lessons correlate to GPS in the programs areas below.

### Georgia's Wild Game Birds

**Program Areas:** Agriculture, Culinary Arts, Forestry

**Instructions:** Read the material and make notes of important points, answer questions, and be ready to discuss this topic.

#### Introduction

There are all sorts of reptiles, mammals, insects, and birds that call Georgia home. Some of these species are **native** to the state, meaning the state is one of their natural habitats. Many wildlife species, such as deer and wild **game birds** of the order Galliformes, are commonly seen on the dinner table. These four wild game birds are those native to Georgia. They are all used in pies, soups, and stews, or can be roasted, baked, or fried and served as a main dish.



#### Eastern Wild Turkeys

Benjamin Franklin wanted this Thanksgiving staple to be the national bird instead of the bald eagle, as it was the bird the Pilgrims encountered when they came to America. The eastern wild turkey is the most abundant and hunted species of turkey in the country. The male is called either a **gobbler** or a tom, and can be up to four feet tall and weight more than 20 pounds. Gobblers have different shades of brown, copper, and black feathers. They also have a bright red fleshy appendage called a **caruncle** as well as **beards** and **spurs**. **Hens**, the females, can be just as tall as the gobblers but generally weigh less and their coloring is browner and less metallic. They too can have beards and spurs, but theirs are less prominent than those of males. **Poult**s, or baby turkeys, tend to hatch in June, and are able to fly short distances by the time they are two weeks old.



#### Northern Bobwhite Quails

The bobwhite quail is the official game bird of Georgia and Tennessee. This bird species is called a "bobwhite" because of its characteristic whistle. Bobwhite quails have a dark cap stripe between their eyes and along their heads – black in males and brown in females – and have body feathers of white, yellow brown, brown, and black. The feather colors help bobwhite quails **camouflage** with their surroundings. Chicks, or baby bobwhites, eat grasshoppers as their primary diet, but adults also eat various grains and weeds.



#### Ruffed Grouses

You might have heard of this Georgia game bird in popular holiday songs – the ruffed grouse is also referred to as a partridge, even though the partridge is a different species, or as a grinch. Ruffed grouses can be either gray or brown. Both genders have **ruffs** on their necks and **crests** on their heads, and because of similar coloring, are very hard to tell apart. Females have rump feathers with a single white dot and males have more than one white dot. Ruffed grouses eat buds, leaves, insects, seeds, and berries.



#### Mourning Doves

Mourning doves are not actually part of the Galliformes order, but are still the country's leading game bird. Mourning doves are a muted gray color and the males and females are difficult to distinguish. Mating pairs are **monogamous** and lay two eggs at a time, hatching about six **squabs**, or baby doves, in a year. The doves eat seeds almost exclusively – though squabs will eat **crop milk** – and sometimes swallow dirt or gravel to help with digestion.

#### Review Questions

1. What bird did Benjamin Franklin want to be the national bird?
2. What order are most game birds part of?
3. What is the country's leading game bird?
4. What are two other names ruffed grouses are called?
5. Where did bobwhite quails get their name?

#### Language Connection

Define the following terms.

Beards	Gobbler	Spurs
Camouflage	Hens	Squabs
Caruncle	Monogamous	
Crests	Native	
Crop Milk	Poult	
Game Birds	Ruffs	

Georgia CTAE Resource Network - Written by Dallas Duncan and Frank B. Flanders, Ed.D.

Portions of this text, originally from Wikipedia, were modified and the information independently verified. Text is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License; additional terms may apply. See Terms of Use for details. - <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>