

Name _____ Date _____

Key Vocabulary	
auction	public sale in which goods, property, or animals are sold to the highest bidder
slaughter	kill, typically for food
advocacy	support for a cause
vegan	someone who does not use animals, including for food, or something that does not come from animals

Mayflower the Turkey, a Thanksgiving Story

Mayflower the turkey was found as a baby at a Pennsylvania **auction**. He was about to be sent to **slaughter** for someone's Thanksgiving dinner, when his luck suddenly changed.

A PETA staffer and an animal-**advocacy** organization called Long Island Orchestrating for Nature rescued him and a dozen other sick baby turkeys and ducklings, saving them from a miserable death. Mayflower is now safe and happy in his permanent new home at Broome Animal Sanctuary in Middleburgh, New York.



Just like all turkeys, Mayflower has a unique personality. After being rescued, he befriended Lucy and Ethel, two chickens he now roosts with. He was smaller than them when he arrived, but today, healthy and thriving, he's four or five times their

size. That doesn't bother them, though—they still do everything together, including cuddling up for naps, foraging in the grass, and enjoying fresh fruits and veggies.

Every year, more than 44 million turkeys are killed for Thanksgiving alone. Sensitive birds just like Mayflower are raised on factory farms and denied even the simplest of pleasures—like breathing fresh air, running, building nests, having families, and raising their young. They're forced to live in cramped, usually filthy conditions. Portions of their toes and upper beaks are cut off with a hot blade—all without painkillers—so they won't injure each other in the tightly packed warehouses they're forced to live in. At the slaughterhouse, their throats are cut, sometimes while they're still conscious. Turkeys feel pain and fear, just as humans and all other animals do. They don't need to be killed for our dinner.

Fortunately, Mayflower was saved before he could end up as a Thanksgiving meal, but millions of other turkeys like him aren't so lucky. His heartwarming story is intended to inspire people to choose delicious **vegan** meals for the holidays—and all year round. Just as a compassionate person saved Mayflower, we, too, can be compassionate and help save turkeys and other animals. Thanksgiving is all about appreciation, so this year, why not show your appreciation for turkeys and hundreds of other animals by deciding to leave them off your plate?

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Comprehension Questions: Mayflower the Turkey, a Thanksgiving Story

1. What would've happened to Mayflower if he hadn't been rescued?

2. What are some things that Mayflower and his friends Lucy and Ethel like to do together?

3. How do you think Mayflower felt before being rescued and then afterward? What makes you think so?

4. What were you surprised to learn from the article? How will that new information influence your actions going forward?

5. How can people help save turkeys and other animals this Thanksgiving?

Answer Sheet: Mayflower the Turkey, a Thanksgiving Story

1. What would've happened to Mayflower if he hadn't been rescued?

Answer: If Mayflower hadn't been rescued, he would've been sent for slaughter so humans could eat him on Thanksgiving. (Literal)

2. What are some things that Mayflower and his friends Lucy and Ethel like to do together?

Answer: Mayflower, Lucy, and Ethel like to cuddle up for naps, forage in the grass, and eat fresh fruits and veggies together. (Literal)

3. How do you think Mayflower felt before being rescued and then afterward?

What makes you think so?

Possible answer: Mayflower probably felt frightened before being rescued because he probably came from a factory farm, where many turkeys are packed into dark, dirty warehouses. After he was taken to a sanctuary, he probably felt safe and loved because he made friends and was cared for there. (Inferential)

4. What were you surprised to learn from the article? How will that new information influence your actions going forward?

Possible answer: Answers will vary. Students may be surprised to learn how turkeys are treated on factory farms or that they feel pain and fear. Encourage students to reflect on their feelings about Mayflower and help them understand that turkeys—and all other animals—are individuals with thoughts and feelings who deserve respect. (Evaluative)

5. How can people help save turkeys and other animals this Thanksgiving?

Answer: People can help save turkeys and other animals by not eating them and instead eating vegan foods. (Literal)