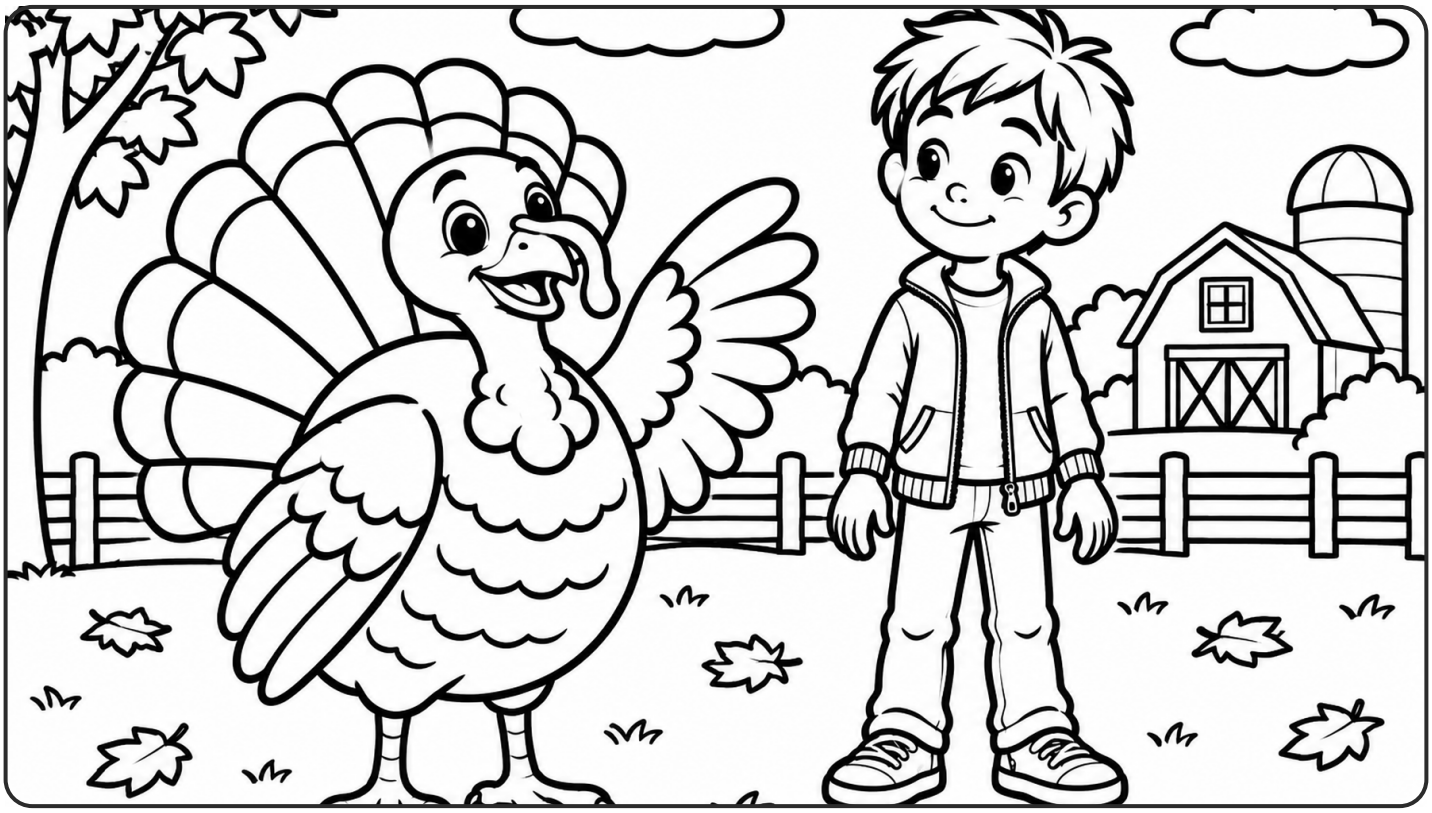
Why do turkeys' heads change color?

Whoa, look! His head is blue! Why do turkeys' heads change color?



Why?

1. **A turkey's head is bare skin.**
   There are no feathers on it. The bumpy skin under the chin is the wattle. And the floppy thing over the beak is the snood.
2. **Tiny threads and tiny blood vessels.**
   Under the skin are lots of tiny threads, lined up side by side. When the blood vessels in between swell up, they push the threads farther apart. When they shrink, the threads move closer together.
3. **It's not paint. It's light!**
   That changes how light bounces off the skin. So you see a different color - red, or white, or blue!

Try it! Look at a turkey's head

You need: a turkey on a farm or at the zoo

1. Next time you see a turkey, look at its head.
2. What color is it today?

What happened? A turkey's head can turn red, then white, then blue!

Video + more questions:
whywhywhykids.com/turkeyhead

scan with a grown-up