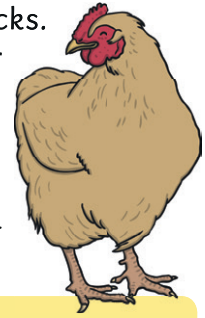


Chicken Life Cycle

Chickens are the most common bird on earth. There are about 60 different breeds. Chickens like to live in a group and the groups are called flocks. Each flock has some chicks, some hens and a rooster. Chickens make over 30 chicken sounds!

Chickens eat worms, insects, seeds, grains, fruits, vegetables, and lots more. Chickens don't have teeth; they swallow their food whole into a part of their stomach called the gizzard that has tiny stones in it, which help to grind up their food.



What happens during the first stage of the chicken life cycle?

Egg

The hen lays an egg - they can do this without cockerels. The unfertilized eggs are what humans bake cakes and other foods with and eat cooked as boiled, fried, poached or scrambled eggs. Only if the egg is fertilized by a cockerel, can it become a chick. Chickens lay more eggs when its warmer. Chicken eggs can be brown, white, blue, bluish green and pink. The hen incubates the eggs by sitting on them to keep them warm.



What happens during the second stage of the chicken life cycle?

Chick

Baby chickens are called chicks. The chick starts its life by hatching from an egg when it is ready. It pecks a hole in the shell with a bump on its beak called an egg tooth. When the chicks first hatch, they are covered with tiny, soft, fluffy feathers called down, but they are wet at first. Down feathers keep them warm.



What happens during the third stage of the chicken life cycle?

Hen or Cockerel

The chick grows up and changes over time into a chicken. Chickens can live between 10 and 15 years and are raised for their meat and eggs. Female chickens are called hens and male chickens are called cockerels. Cockerels are bigger and more colourful than the hens. They do a little dance to impress the hens. Cockerels protect the hens and the hens protect their chicks.

Hens are ready to lay their first eggs when they are around 6 months old. When the hen lays and incubates an egg, the chicken life cycle starts all over again! Hens can lay around 300 eggs every year.

Questions about the Chicken Life Cycle

Answer the questions below in full sentences.

1. How many different breeds of chicken are there?

2. Name two things that chickens eat.

3. Which part of their stomach has stones in it? What does it do?

4. What colour can eggs be?

5. Name 3 types of cooked eggs.

6. How does the hen incubate the egg?

7. What is the chick's egg tooth for?

8. What are the chick's feathers like? What are they for?

9. What do cockerels do to impress hens?

Questions about the Chicken Life Cycle

Answers

1. How many different breeds of chicken are there?

There are about 60 different breeds.

2. Name two things that chickens eat.

**Chickens eat worms, insects, seeds, grains, fruits and vegetables.
(Accept any two.)**

3. Which part of their stomach has stones in it? What does it do?

A part of their stomach called the 'gizzard' has tiny stones in it which help to grind up their food.

4. What colour can eggs be?

Chicken eggs can be brown, white, blue, bluish green and pink.

5. Name 3 types of cooked eggs.

**Humans eat cooked boiled, fried, poached and scrambled eggs.
(Accept any three.)**

6. How does the hen incubate the egg?

The hen incubates the eggs by sitting on them to keep them warm.

7. What is the chick's egg tooth for?

It uses its egg tooth to peck a hole in the shell.

8. What are the chick's feathers like? What are they for?

When the chicks first hatch they are covered with tiny, soft, fluffy feathers called down, but they are wet at first. Down feathers keep them warm.

9. What do cockerels do to impress hens?

They do a little dance to impress the hens.