

LESSON PLAN

SUBJECT**The Life of Broiler Chickens****TOPIC****How Eggs Become Chickens****FOCUS****Grades K-2****LEARNING OUTCOMES**

At the end of the lesson, the students are expected to:

-  Understand the development of a broiler chick as it grows into a mature chicken.
-  Identify key vocabulary to do with egg development and chick growth.
-  Connects food to real people: It highlights the careful work farmers do to keep animals safe and healthy.

MATERIALS

- Youtube video:
<https://youtu.be/TNVIB7-uwcs>
- Activity Sheet

REFERENCES

Time stamps for the YouTube video:

- 1:33 - 2:45
- 3:38 - 5:04

INTRODUCTION

Many students can identify a chick as a baby chicken, but a chick will go through a lot of changes as it grows and is cared for. This lesson explains the many steps a chick will go through at the beginning of its life, and the detailed care required to create a healthy environment.

DEVELOPMENT QUESTIONS

Q. What happens at a hatchery?

A. At a hatchery, fertilized eggs are sorted by their age and monitored as they grow. Hatcheries keep eggs at the perfect temperature (37C) and humidity needed for healthy growth. Farmers check on the eggs daily to monitor changes.



DEVELOPMENT QUESTIONS CONTINUED

Q. What happens inside the egg?

A. During the 21 days of incubation, the fertilized yolk is developing into a chick. By day 3, the chick has a beating heart, brain, and nerves. By 1 week, they have the start of a beak, wings, tail, and comb. After 2 weeks, they develop claws, feathers, skin, and wings. At this point, they have filled most of the space in the egg and their head is tucked into the larger side. In the last week of development, the rest of the yolk is absorbed and the chick finishes developing their organs, feathers, and beak.

Q. How does a chick hatch?

A. After 21 days, chicks have completed development inside the egg and it's time for them to hatch. They use their egg tooth to pip at the inside of the shell. After they have pipped a small hole in the egg shell, they use their egg tooth to break off enough shell to exit through.

Q. How do farmers care for green chicks?

A. Green chicks are brought to a room where they can dry off and stay warm as they acclimate to their new home. One day 1, they are brought to a broiler grower farm, and put in a freshly cleaned barn with their siblings.

Q. How do chicks know what to do in a barn?

A. Chicks stay close to their siblings and follow each other around. on Day 1, their feed is laid out on the ground so they don't have to look for it. They are drawn to bright colours like red so farmers often mark food and water with red. Once one chick begins eating or drinking, the others quickly learn how to do the same.

Q. How fast does a chick grow into a chicken?

A. It only takes about 6-8 weeks for a broiler chick to grow up. by week 2 they already have replaced a lot of baby feathers with mature feathers. By week 3 they have doubled in size. Week 4 and 5, they have lost the rest of their baby feathers and are waiting for their mature feathers to fully develop. By 7 weeks old they look like an adult bird, with full feathers, a comb and wattle, and a full tail.

VOCABULARY

- Broiler Chick/Chicken: a chicken raised for meat.
- Fertilized egg: An egg that has both a father and mother; which, under specific conditions, will produce a chick
- Hatchery: A building that is designed to have the perfect environment for hatching eggs.
- Egg tooth: a horn-like keratin deposit on the tip of the beak that helps chip away egg shell. The chick will lose the egg tooth soon after hatching.
- Pip/pipping: the action of the chick chipping away at the egg shell with their egg tooth.
- Green chick: a chick that is still wet after hatching. It has not yet dried its feathers and fluffed up.
- Chick starter feed: small granulated feed that is easy for chicks to ingest.
- Water lines: lines lowered to the chick's height as they grow, with a nib that can be pressed to produce water.
- Comb and wattle: The red crest on a chicken's head and below their beak that helps with blood circulation and regulating body temperature.

FINAL REVIEW

- From the time a fertilized egg is collected, to its growth into a fully developed chicken, a broiler bird will go through many changes.
- Farmers working at hatcheries and on broiler farms are able to create the perfect environment needed to care for chicks through each stage of development.

ENGAGEMENT

- Complete Poultry Farm Activity Sheet. Ask students to identify the items listed at the bottom of the page in the picture.

