

## TEACHER MATERIALS - Eggs

- CONCEPTS:**
- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Social Studies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- technology (economic pp. 56, 58)</li> <li>- interdependence (economic pp. 56, 58, 62)</li> <li>- scarcity (economic p. 58)</li> <li>- culture (economic p. 60)</li> </ul> |
| Life Science   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1A - 2.4,</li> <li>- 1B - 1, 3</li> </ul>   |

**OBJECTIVES:** At the end of this unit the student will:

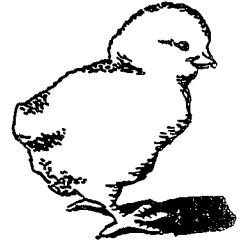
1. Describe where eggs come from.
2. Trace the path from hen to table.
3. Identify foods made with eggs.

**BACKGROUND:** Eggs are laid by all members of the bird family. The largest eggs are laid by the ostrich, the smallest eggs are laid by the hummingbird. Down through the ages and in many nations today, eggs were obtained by stealing them from various nests until birds were domesticated. The vast majority of eggs consumed in the United States today are produced by the domestic chicken. The female chicken, hen, does not depend upon the presence of a rooster. For the most part today's eggs are not fertile. As long as the eggs are removed from the hen, she will continue to lay new eggs. If the eggs are left in her nest, she may eat the eggs or they may spoil. To produce chicks, a rooster must be introduced. He will mate (breed) with the hen and she will retain semen for many days. The sperm must fertilize the egg before the shell is formed.

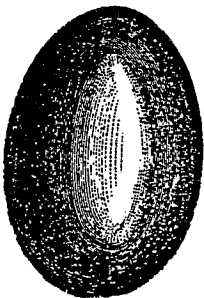
In modern turkey production, all breeding is performed

through artificial insemination. Today's broad-breasted, heavily white-meated tom turkey is incapable of mating with the hen turkey.

**ACTIVITIES:**



1. Have the students read page 29 in "Great Pumpkins."
2. Have the students read "Eggs" on page 1-140.
3. Have the students cut out and match the eggs to the birds which produce them and color the eggs correctly according to directions on Worksheets 1 (p. 1-141) and 2 (p.1-143.) Use the egg sheet on page 1-142 for both worksheets. If the tiniest egg (for the robin) is too small for your students, have them draw in a small egg near the robin.
4. Have the students complete the "egg maze" on page 1-144.
5. Discuss how eggs are processed and what eggs can be found in -- read labels.
6. Have the students complete the Science lessons on pages 1-57 through 1-64, and the Math lessons on pages 1-34 through 1-39.
7. Discuss what other animals lay eggs with or without shells.
  - snakes          turtles          frogs
  - lizards        fish            spiders
  - crocodiles    insects
8. Read the following list of foods made with eggs and have the students put an "X" on the worksheet as you read off the names.



mayonnaise

hard boiled eggs - egg salad  
- pickled eggs

cake  
cookies  
noodles  
fried eggs

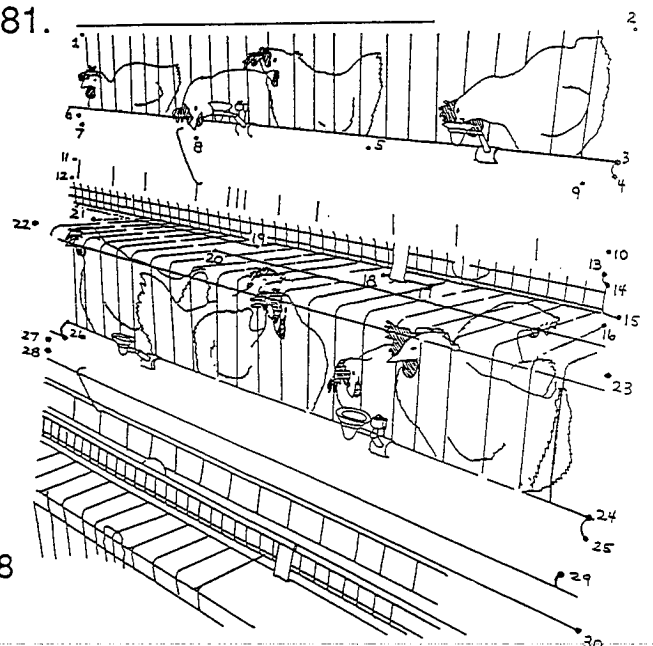
9. Bring in foods or food labels and read the lists of ingredients.
- 10 a. Have the students complete the Dot-to-Dot on page 32-33 in "Great Pumpkins."
  - b. Ask the students to search for the animals waiting outside the hen house. Why are they there? What are they waiting for?

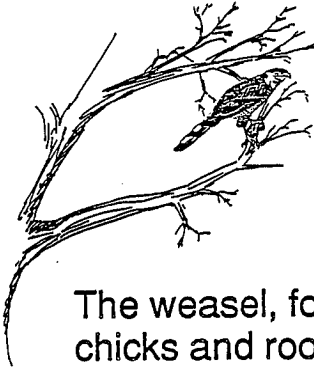
The answers are in the information page.

11. Read the "Did You Know?" to the students.
12. Have the students do the "Chicken Walk" and complete the "Eggs-periments" on pages 1-102 through 1-111 in the science section.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

Chickens Aren't the Only Ones by Ruth Heller, Grosset and Dunlap, NY. 1981.





## Information - Poultry

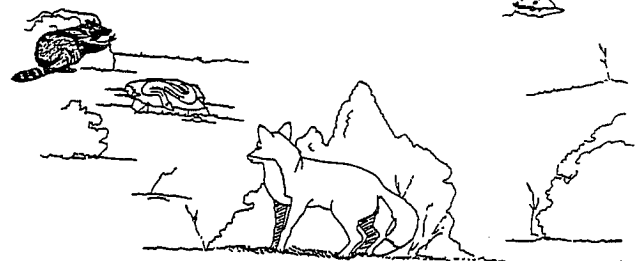
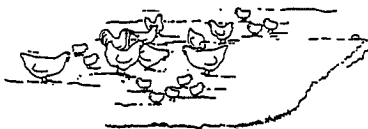
The weasel, fox, hawk, dog and rats are waiting to prey on the hen, chicks and rooster. The skunk, snake, rats, dog, raccoon, and weasel are trying to eat the eggs and chicks. Life is and was very hazardous for "free-range" animals no matter what the species.

In a free range situation, poultry are exposed to much more than predators. Poultry will eat plants which may be poisonous, their own manure which may be contaminated with parasites or bacteria, and insects which can taint the eggs. In addition, the eggs will be laid almost anywhere... including in manure. Hens will also eat their own eggs. Chickens are very poor at controlling their own body temperature. In the "Good Old Day's" in the coldest part of the winter, the hens and roosters would often be found frozen right onto their roosts.



Today's confined housing keeps out predators as well as controls temperatures (summer and winter), prevents contamination from manure (salmonella and parasites), provides free access to feed and water, and mechanizes egg pick-up. The manure falls out of the cages into a collection area and it is removed. That is one of the many reasons why poultry are placed in cages above ground. The birds have been specially bred to adapt to this environment.

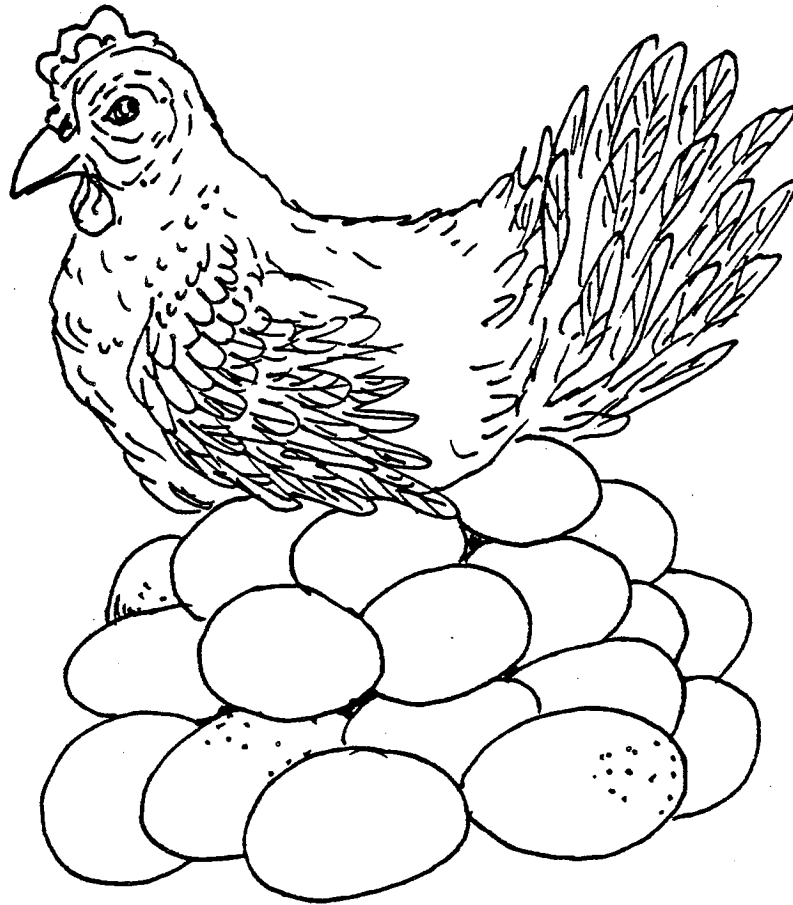
While many feel this is cruel for the hens to be caged, compare this to urban living for humans. In New York City it may cost \$1,200.00 per month to rent a one room (not one bedroom, one room) apartment. How many people are in one high rise? Why do you control where your pets travel? You don't want them to be hit by a car, or bite a small child, or fight with another dog, or get attacked by a larger animal. Why do you control where they leave their manure? Manure smells, causes diseases, has parasites in it, you don't want to step in it. Why do you spay or neuter a pet? etc.



## EGGS

Birds lay eggs. The eggs must be kept warm. The parents also turn the eggs.

Chickens are birds. A female chicken is called a hen. The hen lays eggs. The eggs from chickens have hard shells. The shell protects the chick until it hatches.

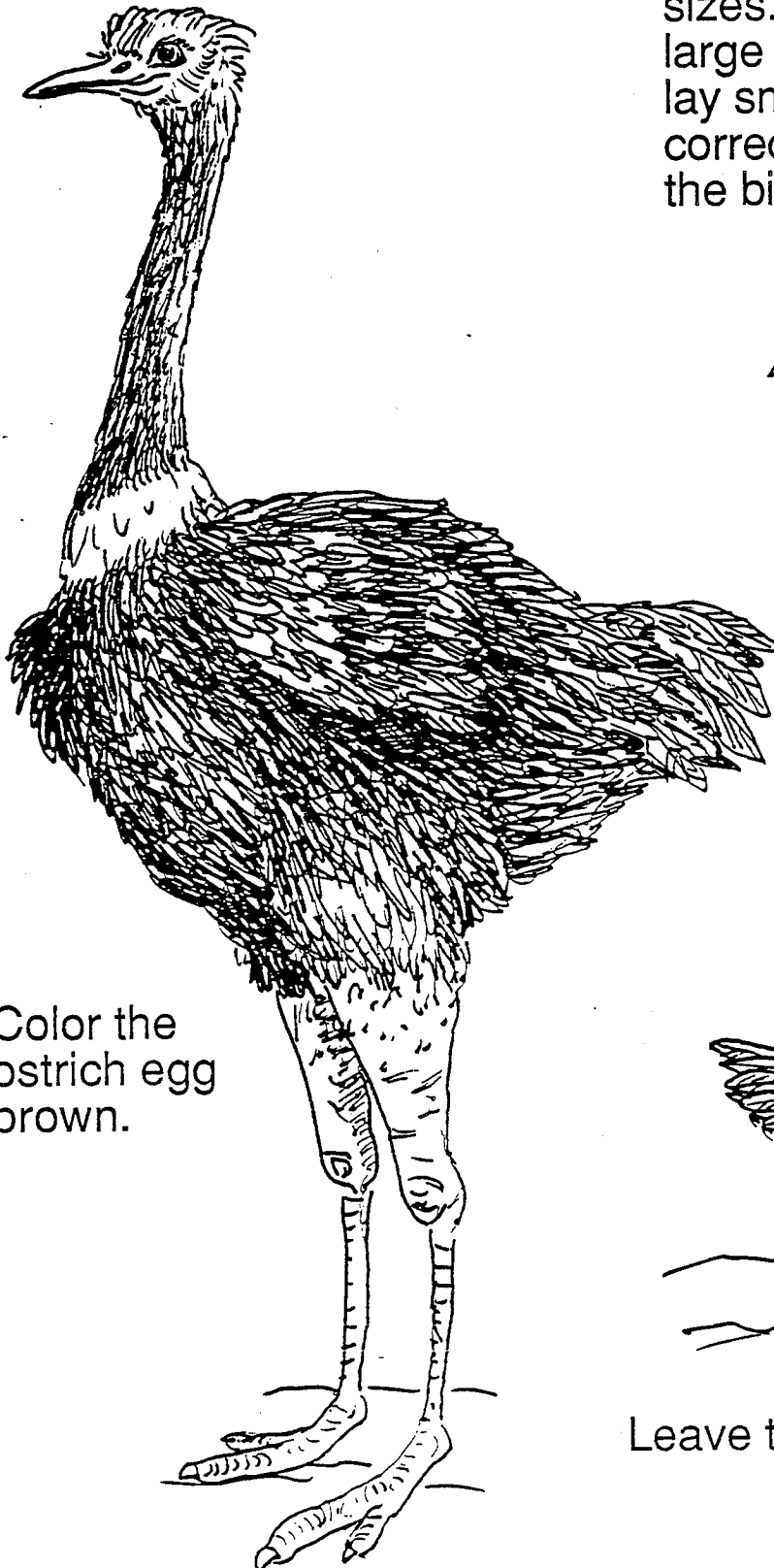


Some hens lay brown eggs. Other hens lay white eggs. One breed of chicken lays blue eggs. The color of the hen or what she eats has nothing to do with egg color. Think of it this way....what you eat doesn't change the color of your eyes, does it? No, your eye color stays the same. Also, the color of the egg does not change what is inside. Brown eggs are not any more healthy to eat than white eggs. In fact, at one time most eggs were brown. People in New York City thought that brown eggs were dirty and stopped eating them. So today, most people in the U.S. eat white eggs.

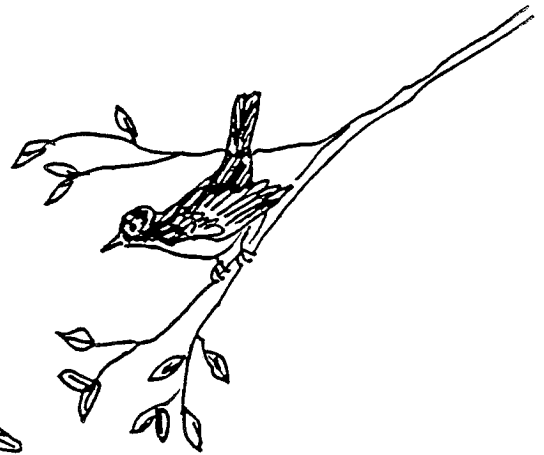
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Worksheet 1

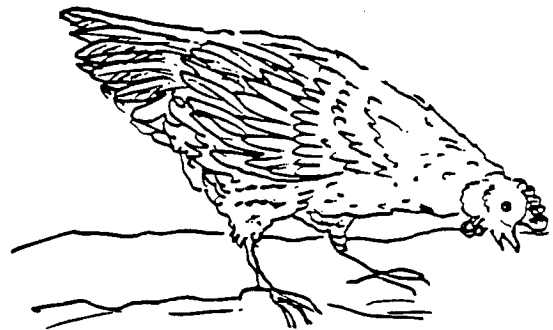
Birds lay eggs of many sizes. Large birds lay large eggs. Small birds lay small eggs. Put the correct egg at the feet of the bird which laid it.



Color the ostrich egg brown.

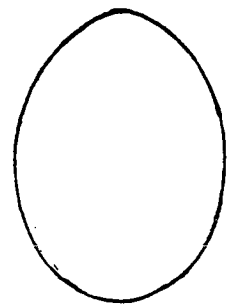
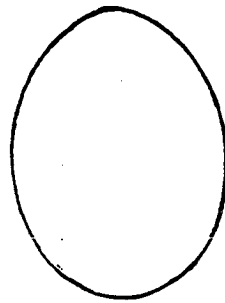
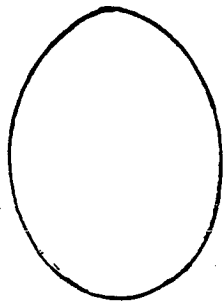
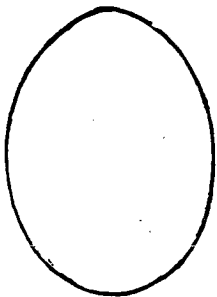
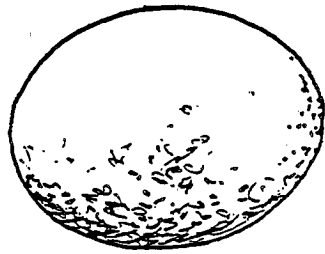


Color the robin egg blue.



Leave the hen egg white.

# Eggs

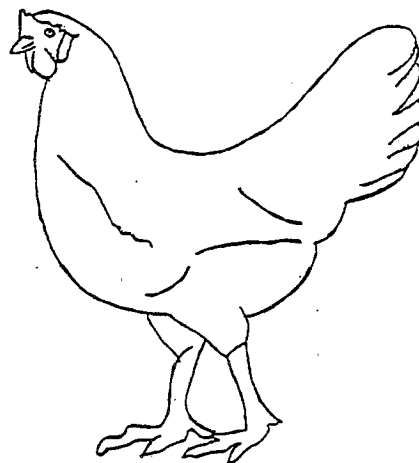


Name \_\_\_\_\_

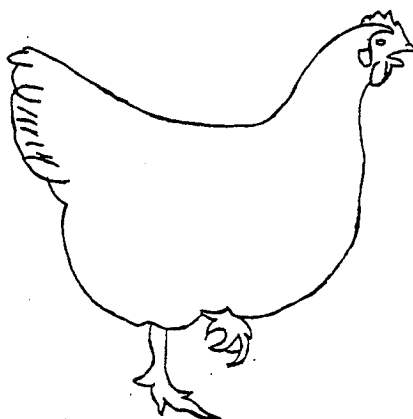
## Worksheet 2

Different hens lay eggs of different colors.

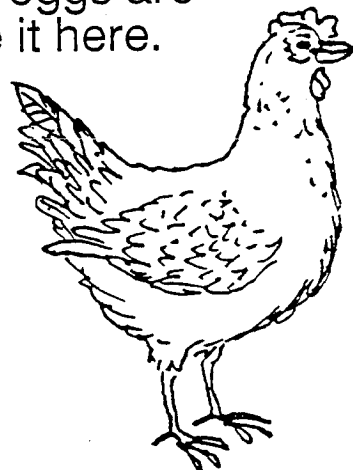
A Leghorn hen is colored white. Color her egg white and paste it here.



A Rhode Island Red hen is colored brown. Color her egg brown and paste it here.



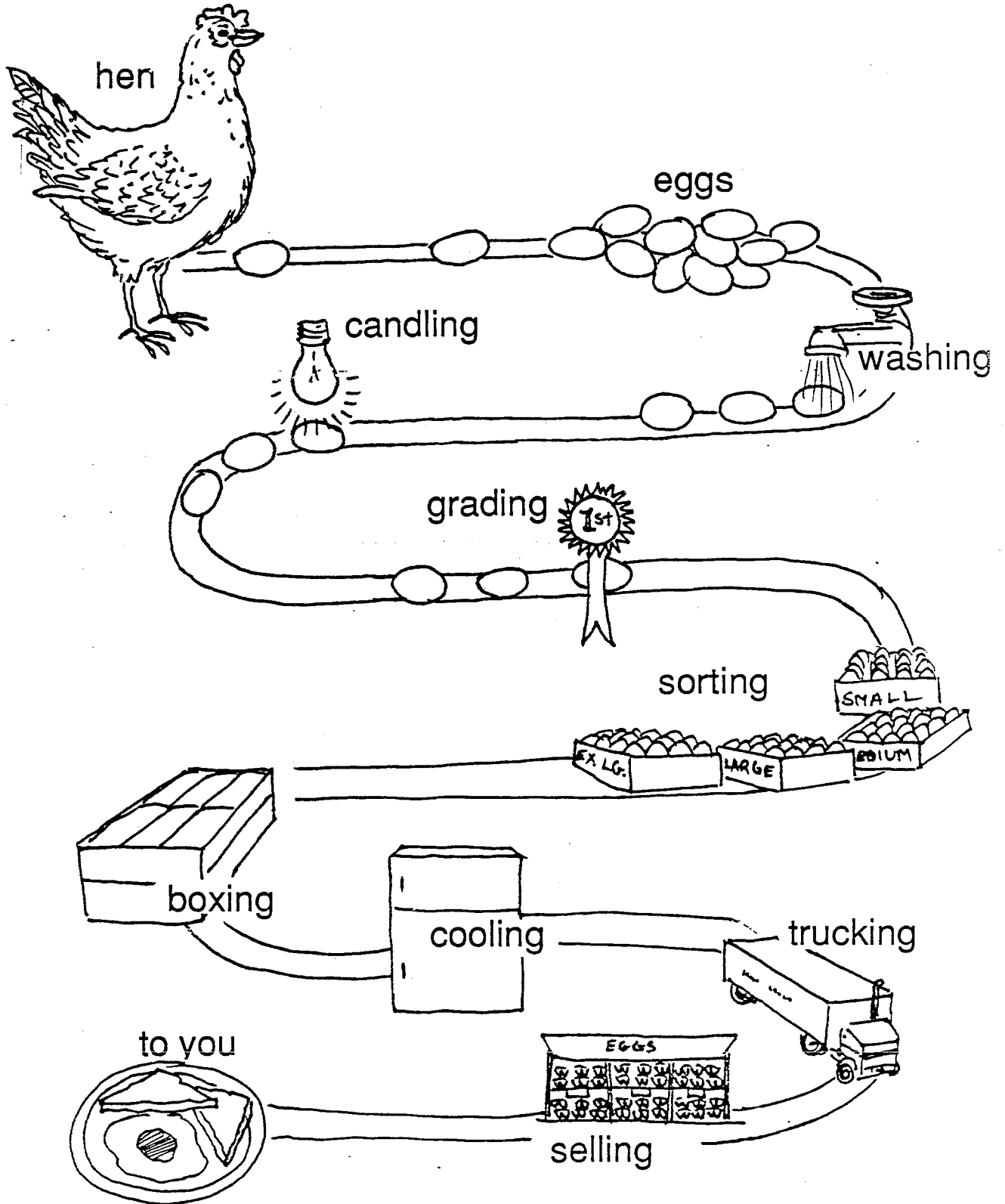
An Araucana hen is colored brown, but her eggs are colored blue. Color her egg blue and paste it here.





Name \_\_\_\_\_

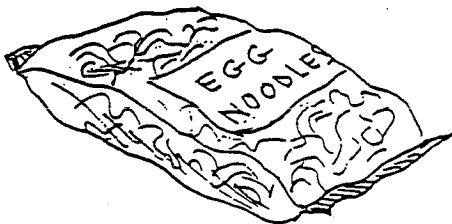
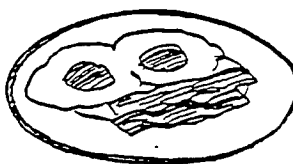
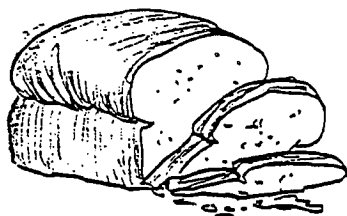
Trace the egg's path from hen to you.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Made With Eggs

Circle all the foods made with eggs.



## Did You Know?

1 hen lays 244 eggs per year.

There are more chickens in the world than people.

Chickens have no teeth. Their food is ground up in their gizzard. The chicken eats stones and oyster shells which collect in the gizzard and roll around grinding up the food. Other birds do this too. That is why you see them pick up stones.

The average U.S. Citizen eats 50 lbs of chicken every year.

Pillows used to be made with chicken feathers instead of goose down.

A chicken is sent to market for meat when it is nine weeks old.

Old laying hens are used to make soup. Their meat has more flavor because it is older and it holds together better because it is also tougher.