



# CHICKENS

## Elementary



A chicken is a domesticated bird raised widely for its meat and eggs. Chickens belong to a group of animals called poultry which include birds raised for meat and eggs. Other poultry animals are turkeys, ducks, and geese.

Chickens are omnivores. In the wild, they often scratch at the soil to search for seeds and insects. They even eat animals as large as lizards, small snakes, or young mice. Poultry feed consists largely of grain, protein supplements, mineral supplements, and vitamin supplements.



Chickens live together in flocks. Individual chickens will dominate others, establishing a “pecking order.” Dominant individuals have priority for food and nesting locations.

Fertile chicken eggs hatch after 21 days. Hens do not need a male to produce eggs, only to fertilize them. A flock containing only females will still produce eggs.



More than 50 billion chickens are raised annually as a source of meat and eggs. Chickens farmed primarily for eggs are called layer hens. Some hen breeds can produce over 300 eggs per year.

Eggs can be scrambled, fried, hard-boiled, soft-boiled, pickled, and poached.

# DIY EGG LAUNCHER



## MATERIALS:

- 10 popsicle sticks
- Rubber bands
- Spoon
- Eggs

## INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Stack eight jumbo popsicle sticks.
2. Insert one jumbo popsicle stick into the stack resting on the top of the bottom stick. Just a small portion of the stick should be through.
3. Tightly wind rubber bands around either end of your stack.
4. Place the last jumbo popsicle stick on top of the stack in the same position as the stick that you have already inserted.
5. Tie a rubber band around the small ends as seen above. This rubber band should not be super tight.



## VIRTUAL FIELD TRIP

Watch the video to explore chicken farms across America.



## EGGS 101

Watch the video and then list at least five steps the egg takes from chicken to your table.

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