

# PERFECTLY POULTRY: A Collection of Agriculture in the Classroom's Favorite Poultry Resources

## CLASSROOM LESSONS

- Chicken Life Cycle
- Funky Fraction Chicken
- Chicks and Egg-cellent Egg Patterns
  - Paper Bag Chick
  - Poultry Prints
  - Shape Chick

## BOOK SUGGESTIONS

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- The Hen Dance
- Hatching Science: 21 Days of Discovery PowerPoint
- AITC Poultry Newsletter

*Perfectly Poultry has been generously sponsored by Perdue. For more lessons and resources to connect children to agriculture visit AITC on the web at [AgInTheClass.org](http://AgInTheClass.org)*



# Chicken Life Cycle

## Standards of Learning

Science: K.7, K.9, 2.4

## Objective

Students will:

- Correctly sequence the steps in a chicken's life cycle

## Materials

- White paper plates
- Yarn
- Tape
- Scissors
- Brads (metal fasteners)
- Markers/crayons
- Construction paper
- Stapler
- Hole punch
- Template, attached

## Background Knowledge

Chickens are a source of both meat and eggs. Broiler chickens, those that are bred for their meat, are Virginia's top agricultural commodity. The chicken's life cycle has 3 stages – egg, chick, and adult (rooster or hen). It takes 21 days for an egg to hatch after having been laid by the hen and then 6 weeks for the chick to grow to maturity. Hens lay an egg approximately every 25 hours.

## Procedure

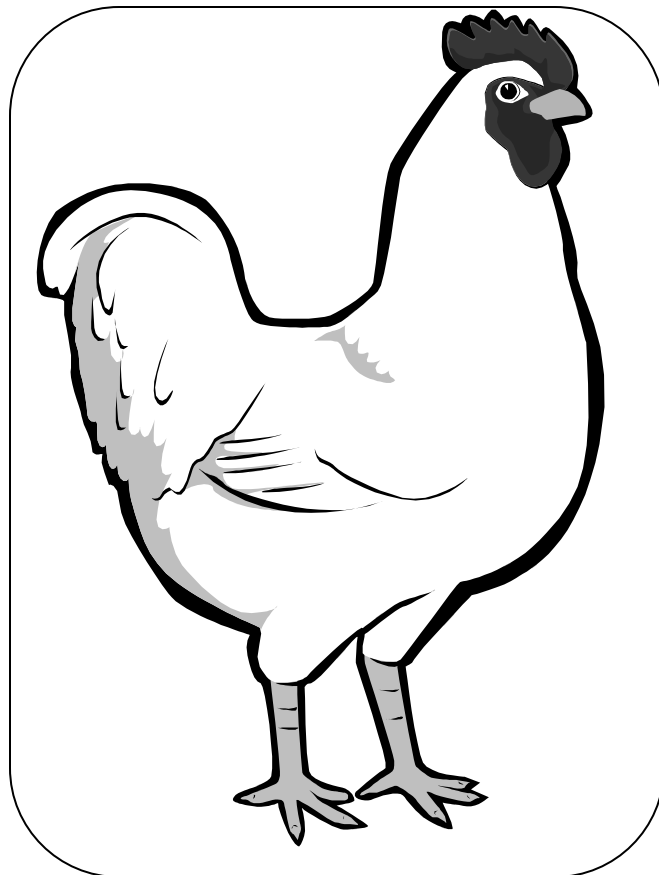
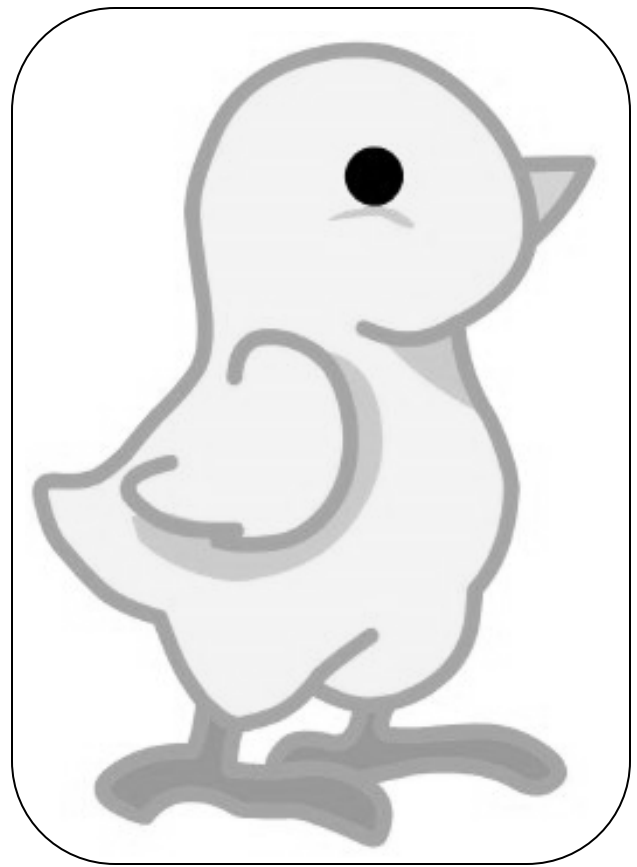
1. Review the steps in the chicken's life cycle. Suggested books include:  
A Chicken's Life by Nancy Dickmann  
Down on the Farm: Chickens by Hannah Roy
2. Give each student on whole paper plate and one half plate. Instruct students to cut a squiggly line across the middle of the whole plate. Staple the half plate to the back of one of the "squiggly" plates. Use a brad to reattach the other squiggly plate so that it will look like a hatching egg with a pocket on the back.
3. Explain to students that first the egg hatches, then it is a baby chick and then it grows into a mature chicken. Color and cut out the template images that demonstrate these stages.
4. Sequence the pictures in the correct order and tape to a piece of yarn. Attach the yarn to the paper plate egg with the mature chicken furthest away. The pieces of the life cycle chain will then fit in the pocket on the back of the egg.
5. In pairs have students use their models to tell the story of the chicken's life cycle.

## Extension

Label the parts of the egg on the worksheet attached.

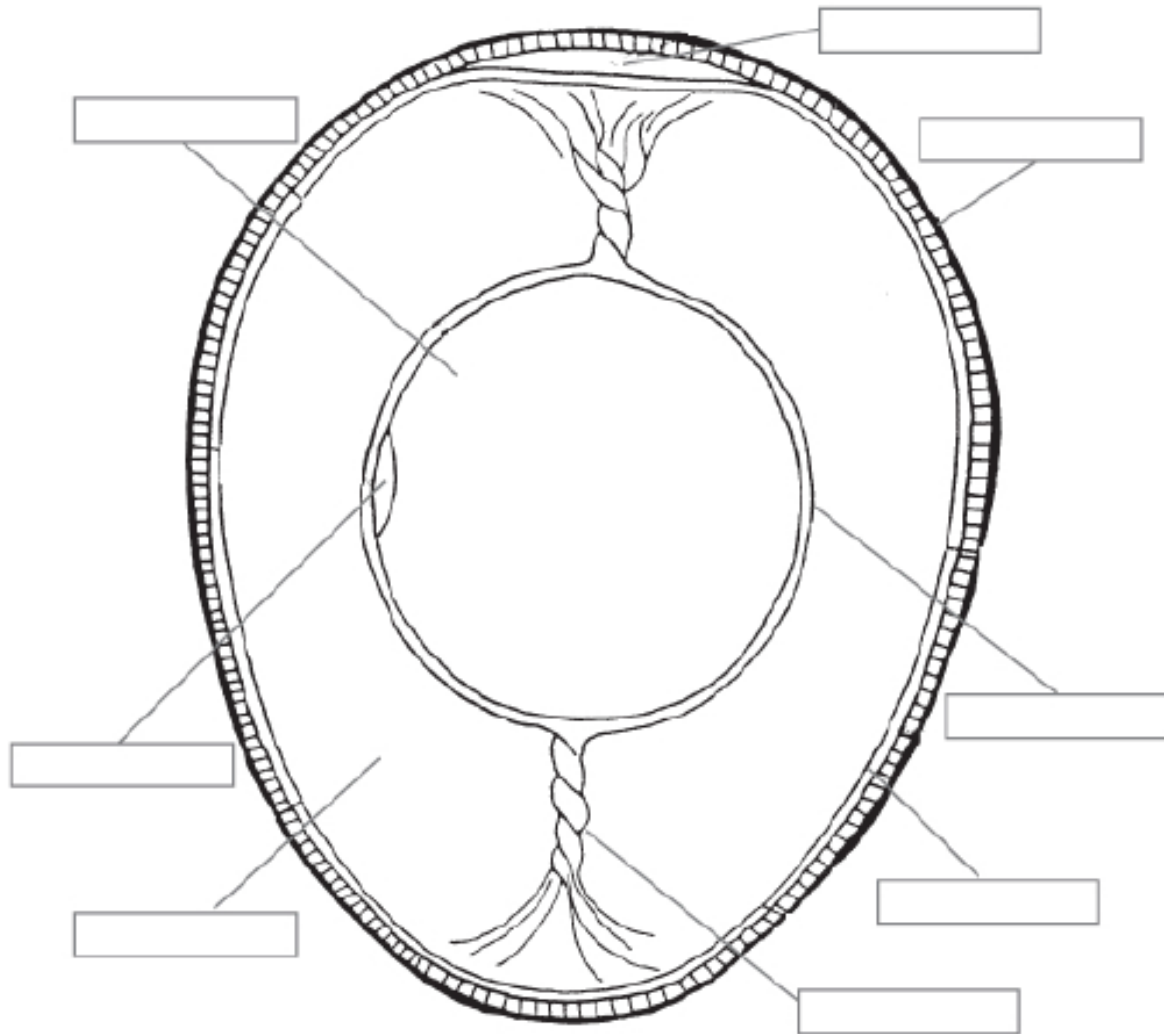


For more resources to connect children to agriculture visit [AgInTheClass.org](http://AgInTheClass.org).



# Egg Parts

Color each part of the egg a different color and label each part of the egg.



Use each word only once:

air cell  
germinal disc  
vitelline membrane

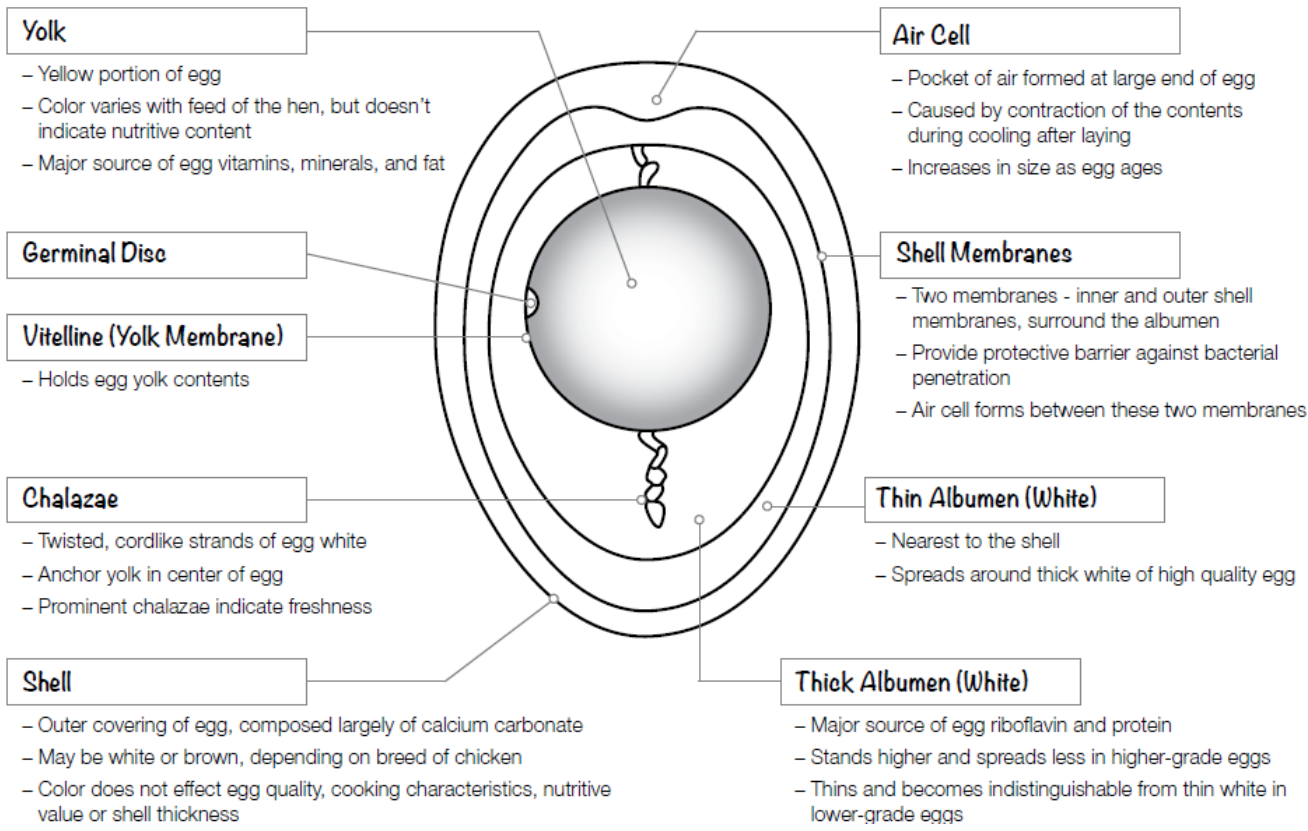
albumen or white  
membranes  
yolk

chalaza  
shell

This worksheet is a part of the Incubation and Embryology Project (<http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/eggs>). University of Illinois Extension, 1999.

**KEY**





# Funky Fraction Chicken

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## Standards of Learning

Math: K.5, 1.3, 2.3, 3.3, 3.7, 4.2, 5.2

## Objective

The students will:

- use tactile representations to identify fractions and to compare equivalent fractions.
- create a chicken using their fraction tactiles.

## Materials

- 3 white or yellow paper plates per student (lower levels may only use 2, see Background Knowledge below)
- staplers
- glue or tape
- crayons
- scissors (one per student)
- orange construction paper
- chicken feet template (attached)

## Background Knowledge

This lesson is a great way to represent fractions with your students using the funky fraction chicken. It might be helpful to start out representing fractions with objects that are placed on the plate. It is important to explain to your students that the plate serves as a whole and when the plate is cut in half then they are left with 2 halves. One  $\frac{1}{2}$  is half of the plate and the other  $\frac{1}{2}$  is half of the plate and when they are put together they equal a whole. Then you can cut the 2 halves in half again and explain to your students that now they have 4 fourths. One  $\frac{1}{4}$  is a fourth of the plate and that same goes for the other pieces and when they are put together they make up the whole plate again. Depending on how old your students are you may want to go higher in fractions. This also serves as a great way to show equivalent fractions such as  $\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4} = \frac{1}{2}$  or  $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} = 1$ . You can also go as high or low as you wish with this step too.

This lesson can be easily adapted to grade level and/or student ability. Lower levels may stop at  $\frac{1}{4}$ , while upper levels may add “feathers” to their chickens and go up to  $\frac{1}{8}$ <sup>th</sup> or  $\frac{1}{16}$ <sup>th</sup>. Teachers who wish to stop at  $\frac{1}{4}$  should only use 2 plates per child and may omit steps 5-7 below. The picture accompanying the lesson has gone up to sixteenths.

## Procedure

1. Pass out 3 paper plates to each student. Have students place the plates in a row in front of them. Talk about how each plate is the same and equivalent to the others.
2. Take the middle plate and cut it in half, by folding and then cutting on the crease.
3. Place both pieces on top of the first plate. Point out that 2 halves make one whole. You may write this on the board as  $1 = \frac{2}{2}$  and discuss simplifying fractions.
4. Pick up one of the halves. Fold it in half and cut along the crease. You have now created 2 fourths. Place these back on the first plate. Now  $\frac{1}{2} = \frac{2}{4}$ , again discuss simplifying fractions.
5. Take the third plate. Fold it in half once, and then again. Cut to create fourths.
6. Take the fourths and cut them in half. Now  $\frac{2}{8} = \frac{1}{4}$  and  $\frac{4}{8} = \frac{2}{4} = \frac{1}{2}$ .



For more resources to connect children to agriculture visit [AgInTheClass.org](http://AgInTheClass.org).

7. Take 4 of the eighths and cut them in half. Now  $2/16 = 1/8$  and  $8/16 = 1/2$  and so on.
8. Now it is time to assemble your Funky Fraction Chicken.
9. Tell students to pick up the whole plate and place it upside-down in the middle of their desk. This is the chicken's body.
10. Take the piece which represents  $1/2$  and place it right-side up at the bottom of the body. The straight side should be at the bottom. Staple the half into place. This will be the head.
11. Now take the two quarter pieces. Put them on the side of the chicken's body so that the point is facing in. Staple into place. These are the wings.
12. Cut a small triangle out of construction paper. Glue it to the bottom of the head, point side down. This is the beak.
13. Use a black marker or crayon to draw 2 eyes on the head.
14. Cut out legs. Color them orange (*or you may print these on orange paper*).
15. Staple to the top of the body.
16. The eights and sixteenths are feathers; arrange and glue to the body.
17. Display the Funky Fraction Chickens around the room!



### **Extension**

Engage students with more henhouse math!

A hen lays approximately one egg every 25 hours. How many eggs will a hen lay in a week/month/year?

A chicken egg takes 21 days to hatch, a turkey and duck egg each take 28. What is the average hatching time for poultry?

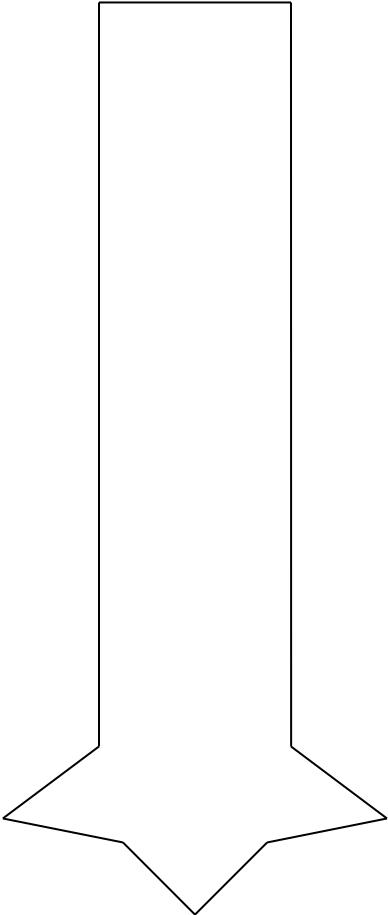
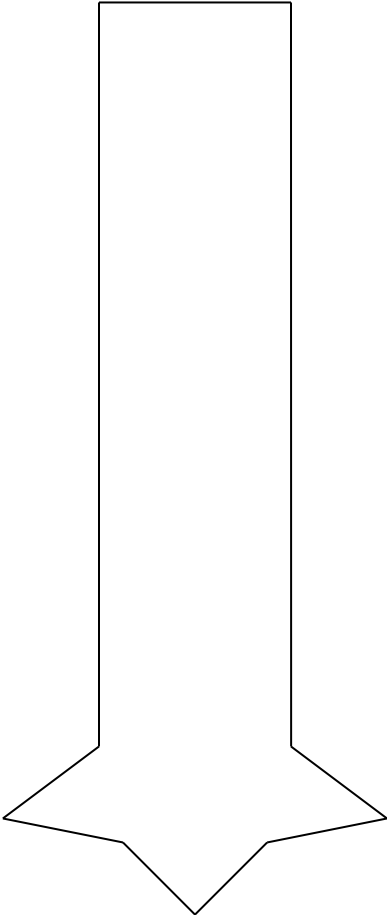
### **References**

Original lesson adapted from Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom.



For more resources to connect children to agriculture visit [AgInTheClass.org](http://AgInTheClass.org).

**Funky Fraction Chicken Feet Template**





# Chicks and Eggs-ellent Patterns

## Content Area

Science: Life Processes

Mathematics: Patterns

## Objective

The student will be able to:

- Identify the life cycle of a chicken
- Construct a pattern using alternating colors

## Materials

- White and brown construction paper eggs, enough for each child to build a pattern (you may also choose to use plastic Easter eggs)
- Dessert size yellow paper plates
- Clothespins, two per child
- Scissors
- Glue
- Orange and black construction paper



## Background Knowledge

Hens lay one egg approximately every 28 hours. A rooster is not needed for a hen to produce eggs for eating. Roosters are only needed to produce fertile eggs for hatching. Chickens can lay eggs in varying colors including white, dark brown, light brown, and even shades of green. There is no nutritional difference among eggs of different shell colors. The egg's color is determined by genetics and the breed of chicken. You can tell what color of egg a hen will lay by looking at the color of her skin on her earlobe.

## Procedure

1. Discuss with students that animals can either be born alive or hatched from an egg. Animals found on the farm, such as a horse, cow, dog, cat, sheep, goat, pig, and rabbit are born from the mother, they do not hatch from an egg. Other animals, such as a duck, chicken, turkey, fish, frog, butterfly, bee, snake, and worm hatch from an egg.
2. Review the background knowledge above for chickens and their eggs, pointing out that different chickens can lay different color eggs. Begin the chicken's life cycle by passing out at paper eggs of at least two different colors to students. Have them create repeating patterns with the eggs. You may also choose to begin a pattern on the board and have students finish the pattern at their desk or by taping to the board.
3. Point out that it takes 21 days for an egg to hatch after having been laid by the hen and then 6 weeks for the chick to grow to maturity. Tell students that next you will be making the chick that hatches from the egg.
4. Give each child a small (dessert size) yellow plate.
5. Have them use scissors to fringe around the plate to give the appearance of feathers.
6. Next, glue an orange triangle in the middle for a beak and 2 black circles for eyes.
7. Lastly, clip two clothespins to the bottom for feet, which will allow the chick to stand up.



For more resources to connect children to agriculture visit [AgInTheClass.org](http://AgInTheClass.org).

# Paper Bag Chicken

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## **Standards of Learning**

Literacy: Oral Expression

Science: Life Processes

Skilled Movement: Manipulative Skills

## **Objective**

Students will:

- Learn about the life of a chicken

## **Materials**

- A book about chickens, such as: Chicken, Chicken, Duck by Nadia Krilanovich; Chickens on the Farm by Mari C. Schuh; or Chicks and Chickens by Gail Gibbons
- White paper bag
- Newspaper
- Rubber band
- Construction paper (yellow, white, and red)
- Google eyes
- Glue
- Scissors

## **Background Knowledge**

There are nearly 900 chicken farms in the state of Virginia. Chickens are raised for their eggs or for their meat. Broiler chickens are white and hen-laying chickens are brown. The red part of its head is called the comb. Chickens also have a red wattle under their beaks.

## **Procedure**

1. Give each student a white paper bag, newspaper, and a rubber band. Ask the students to stuff their bags nearly full ( $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way) with newspaper and secure the end with a rubber band. The extra part of the bag, approximately 2" long, will be the head.
2. Ask the students to trace a hand on the white paper and cut it out. Then glue it on to the other end of the bag, opposite of the head, with the fingers sticking up. This is the chicken's tail feathers.
3. Using red construction paper cut out a comb. To glue it onto the top of the head, cut a small slit perpendicular to the bottom of the comb and fold the flaps in opposite directions to glue down.
4. Make a beak with the yellow construction paper. Also, cut out feet to glue onto the bottom of the bag.
5. Glue Google eyes onto the head.

## **Extension**

Provide straw, boxes, and hardboiled eggs to make a nest for the chickens. Discuss with the students the life cycle of a chicken.



# Poultry Prints

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## **Content Area**

Fine Motor  
Life Processes

## **Objective**

Students will:

- Identify chickens and turkeys as animals that live on the farm
- Understand that eggs come from chickens
- Recognize written numerals

## **Materials**

- Construction paper
- Finger paint
- Markers/crayons
- Glue
- scissors

## **Background Knowledge**

Poultry, including the raising of chickens, turkeys and eggs, is by far Virginia's largest agricultural commodity. Virginia's poultry companies employ more than 12,000 people. A significant amount of chicken and turkey raised in Virginia is exported to foreign countries.

## **Procedure**

1. Begin by reading a story about chickens or turkeys on the farm and ask students to identify the animals in the pictures. Discuss how chickens live on a farm and some give us eggs.
2. Give each student a piece of construction paper.
3. Trace each student's foot in the middle of the paper and cut out. This will form the body of your chicken, the heel will be the head. Glue onto another piece of paper.
4. Have students use finger paint to stamp their hands around the chicken or turkey to form feathers.
5. You can then use a marker to add eyes and a beak.

## **Extension**

Write a number on the chicken. Have students glue the correct number of eggs below the chicken.



*For more resources to connect children to agriculture visit [AgInTheClass.org](http://AgInTheClass.org).*

# Shape Chick

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## **Content Area**

Science: Life Processes

Mathematics: Shapes

Fine Motor: Manipulative Movement

Literacy: Vocabulary

## **Objective**

The student will:

- Identify various shapes
- Utilize fine motor skills to create a shape chick

## **Materials**

- Paper plates (white for a chicken, yellow for a chick) – 1 per student
- Construction paper triangles – 2 yellow and 2 orange per student
- White construction paper circles – 2 per student
- Orange construction paper diamond – 1 per student
- Glue

## **Background Knowledge**

Chickens are a source of both meat and eggs. Broiler chickens, those that are bred for their meat, are Virginia's top agricultural commodity. You will find many poultry houses in the Piedmont region of Virginia as well as the Valley and Ridge. The chicken's life cycle has 3 stages – egg, chick, and adult (rooster or hen). It takes 21 days for an egg to hatch after having been laid by the hen and then 6 weeks for the chick to grow to maturity. Hens lay an egg approximately every 25 hours. Hens that are raised for their egg production are called layers.

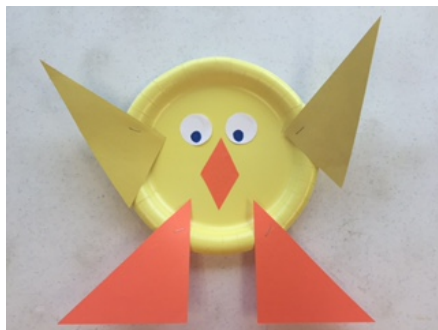
## **Procedure**

1. First glue the two white circles onto the paper plate as eyes.
2. Next glue the orange rectangle below for the beak.
3. Glue the yellow triangles to the sides for wings and the orange triangles to the bottom for feet.

## **Extension**

Add "feathers" to your chicks by gluing small squares of white or yellow tissue paper to the paper plates.

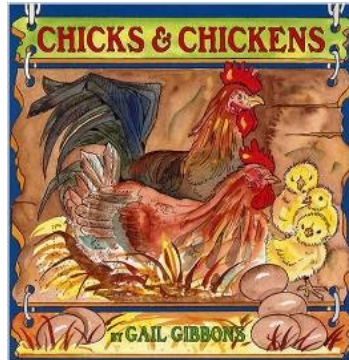
Practice counting by cutting out and adding eggs to the chickens.



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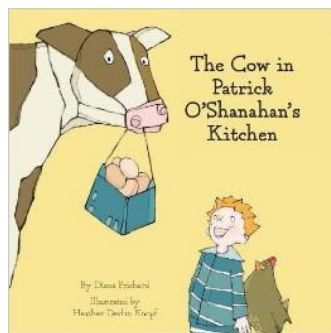
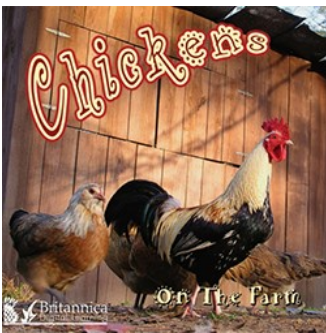


# BOOK SUGGESTIONS



Chickens on the Farm  
by Susan Meredith

Chicks and Chickens  
by Gail Gibbons



The Cow in Patrick O'Shanahan's Kitchen  
by Diana Prichard

Food  
by Felicity Brooks

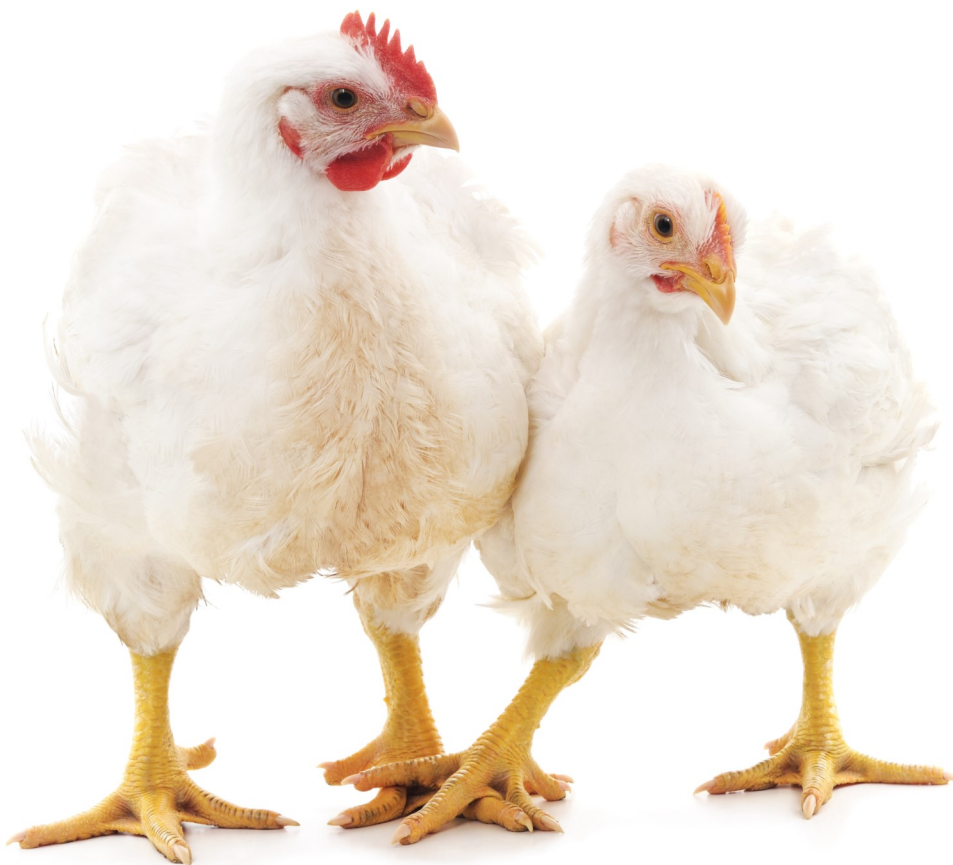
Hatching Chicks in Room 6  
by Caroline Arnold

One Egg  
by Louise Spillsbury

Producing Dairy and Eggs  
by Jane Bingham

Sonya's Chickens  
by Phoebe Wahl

What's for Lunch? Eggs  
by Claire Llewellyn



# The Hen Dance

## VERSE

First I'm growing in an egg.

First I'm growing in an egg.

Then, I'm hatching through the shell.  
Peck, Peck, Peck, Peck.

Then a fluffy little chick.

Then a fluffy little chick.

I eat and run around all day.  
All the long day.

Then I grow to be a teen.  
Then I grow to be a teen.  
And pullet is my name.

Pul-let, Pul-let.

And when I'm a grown up hen.

And when I'm a grown up hen.

New eggs I'll lay.  
Hooray, Hooray!

## CHORUS

A chicken's life is one big cycle

Changing from egg to little chick

And then the chick becomes a pullet

## CHOREOGRAPHY

Lift arms over head, connecting fingertips to form a tent/shell

Lift arms over head, connecting fingertips to form a tent/shell

On the word "shell" separate hands  
Nod head 4 times, as if pecking through the shell

Hands in armpits creating wings, "fluffy"- scuff  
RF, "little" -step RF, "chick" step LF  
(standing proudly)

Hands in armpits creating wings, "fluffy"- scuff  
RF, "little" -step RF, "chick" -step LF  
(standing proudly)

Crouch down,  
Crouch down, walk 4 steps in a small circle  
searching for food

Hands still under armpits, Stand Tall  
Hands still under armpits, Stand Tall  
On word "name" put blade hands over center  
of chest

With hands on chest scoop shoulders R then L  
on syllables "-let" & "-let"

Stand tall with blade hands flipped up behind  
hiney like tail feathers

Stand tall with blade hands flipped up behind  
hiney like tail feathers

Heels together, on word "lay" ALL demi plie  
1<sup>st</sup> "-ray" ALL stand, 2<sup>nd</sup> "-ray" ALL demi  
plie

Hook fingers together in a chain, circle hooked  
fingers slowly from hips to above head  
and around to complete the circle/cycle

On word "egg" Lift arms over head, connecting  
fingertips to form a tent/shell

On words "little chick" place hands under  
armpits,

Sustaining "chick": Scuff RF, step RF, step LF

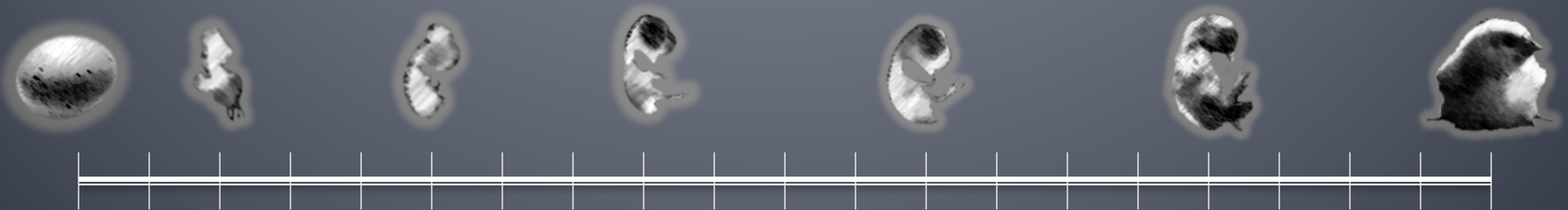
On word "chick" hands still in armpits, bend  
over, step touch R/L;

The change to hen is really quick	On word "pullet" stand tall, hands over heart pumping twice after word "pullet" On word "hen" put blade hands flipped up behind hiney like feathers
And then the hen completes the cycle.	On word "quick" swish 'tail feathers' R/L/R Lead Hen(s) points to individual 'hens' who demi plie on words "hen", "-pletes", "cy", after "-cle" (in rhythm on the beat)
She's there to aptly do her part	Lead Hen(s) continues to point, 4 more 'hens' demi plie on "apt", "do", "par-", "parT"
She lays an egg to grow and hatch out	Lead Hen(s) continues to point*, 4 more 'hens' demi plie on "egg", "grow", "hatch", "out"
And a new life will have its start.	"life" - Invite RH blade palm up, "Start" – Invite LH blade palm up

*\*If not enough new 'hens' to demi plie, some 'hens' can lay eggs again*

# Hatching Science

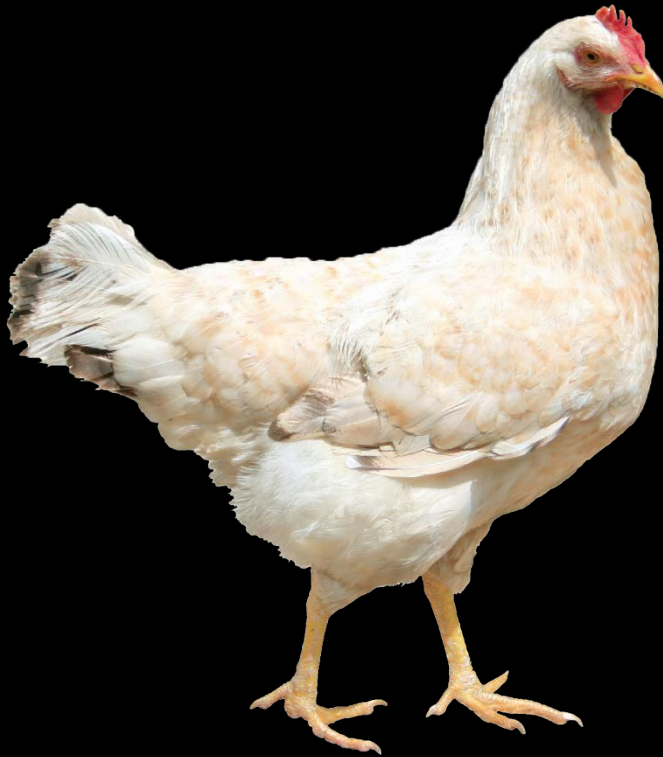
21 days of discovery





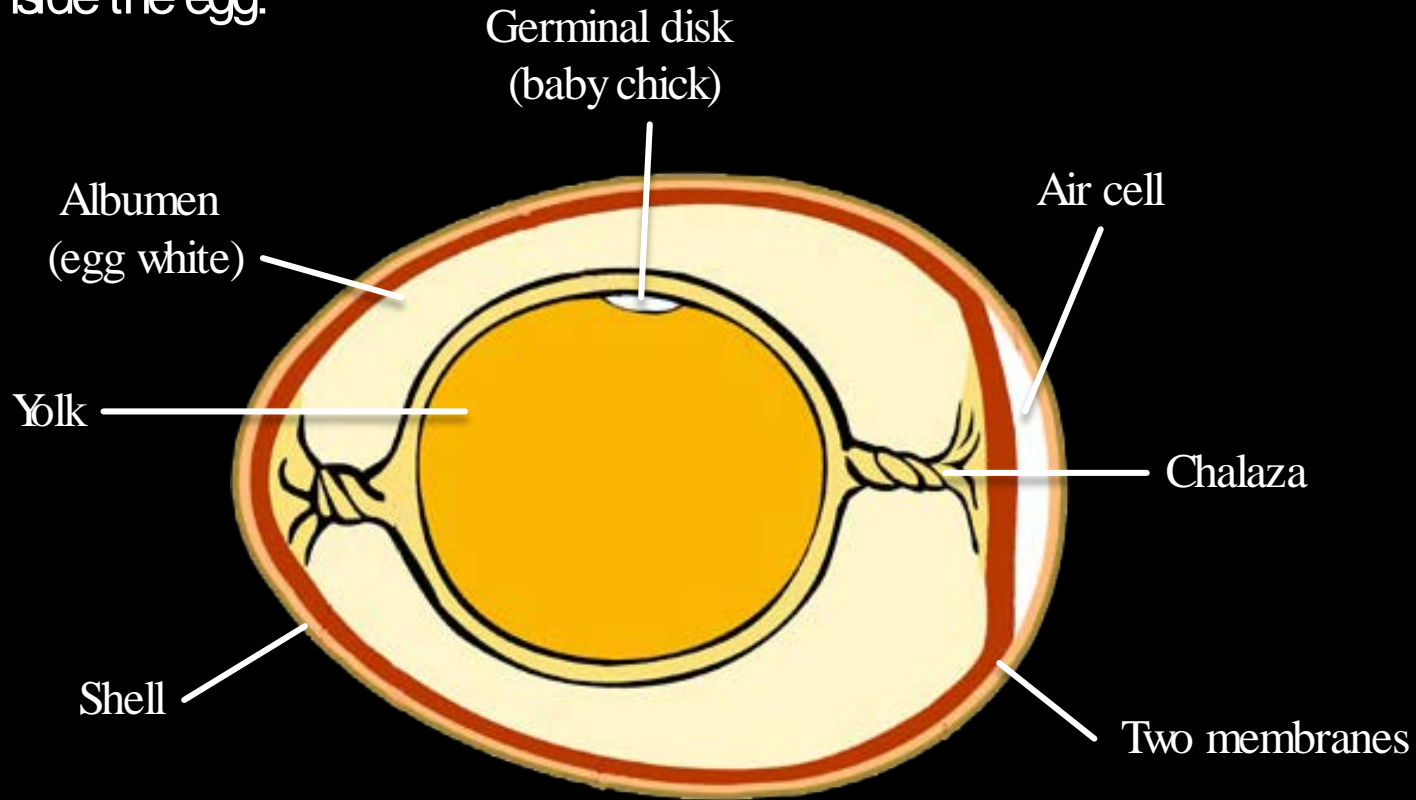
# A Brief Egg-splanation

Inside the chicken:



# A Brief Egg-splanation

Inside the egg:



# A Brief Egg-splanation

Outside the egg:



# Days 1 - 4

Little cells make big progress:

## Day 1

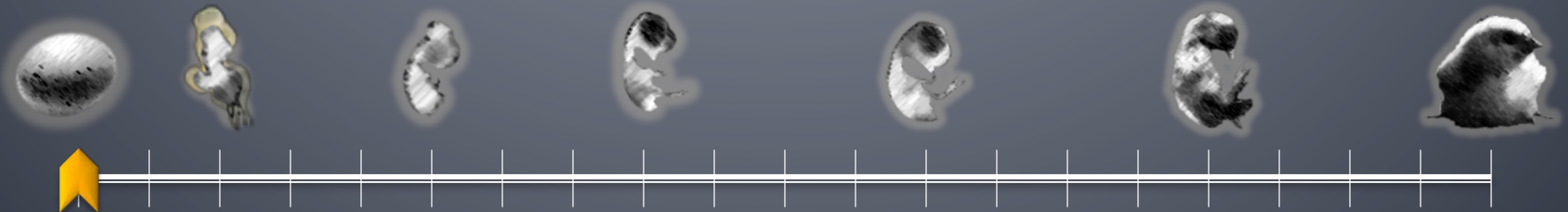
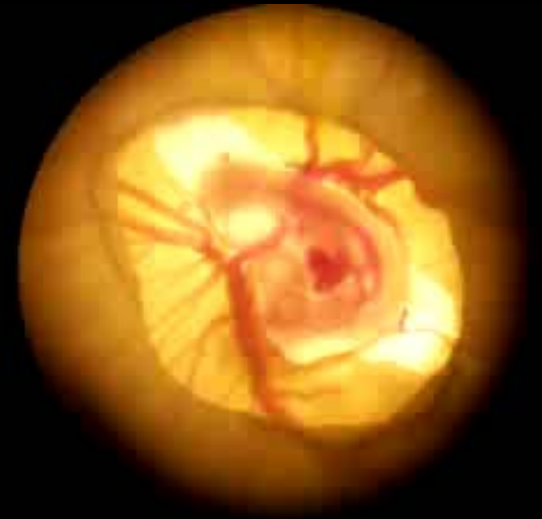
- Cells are already specializing
- Muscle, nerve, and digestive cells appear
- The eyes and blood vessels begin to form

## Day 2

- Heart and ears form
- Heart begins to beat

Note: The different parts of the chick develop at the same time.

- Blood and blood vessels
- Brain, eyes, and digestive system, etc.





# Days 1 - 4

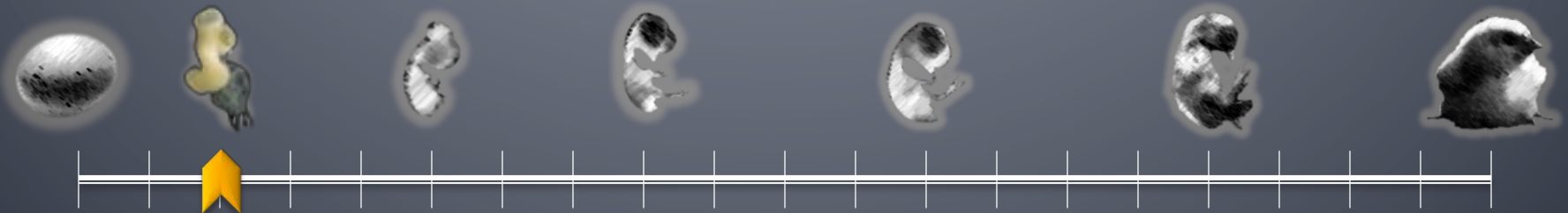
Little cells make big progress:

## Day 3

- Distinguishable head and tail
- Leg and wing buds can be seen
- Specialized cells begin to form tongue, liver, kidneys, and lungs
- More blood vessels

## Day 4

- Toes begin to form
- Mostly present, but tiny
- Embryo separates from yolk



# Days 5 – 8

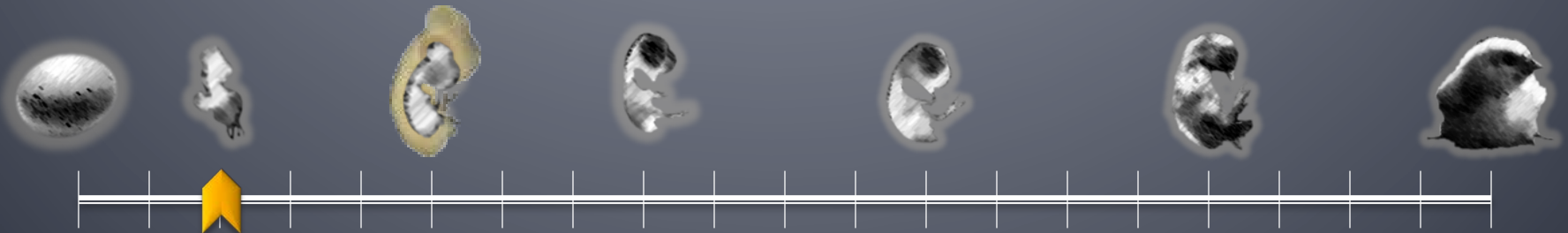
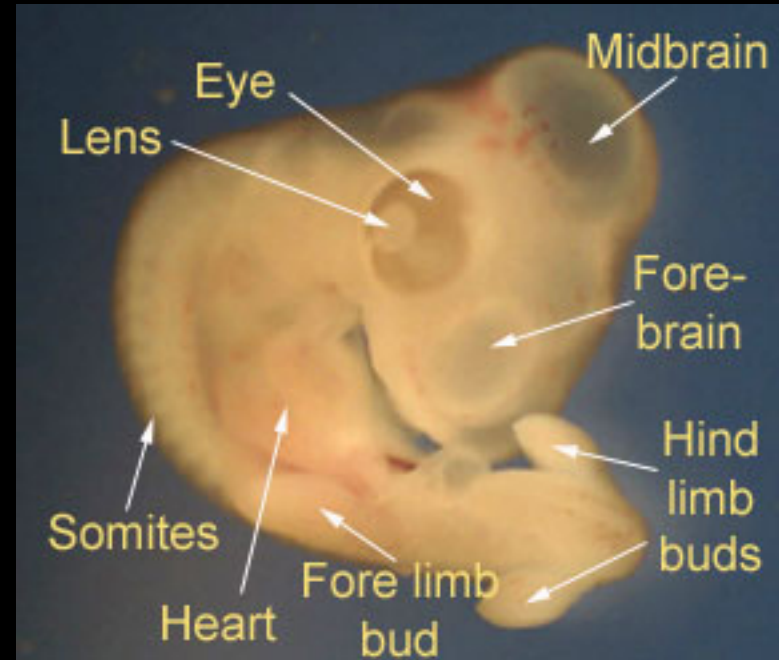
The formative days:

Day 5

- Reproductive organs develop
- Leg bones form

Day 6

- Beak becomes visible
- Wing bends at the elbow
- Intestines begin to loop





# Days 5 - 8

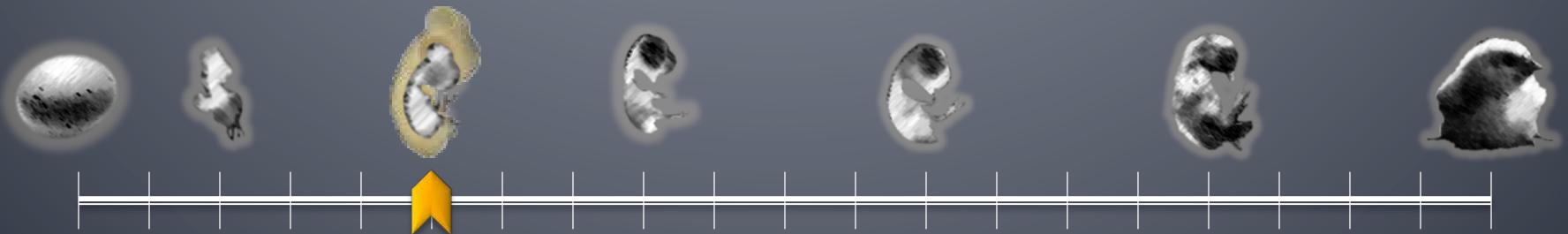
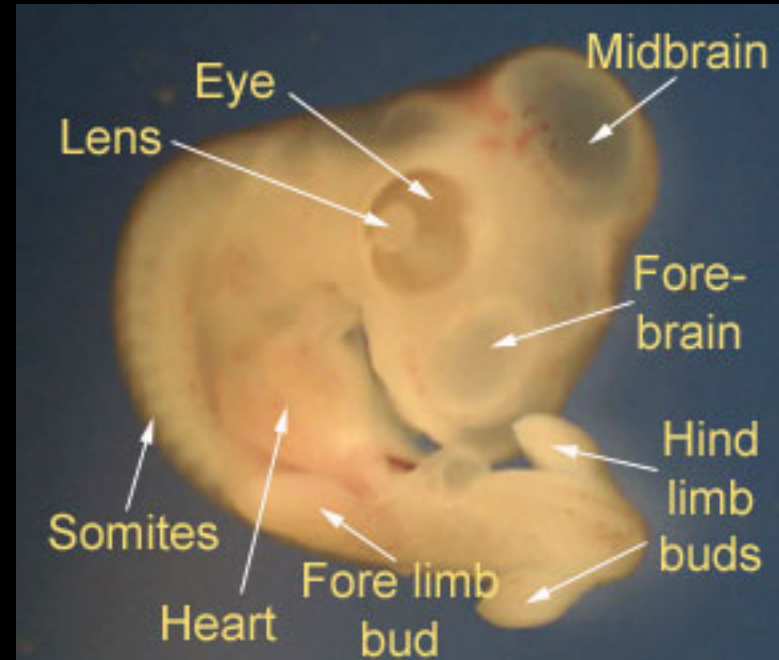
The formative days:

Day 7

- Feather buds appear
- Eye develops rapidly
- Knees bend

Day 8

- More feather buds appear
- Egg tooth forms



# Days 9 – 11

Time to get moving:

Day 9

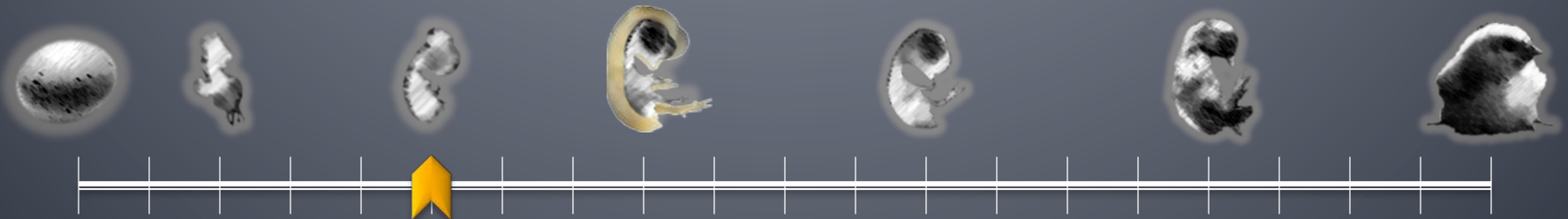
- Eyelids and kneecaps develop
- Chick moves more
- Yolk is noticeably smaller

Day 10

- Chick moves even more
- Refined features develop

Day 11

- More movement
- Beak and bones harden



# Days 12 - 15

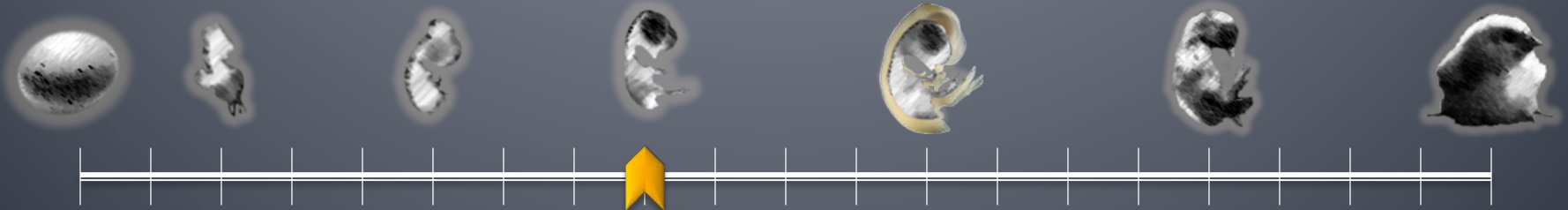
Bigger and stronger:

Day 12

- Development continues
- Scales appear on legs

Day 13

- Bones continue to harden
- Wishbone is formed



# Days 12 - 15

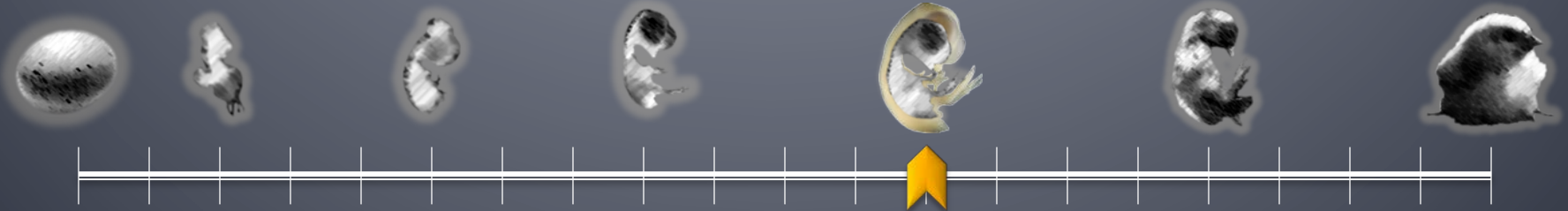
Bigger and stronger:

Day 14

- Movement slows
- Skull hardens
- Yolk is much smaller

Day 15

- Scales, claws, and beak become firm
- Growth continues
- Organ development continues



# Days 16 – 18

The waiting game:

Day 16

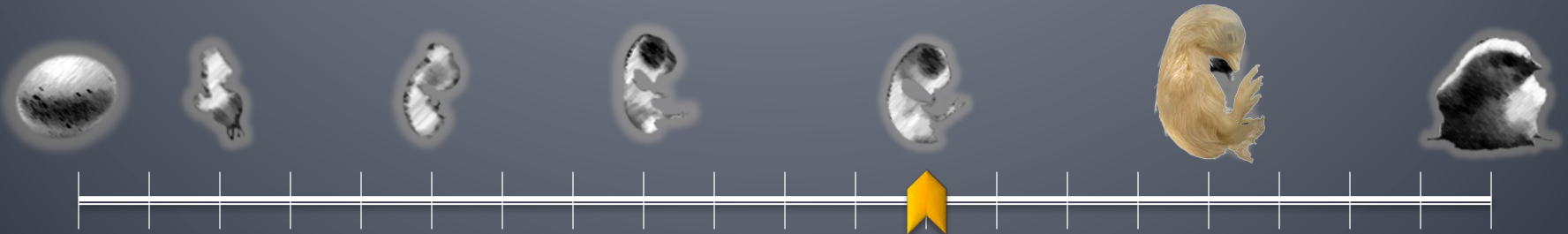
- Feathers cover the whole body
- Development continues (bones are almost fully hardened)

Day 17

- Chick's beak turns toward air cell

Day 18

- More development... almost ready!



# Days 19 – 21

Countdown to hatch:

Day 19

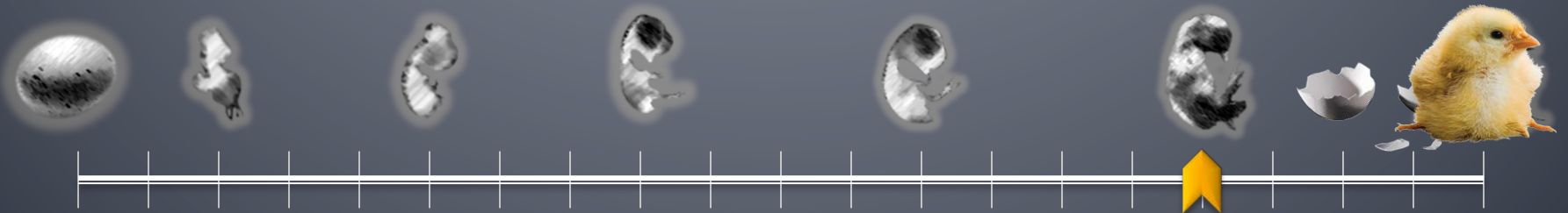
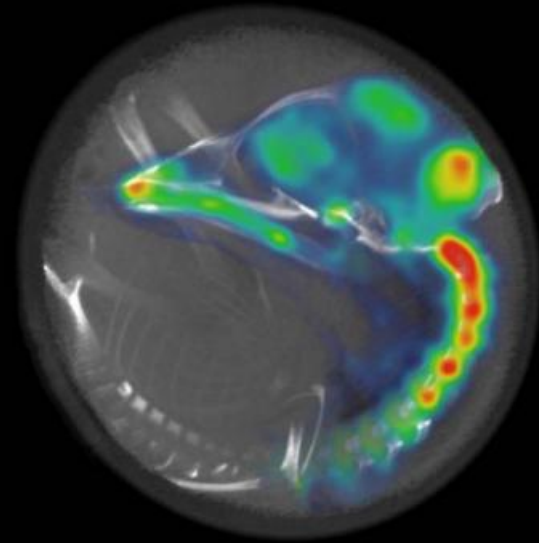
- It can breathe!

Day 20

- Lungs at 100%

Day 21

- Get ready... Today is the day!





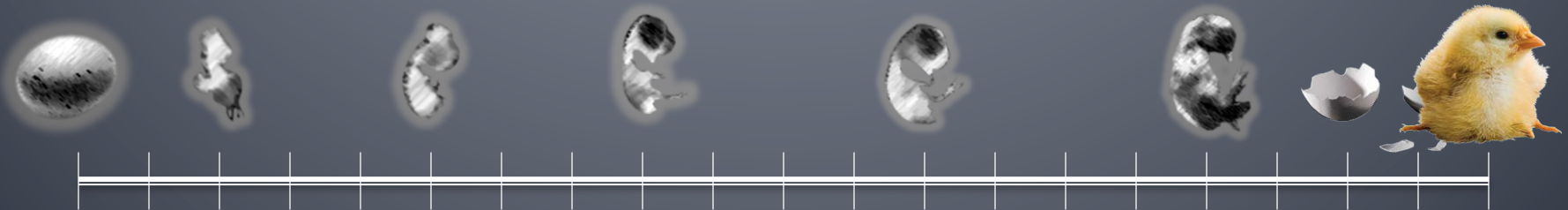
# Time for the Egg-citement!

How it hatches:

It's not easy!

- First it must peck shell open
- 3-8 hour rest
- Turns and pecks around the inside of the egg (2-5 hours)
- Pushes and pushes, until...

It finally breaks free!





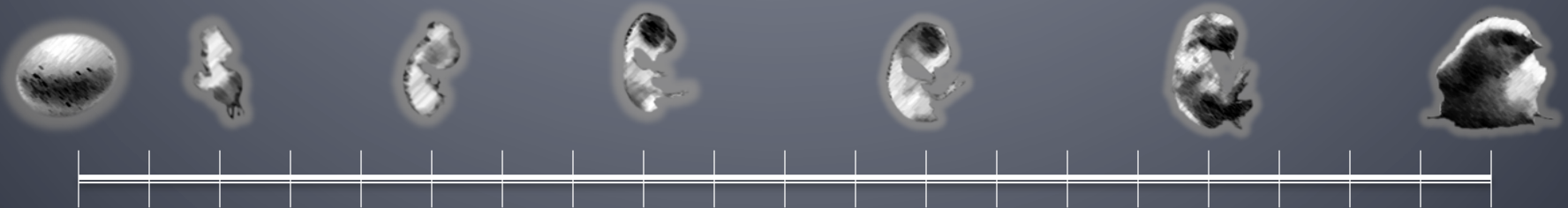


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Ohio University  
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# Hatching Science

The End



# What's Growing On In Virginia?

AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM

FALL 2012 / VOLUME 23 NO. 2

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## Virginia poultry: Something to squawk about

Say the word "poultry," and most people think of chicken. But Virginia's poultry industry includes so much more. Poultry refers to domestic birds raised for eggs and meat. It encompasses broilers, the chickens that are raised for meat; layers, the hens that lay eggs; and turkeys.

The state's poultry industry supports the livelihood of nearly 1,100 farm families, according to the Virginia Poultry Federation. Those families operate more than 800 chicken farms and more than 285 turkey farms.

### Poultry pumps up the economy

Virginia's poultry producers contributed more than \$1 billion to the state's economy in 2011, the federation said. That year, poultry farmers raised 243.8 million broiler chickens, ranking Virginia ninth nationally for broiler production. Virginia was ranked fifth for turkey production, with 17.5 million birds. And the state's poultry farmers produced 729 million table eggs.

So where are all these birds?

Farms in more than 30 counties across the state produce poultry commercially. But the majority of the birds are in the Shenandoah Valley. In fact, Rockingham County is the third largest turkey-producing county in the nation!

### Poultry inputs make contributions

There are six poultry processing companies in Virginia: Cargill; George's Foods; Perdue Farms; Pilgrim's Pride; Tyson Foods; and Virginia Poultry Growers Cooperative. Collectively, these companies employ more than 10,000 people. That's something to squawk about!

Commercially raised poultry eat a nutritious diet made up mostly of corn and soybeans with added vitamins and minerals to maximize bird health. Despite what some people think, growers never give synthetic hormones or steroids to poultry. In 2011, Virginia poultry consumed 58.1 million bushels of corn and 642.1 million tons of soybean meal.

That sounds like a lot of corn and soybeans, but today's poultry production would have required a lot more corn a century ago. In the early 1900s, it took more than 5 pounds of feed to produce a pound of chicken; today's farmers produce a

pound of chicken with less than 2 pounds of feed. This efficiency is the result of scientific advances in breeding and nutrition.

It is also the result of how well farmers take care of their birds in modern poultry houses, which use the latest technology to deliver feed and fresh water, protect birds from predators and maintain proper temperature.



### Poultry is a favorite food

Americans love poultry. Per-capita U.S. poultry meat consumption has risen from 34 pounds in 1960 to nearly 100 pounds today.

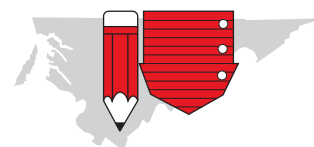
The United States exports about 18 percent of the chicken and about 12 percent of the turkey it produces to countries all around the world. Currently, the top five U.S. chicken export markets are Mexico, Hong Kong, Russia, Cuba and Angola. The current top five turkey export destinations are Mexico, China, Hong Kong, Canada and the Philippines.

### Poultry is chock-full of nutrition

Chicken and turkey are both excellent sources of protein, vitamin B and selenium. A 4-ounce boneless, skinless chicken breast has only 100 calories and 1 gram of fat. The same size boneless, skinless turkey breast has only 126 calories.

Eggs are another nutritional powerhouse. One egg has about 75 calories, is low in saturated fat and is packed with protein as well as almost every essential vitamin and mineral needed by humans, including vitamin D.

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### About the Newsletter

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For additional information and activities, visit our website at [AgInTheClass.org](http://AgInTheClass.org) or call 804-290-1143



# Which came first, the chicken or the egg?

Eggs come from chickens, but there are two types of eggs—fertilized and unfertilized.

Hens that are not mated with roosters begin laying eggs when they are about 20 weeks old. These are the eggs that we scramble for breakfast.

Hens that mate with roosters lay fertilized eggs that contain chicks. Once the eggs are laid, they are housed in an incubator and hatch after 21 days.

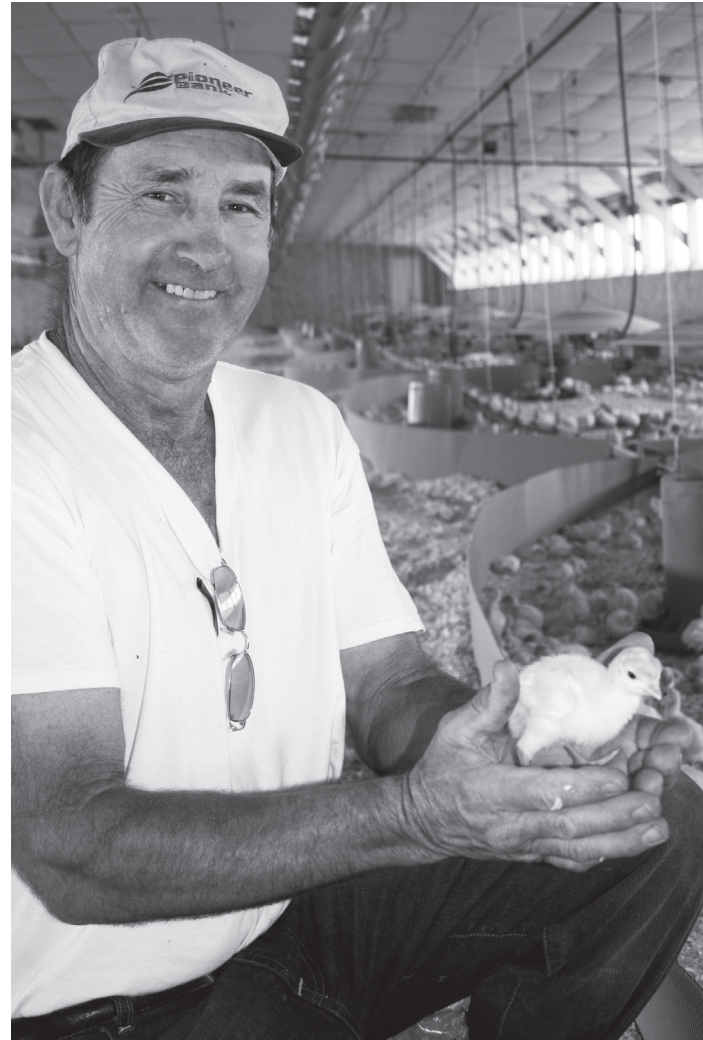
At that point, the chicks are moved to broiler houses, where they grow until it's time for processing. While they are there, they can roam freely in the house, and most modern facilities have automatic feeding and watering systems.

The vast majority of chickens and turkeys raised for human consumption in the United States are produced by independent farmers who contract with poultry production and processing companies. The contracts help standardize production practices, ensuring consistent, quality products for consumers.

Generally, farmers care for the birds and provide land and housing, utilities, maintenance and labor. The processing company provides the birds, feed, veterinary supplies, technical services and transportation of birds to and from the farm.

## Fun poultry facts

- A chicken can run as fast as 25 mph.
- There are more chickens in the world than any other species of bird.
- Baby chicks have belly buttons.
- Benjamin Franklin wanted the turkey to be the national bird.



"My birds are fed a good diet and kept in a controlled environment so there's no stress," said Billy Turner, who is holding one of the 26,000 poults (baby turkeys) that are delivered to his Page County farm every six months.

## LESSON PLAN >> PRESCHOOL

# Making poultry prints

## Background Knowledge

Virginia's poultry industry, which includes chickens, turkeys and eggs, produces the state's largest agricultural commodity. Virginia's poultry operations employ more than 12,000 people. A significant amount of chicken and turkey raised in Virginia is exported to foreign countries.

## Procedure

1. Begin by reading a story about chickens or turkeys on the farm, and ask students to identify the animals in the pictures. Discuss how chickens live on a farm and the fact that some of them give us eggs.
2. Give each student a piece of construction paper.
3. Trace each student's shoe in the middle of the paper, and cut it out. This will form the body of your chicken, with the heel forming the head. Glue the shoe shape onto another piece of paper.
4. Have students use finger paint to stamp their hands around the chicken or turkey to form feathers.
5. Use a marker or crayon to add eyes and a beak.

## Extension

Write a number on the chicken. Have students glue the correct number of eggs below the chicken.



**CONTENT AREAS:**  
Fine motor  
Life processes

**Objective:**  
to identify chickens and turkeys as farm animals,  
to recognize that eggs  
come from chickens and to  
recognize written numerals.

**Materials:**

- construction paper
- finger paint
- markers/crayons
- glue
- scissors

Download the full lesson at  
[AgInTheClass.org](http://AgInTheClass.org)

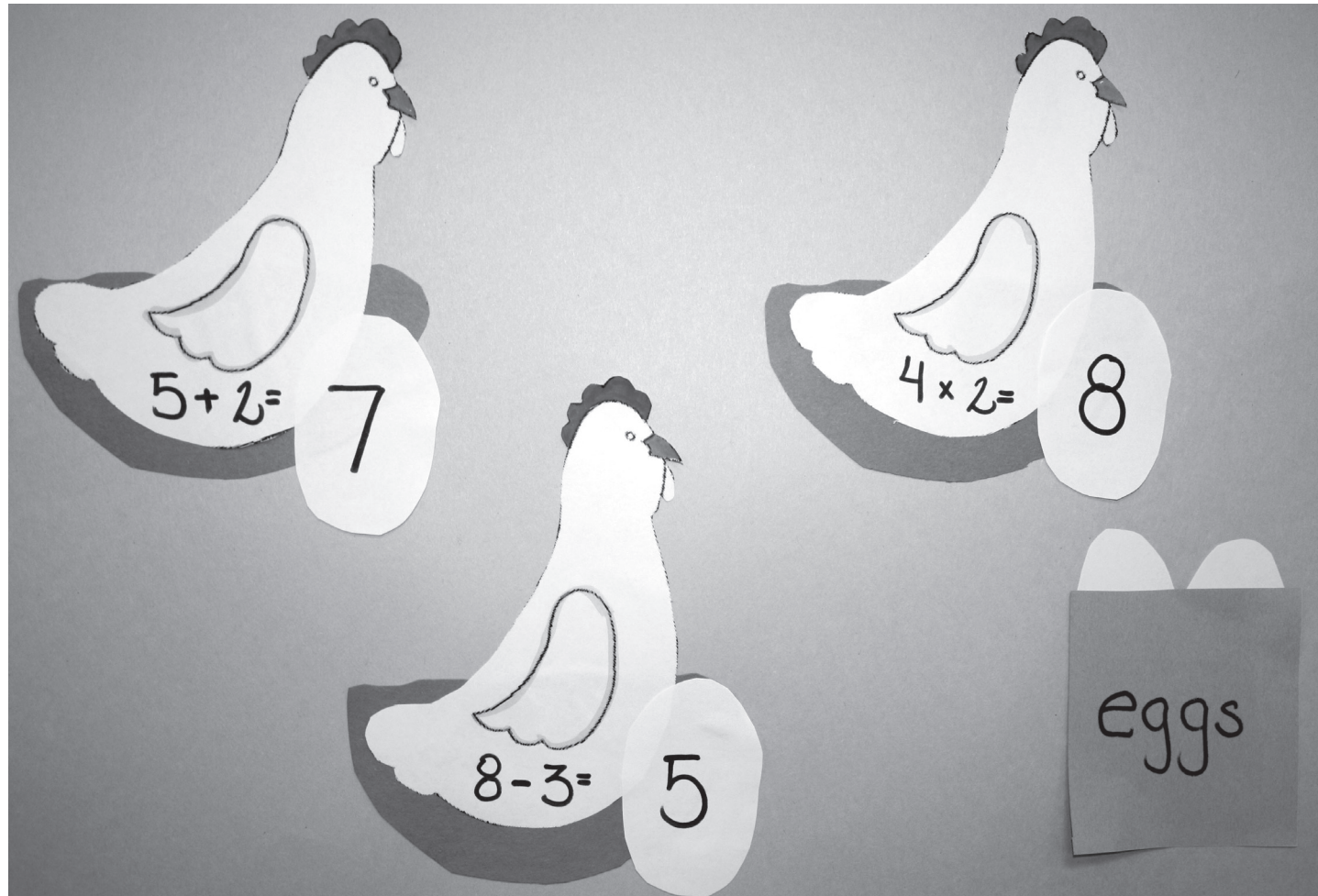


**Bonus Activities:****Chicken math interactive bulletin board**

Liven up your classroom with an interactive bulletin board, engage students past the lesson. Check out our poultry one, and visit [AgInTheClass.org](http://AgInTheClass.org) to find even more ideas.

**To Prepare:**

Cut out several chickens, write an equation on each and attach to the board. In a pocket on the board, place eggs with various numbers written on them. Have students match each egg to the correct chicken.

**LESSON PLAN >> ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

# Talking turkey

**Background knowledge**

In 1621 a three-day harvest festival took place among the Native Americans and settlers of Plymouth Colony. Although there is evidence of earlier thanksgiving feasts in the Virginia colony, this festival generally is understood to be the first Thanksgiving celebration. It was more than 200 years later, in 1863, that President Abraham Lincoln declared Thanksgiving a national celebration.

The first Thanksgiving meal probably looked very different from current Thanksgiving celebrations. The Native Americans and colonists might have dined on venison, lobster, fish, rabbit and various fruits such as grapes, strawberries, gooseberries, plums and raspberries. Today, no Thanksgiving feast would be complete without turkey. In fact, Americans purchase more than 280 million turkeys each year for Thanksgiving. Throughout the year the average American eats about 16 to 18 pounds of turkey. Virginia ranks fifth nationally for turkey production.

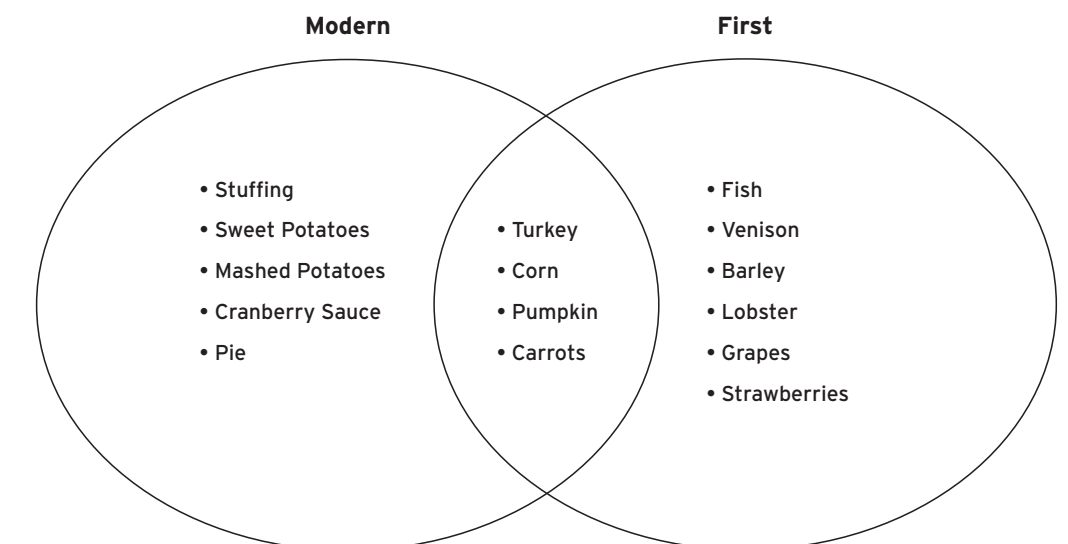
**Procedure**

1. Begin by having students share their favorite Thanksgiving foods. Ask them to predict how their favorites might be similar and different to what the colonists and Native Americans ate at the first Thanksgiving celebration.
2. Have students read the first-hand accounts of the first Thanksgiving written by colonists William Bradford and Edward Winslow. Instruct them to underline each of the foods mentioned in the paragraphs.
3. Have students draw a Venn diagram on their papers; write "Modern" above one circle and "First" above the other. Students will then compare and contrast the foods enjoyed at each feast.

**Extension**

Group students into groups of three or four to form "families." Instruct each family to create a menu for a Thanksgiving meal. Distribute grocery store circulars to each group. Using the ads, have them determine how much each item on their table will cost, and then total the products.

Compare and contrast the foods eaten by the Powhatan of the Eastern Woodlands region with those eaten by the Wampanoag.

**Food Enjoyed at Thanksgiving**

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### The Incredible Bouncing Egg

Materials: one hard-boiled egg, white vinegar, plastic container with lid.

#### Directions:

1. Place the egg in the plastic container. Cover completely with white vinegar, and seal the lid.
2. Observe the egg daily for one week.
3. At the end of one week, the shell will have dissolved, and the egg white and yolk will have become rubbery.
4. Rinse and dry the egg, drop it on the floor and watch it bounce!



#### LITERARY CORNER

## Importance of poultry discussed in books

*All About Turkeys*, Jim Arnosky, Scholastic, ISBN: 9780590515153

*Chicks & Chickens*, Gail Gibbons, Holiday House, ISBN: 9780823417001

*Chickens on the Farm*, Mari Schuh, Capstone Press, ISBN: 9780736891424

*A Chicken's Life*, Nancy Dickmann, Heinemann Educational Books, ISBN: 9781432941390

*Chicken said, "Cluck!"*, Judyann Ackerman Grant, Harper Collins, ISBN: 9780060287238

*Farm*, Elisha Cooper, Orchard Books, ISBN: 9780545070751

*Turkeys on the Farm*, Mari Schuh, Capstone Press, ISBN: 9780736811903



## AITC Program Highlights

### Check out our new website

When you visit Agriculture in the Classroom on the Web, you'll find a new look, along with many new lessons and resources for use in your classroom. Go to [AglInTheClass.org](http://AglInTheClass.org), and see what it has to offer.

### Reserve a spot at a fall conference

AITC trainers will be presenting at the Virginia Association of Science Teachers and the Virginia Social Studies Educators conferences this fall. Come see us, and find out how to incorporate agriculture into your own classroom. Can't make it to a conference? AITC will come to you. Contact us today to schedule a staff development session for your school or division: [aitc@vafb.com](mailto:aitc@vafb.com).

### Training and resources are still free

Teachers like you are our partners in helping us achieve our mission of educating children on the importance of agriculture. The training and resources that we provide Virginia educators are provided at absolutely no cost, due to donations made to our foundation. We would like to invite you to join our family of donors and help support free agriculture education for children throughout Virginia. If you wish to contribute a tax-deductible gift to our program, please visit [AglInTheClass.org](http://AglInTheClass.org). Thank you for your support!