

# Life Cycle of a Chicken

In this activity children will create the life cycle of a chicken beginning with the egg laid by a hen, to the chick breaking out of the egg, the chick growing into an adult hen (female chicken) and laying their first egg.

**Materials:** white paper, scissors, red paint, markers, glue, googly eyes or an alternative

## Directions:



A hen will lay an egg almost every day. Cut out a white egg and some brown strips to make the hay for the first stage.



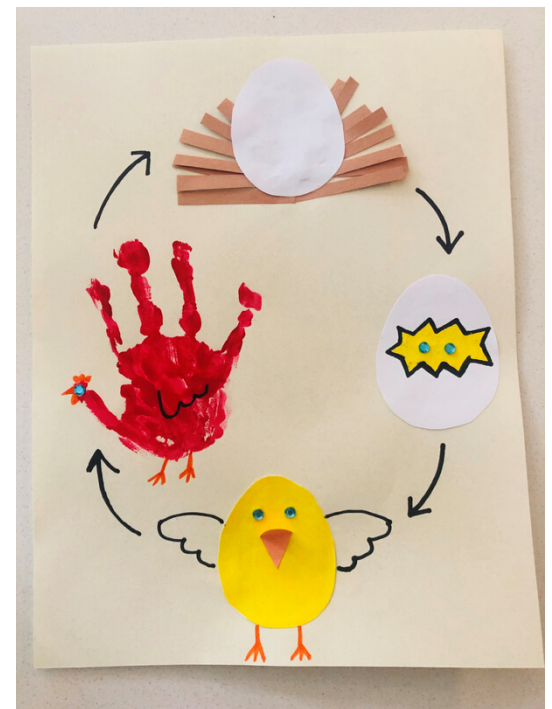
After about 21 days the chick is strong enough to leave the egg. Cut out a second white egg and use a marker, googly eyes or sparkles for the chicks eyes. Did you know chicks have a tooth on their beak called an *egg tooth* for breaking the shell?



After hatching chicks will look yellow and fluffy. Use another egg shape, colour it yellow, add wings, a beak, feet and eyes. Baby chicks will start pecking the ground for food right away.



An adult hen will begin the cycle all over again. Paint your hand any colour for a chicken and use your thumb as the head. Lastly connect the four stages with arrows and you are finished!

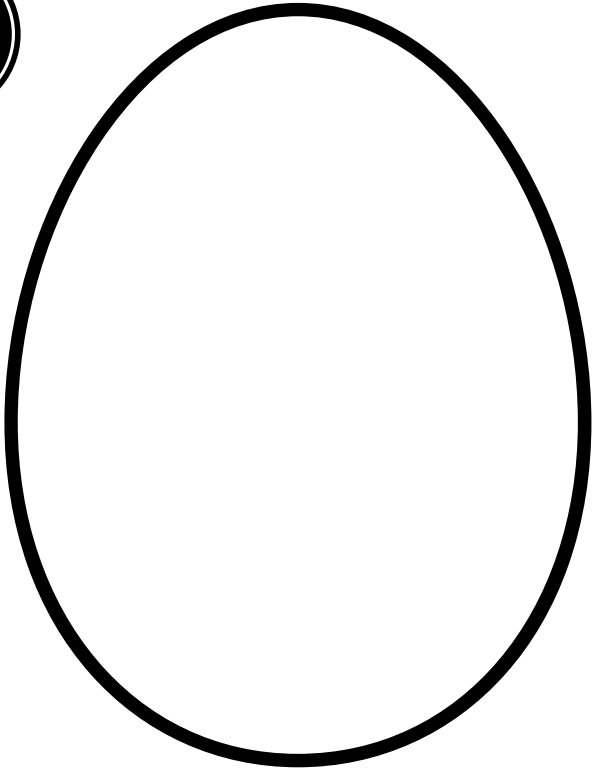


### Thinking Question:

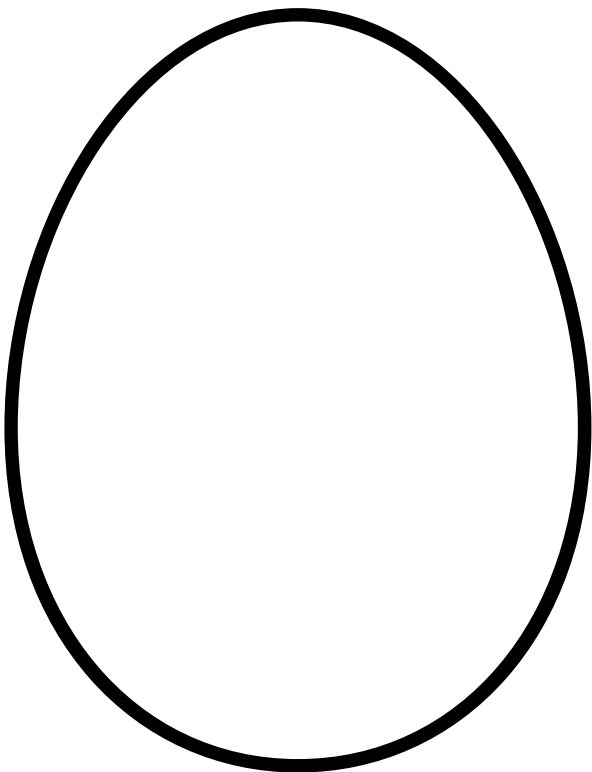
Can you think of some other life cycles the have four unique stages? What is the life cycle of a butterfly or a frog? Can you see any of these stages outside?

**Parent Tip:** Use the egg templates on page 2 for the first three stages of the life cycle.

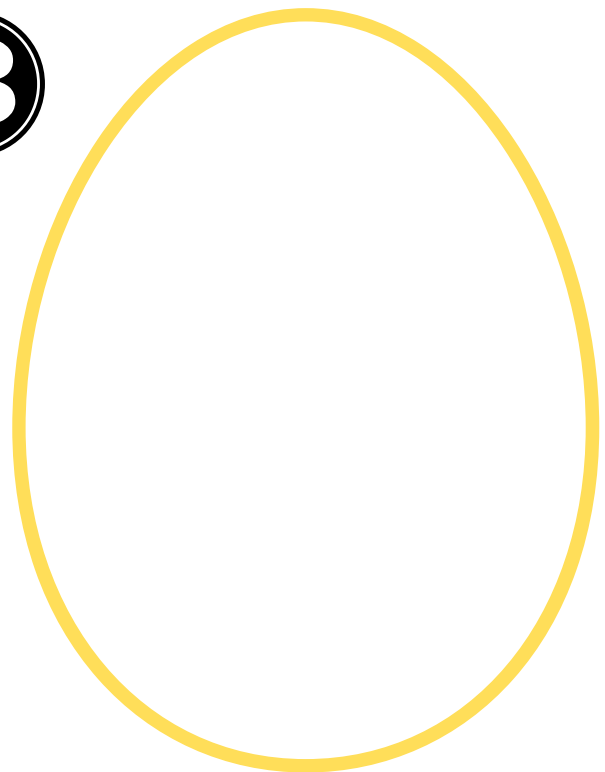
**1**



**2**



**3**



Egg #1 - stays whole and goes on the nest  
Egg #2 - draw a crack and chick looking out  
Egg #3 - paint or colour all yellow and draw  
a break, feet, wings and eyes for the chick!