

Life Cycle of a Chicken

In this activity children will recreate the life cycle of a chicken from 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, brown construction paper, scissors, red paint markers, glue, googly eyes

Directions:



A hen will lay an egg almost every day. Cut out a white egg and some brown strips to make the nest 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 chick's eyes. Did you know chicks have a tooth on their beak called an *egg tooth* for breaking the shell?



After hatching chicks are yellow and fluffy. Using another egg shape, colour it yellow and 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!

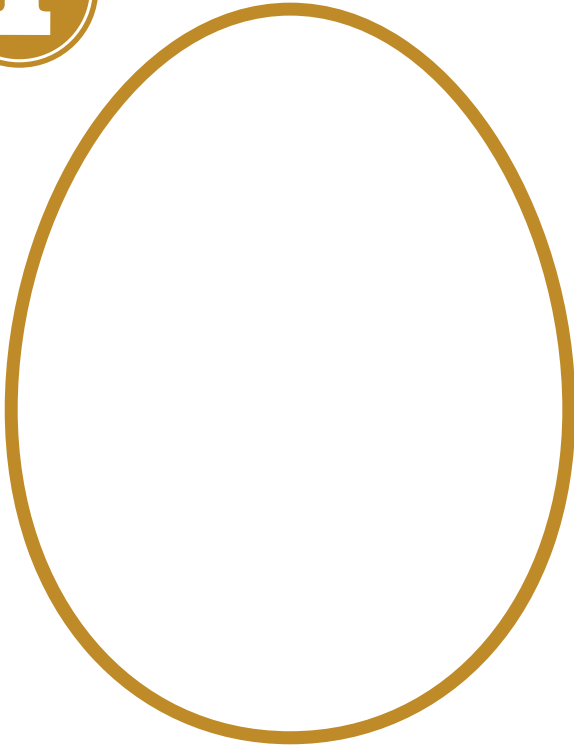


Thinking Question:

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

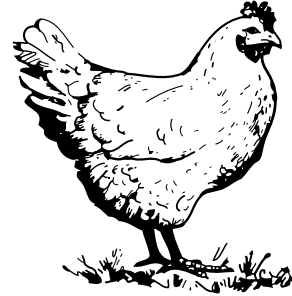


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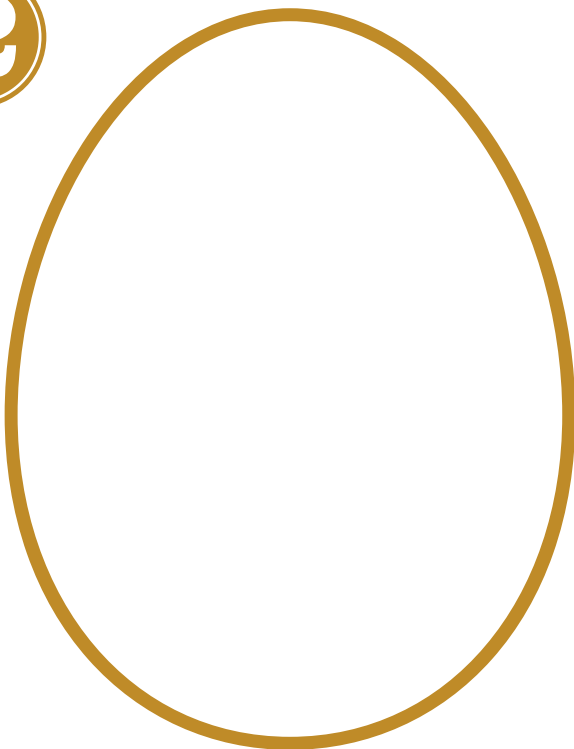


Cut out three egg templates

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!



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3

