

Title: The Lifecycle of a Chicken

Grade Level: 3rd Grade

Subject: Science

Stages of a Chicken's Lifecycle

1. Egg Stage

- The chicken's life begins as a fertilized egg.
- Eggs are kept warm in an incubator or by a hen.
- It takes about **21 days** for the chick to develop and hatch.

2. Embryo Stage

- Inside the egg, the embryo develops into a chick.
- The chick grows features like beaks, legs, and feathers.
- Students can use candling tools to observe growth inside the egg.

3. Hatching

- After 21 days, the chick uses its **egg tooth** to break the shell and hatch.
- This process is called **pipping**.

4. Chick Stage

- Newly hatched chicks are fluffy and dependent on warmth.
- They eat **chick starter food** and drink water to grow strong.

5. Adult Stage

- Chicks grow into adult chickens within a few months.
- Adult hens can lay eggs, starting the lifecycle again!

Key Facts About Chickens

- **Temperature:** Eggs need to stay at **99.5°F** to hatch properly.
- **Turning Eggs:** Eggs must be turned to keep the embryo healthy. This happens naturally when a hen sits on her eggs or in an incubator.
- **Farmers' Role:** Farmers monitor chickens to keep them healthy and safe.

Observation Tips

- **Egg Candling:** Use a special light to observe the growing chick inside the egg.
- **Daily Observations:** Watch how chicks grow and change each day after hatching.