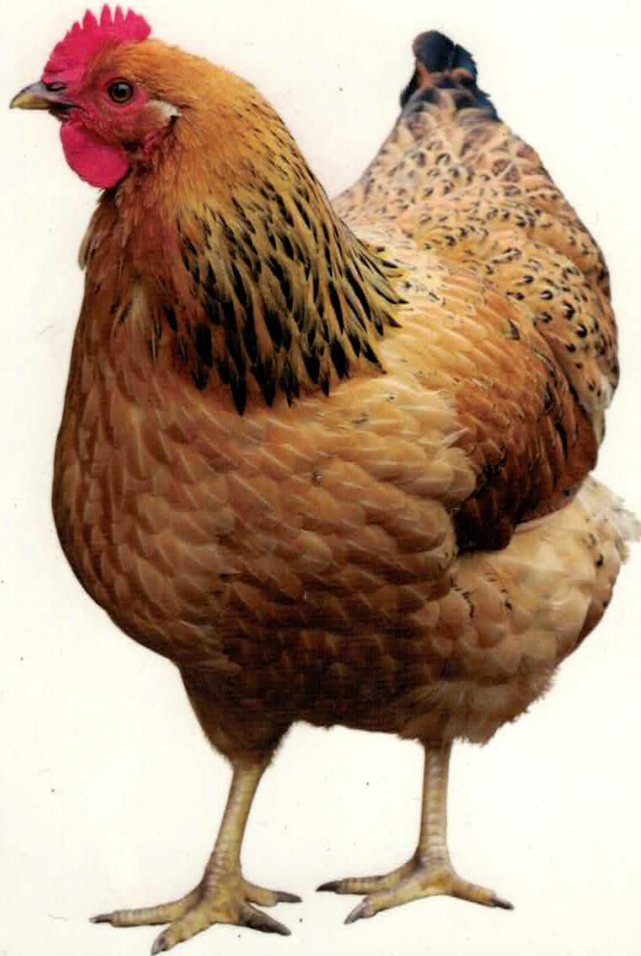


EGG TO CHICKEN



Words that look like **this** can be found in the glossary on page 24.



**THE
SECRET
BOOK
COMPANY**

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Written by:
Grace Jones

Edited by:
Charlie Ogden

Designed by:
Danielle Rippengill

EGG TO CHICKEN

LIFE
CYCLES

- | | |
|---------|-------------------------|
| Page 4 | What Is a Life Cycle? |
| Page 5 | What Is a Chicken? |
| Page 6 | Eggs |
| Page 8 | Growing Eggs |
| Page 10 | Hatching Chicks |
| Page 12 | Growing Chicks |
| Page 14 | Chickens |
| Page 16 | Food |
| Page 18 | Clucking Chickens |
| Page 20 | World Record Breakers |
| Page 22 | Life Cycle of a Chicken |
| Page 23 | Get Exploring! |
| Page 24 | Glossary and Index |



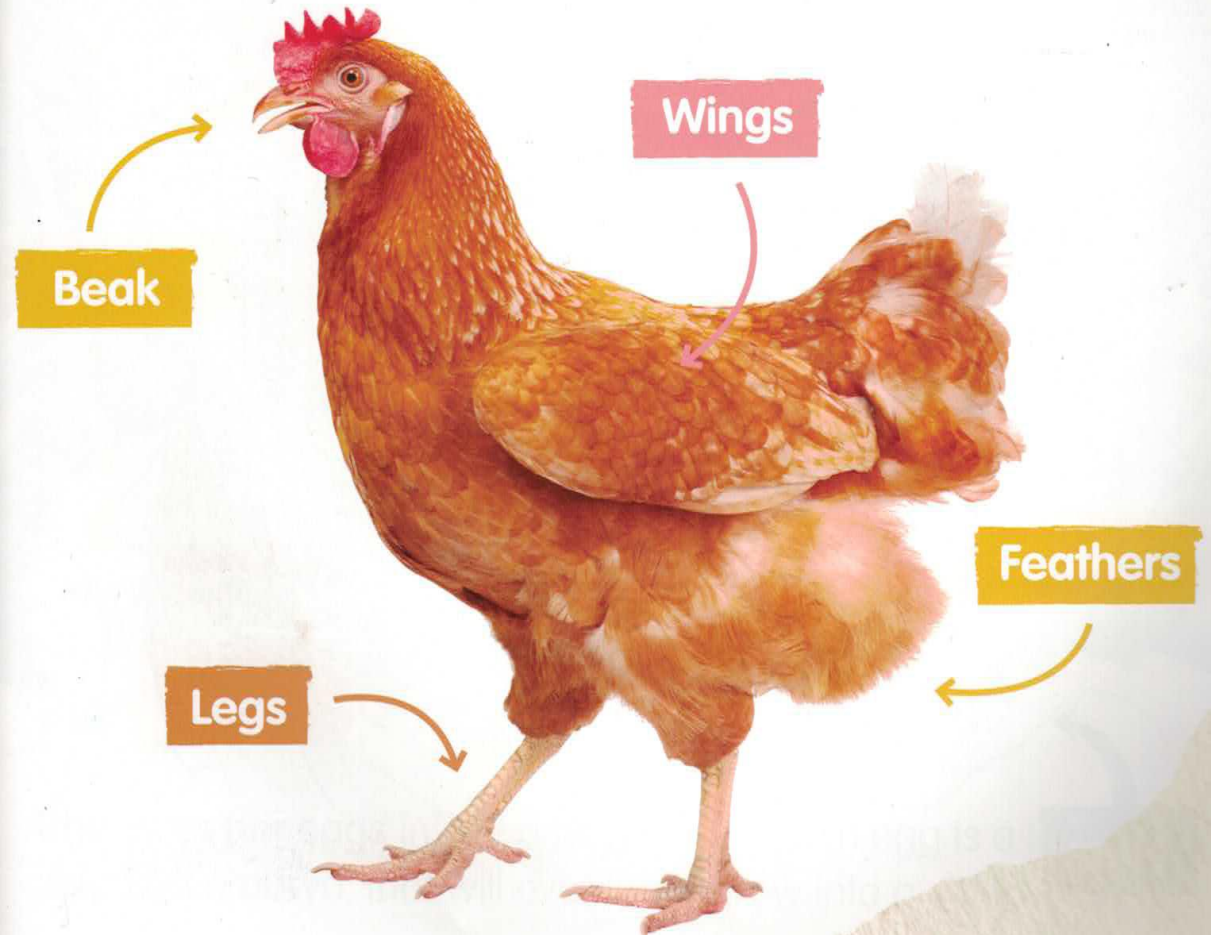
WHAT IS A LIFE CYCLE?

All animals and humans go through different stages in their life as they grow. This is called a life cycle.



WHAT IS A CHICKEN?

A chicken is a bird. Chickens have two legs, two wings, a beak and they are covered in feathers.



EGGS

A female chicken, called a hen, makes a nest on the ground to lay her eggs in. The nest is mostly made of straw.



Hens usually
lay around one
egg a day.

A hen lays her eggs inside a nest. Inside each egg is a tiny dot, called an embryo, that will eventually grow into a chicken.

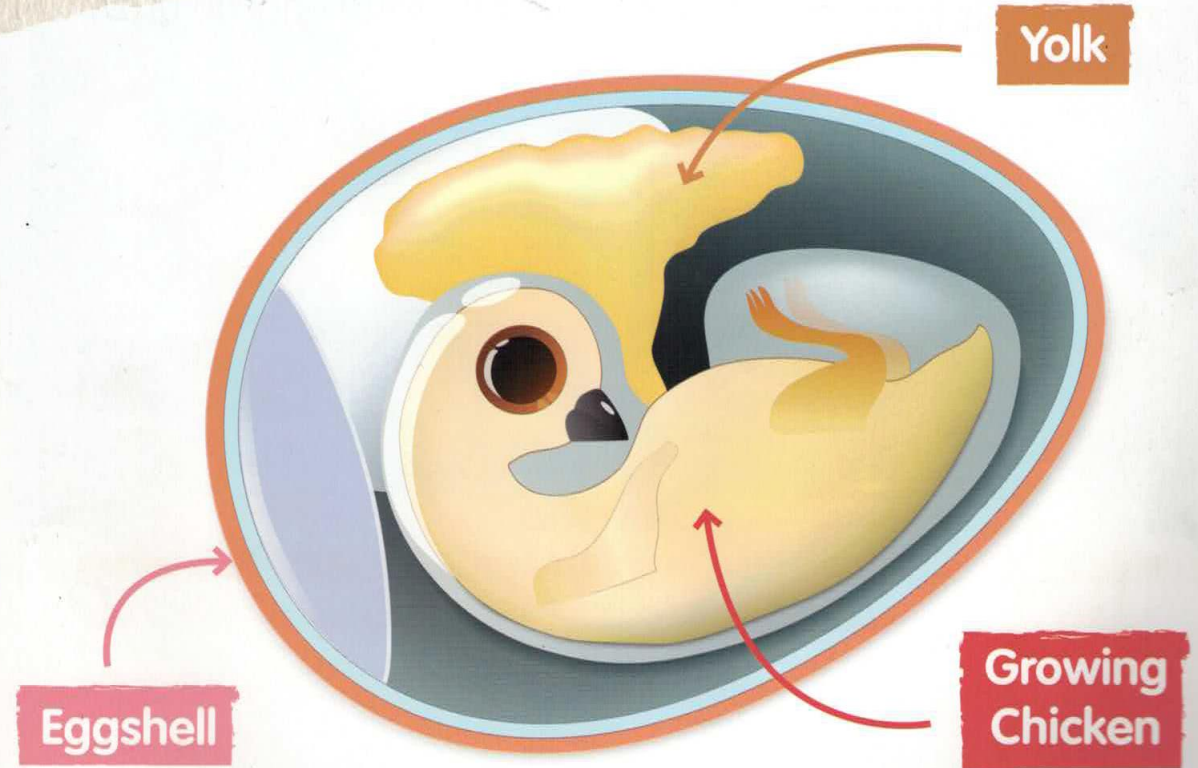
GROWING EGGS

A hen sits on her eggs to keep them warm. This is called brooding. This is an important job that helps the eggs to grow.

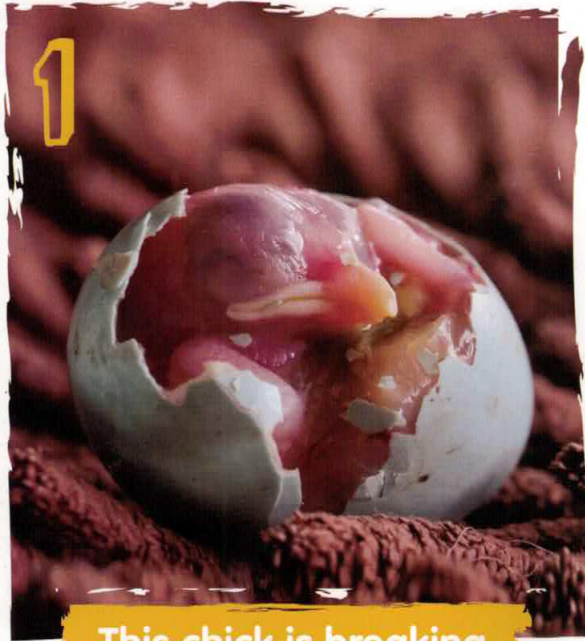


A group of
eggs is called
a clutch.

Inside the egg, the tiny chicken embryo is growing. It eats the yellow yolk inside the egg for its food. The hard shell of the egg protects the embryo.



HATCHING CHICKS



1

This chick is breaking out of its egg.



2

This is a newly-hatched chick.



After around three weeks of growing, the baby chicken breaks out of its egg. This is called hatching. The baby chicken that comes out is called a chick.

The hen keeps her chicks warm under her wings. After another two weeks, the chicks will be strong enough to explore outside the nest.



Chicks have very fluffy feathers just after they have hatched.

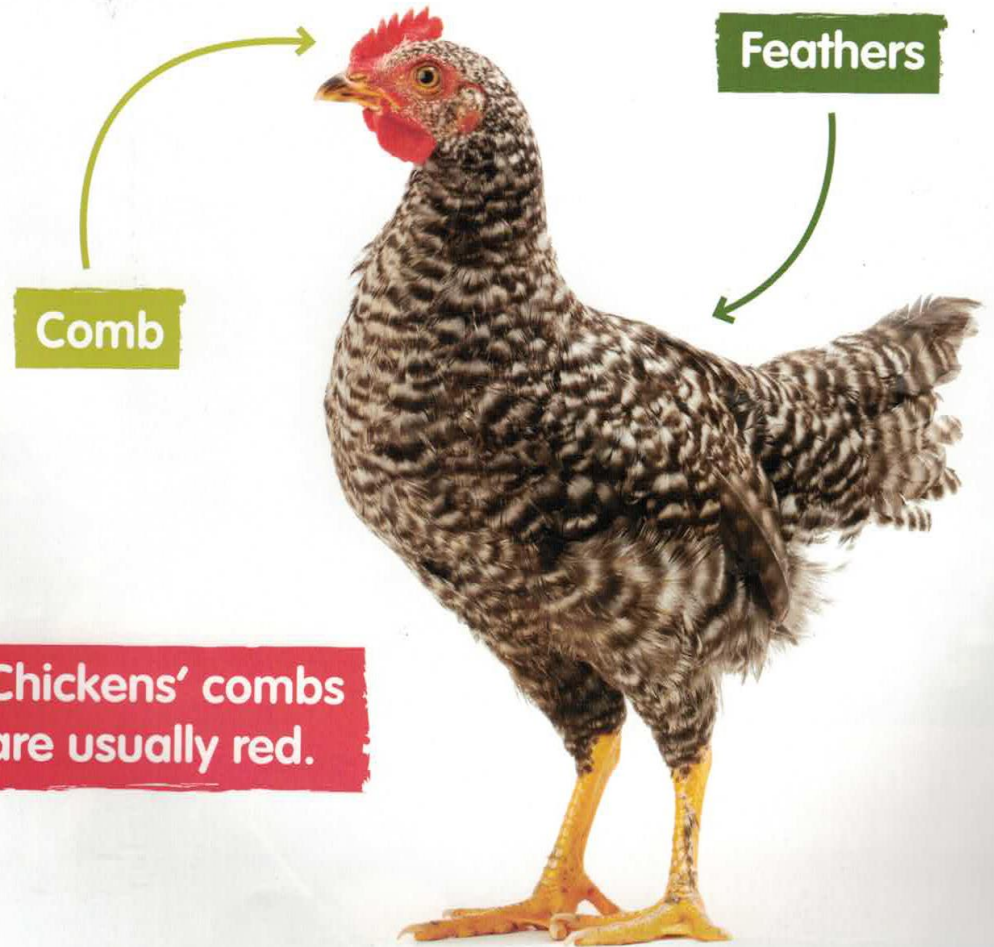
GROWING CHICKS



Chicks make a cheeping noise so that their mother can find them.

Chicks look for their own food. If they are outside, chicks will look for worms and bugs on the ground.

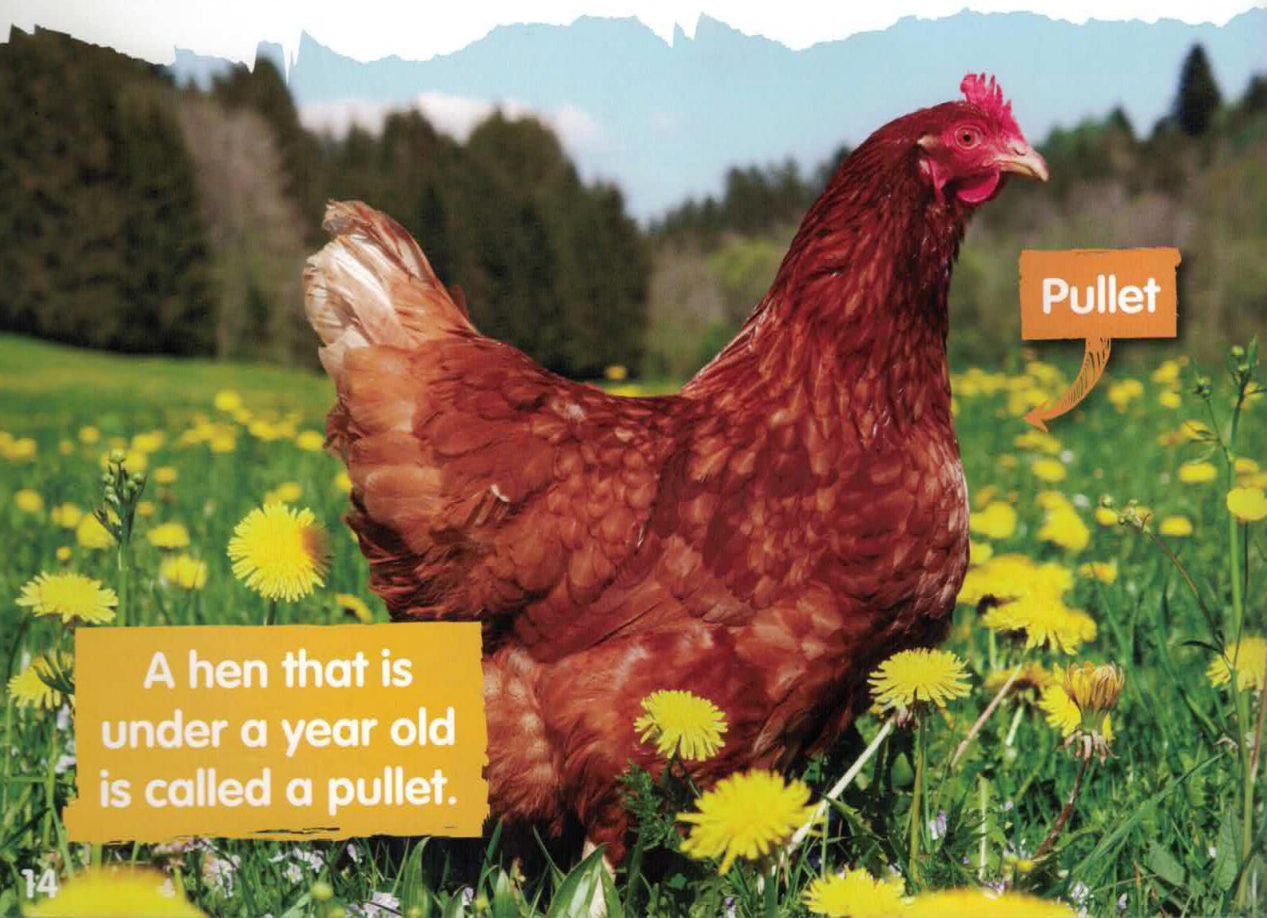
As they grow bigger, the chicks will lose their fluffy feathers and grow bigger, stronger feathers. They will also grow **combs** on their heads.



Chickens' combs are usually red.

CHICKENS

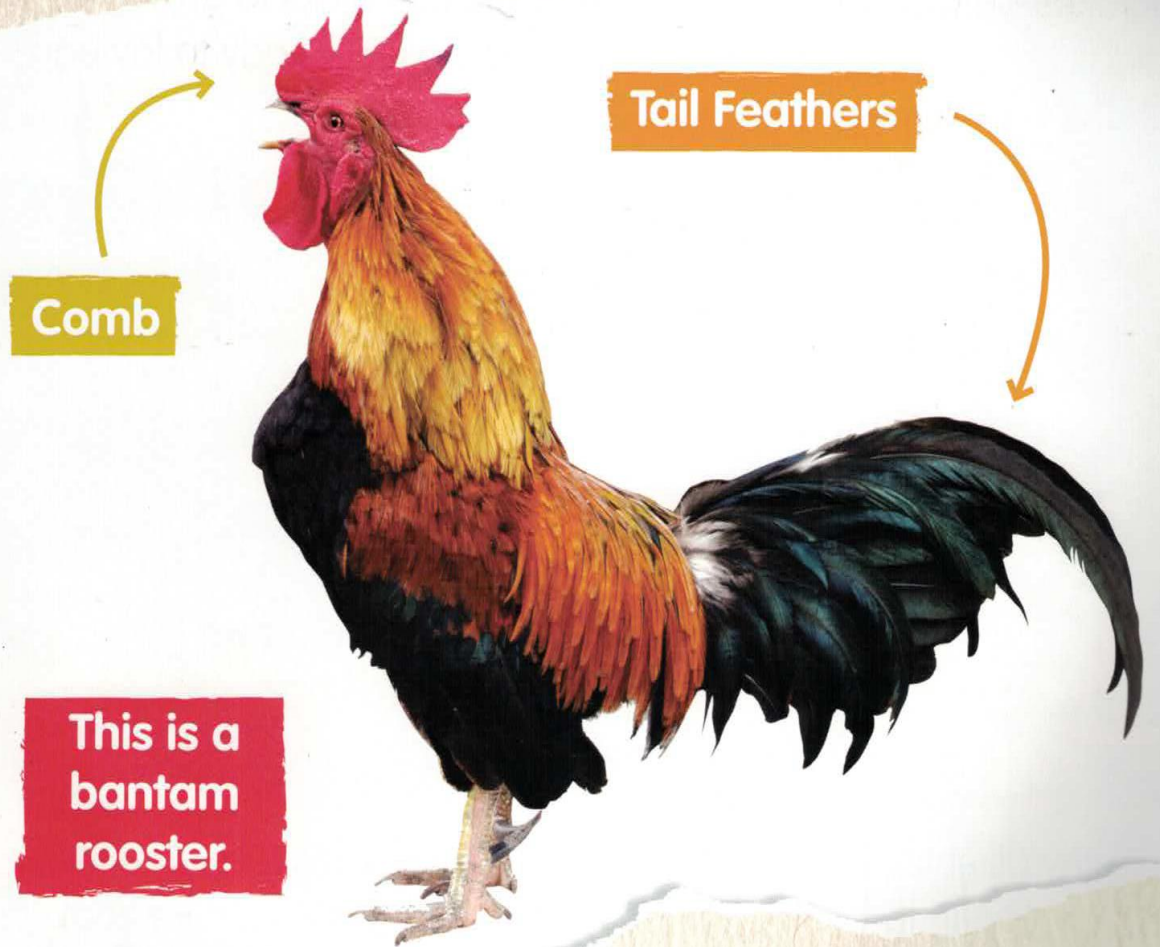
It takes between six and eight months for chicks to grow into adult chickens. After this, the young hens are ready to lay eggs of their own.



Pullet

A hen that is under a year old is called a pullet.

Male chickens are called roosters or cockerels. They are usually larger than hens. They also have larger combs and longer tail feathers.



Comb

Tail Feathers

This is a bantam rooster.

FOOD



Grain

This chicken is eating grain.

Nearly all chickens are **domesticated**, which means that they do not live in the wild. Instead, they live on farms or are kept as pets. Chickens are fed by the people who own them.

If chickens spend their time outside, they will look for food to eat on the ground. They often eat the bugs and seeds they find in the **soil**.



These chickens are looking for food on the ground.

CLUCKING CHICKENS

There are over 65 different types of chicken and one of the strangest is the Silkie. These chickens have fluffy white feathers, black skin and blue **earlobes**.



Silkie
Chicken

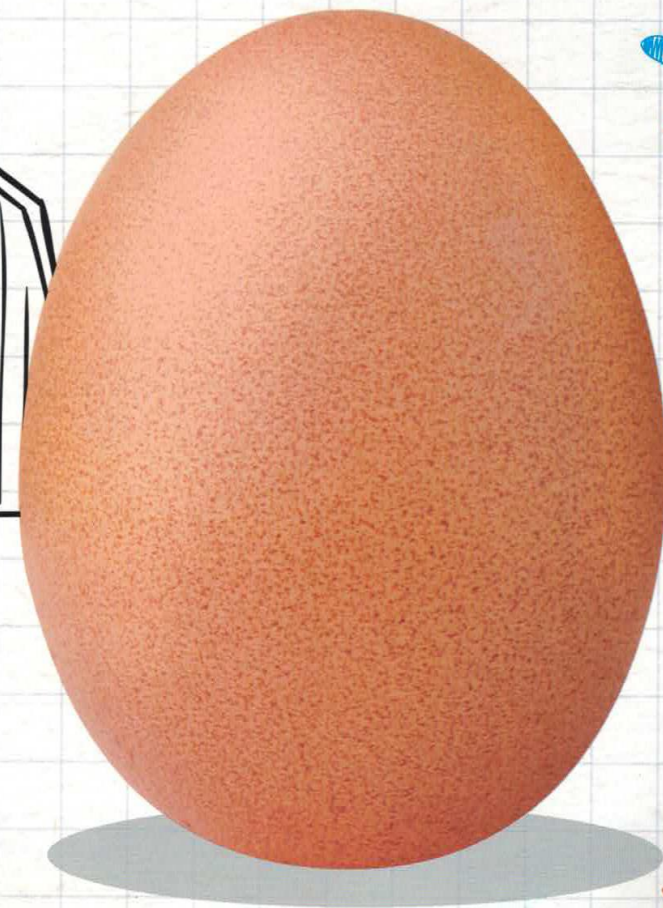
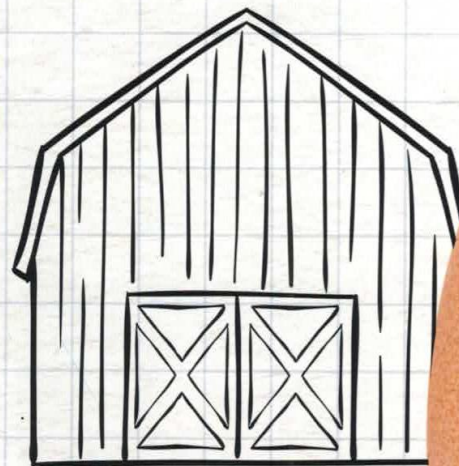
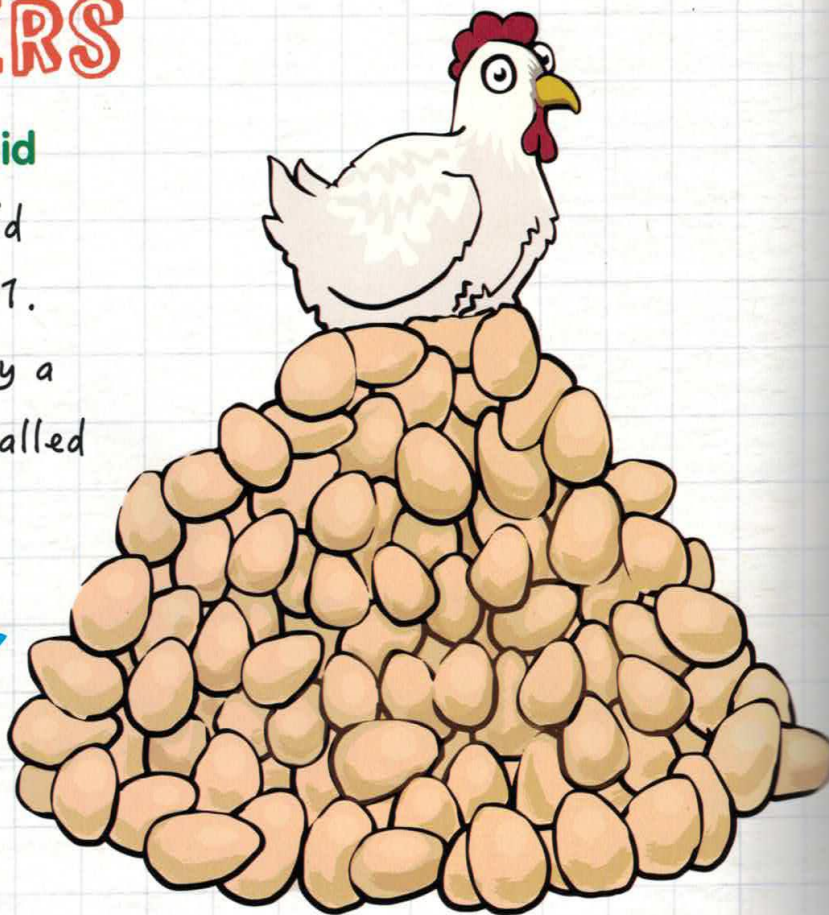
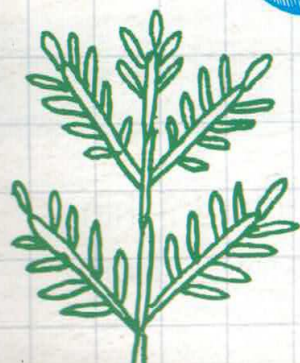


Chickens make lots of sounds to tell each other different things. Mother hens can tell their chicks when they have found food.

WORLD RECORD BREAKERS

The Most Eggs Laid

The most eggs laid
in one year is 371.
They were laid by a
type of chicken called
a white leghorn.



The Heaviest Chicken Egg Weight: 454 grams

Fun Fact: That's about the same
weight as a football!



LIFE CYCLE OF A CHICKEN

1

A hen lays an egg in a nest.



2

A chick hatches from the egg.



LIFE
CYCLES

3

The chick grows into a chicken.



GET EXPLORING!



Ask a parent or guardian whether you can visit a farm near to where you live. What animals can you see? Can you spot any chickens?

GLOSSARY

combs soft body parts found on chickens' heads

domesticated kept as a pet or raised on a farm

earlobes the soft skin near the bottom of ears

soil the upper layer of earth where plants grow

INDEX

brooding 8

chicks 10–14, 19, 22

cockerels 15

eggs 6–10, 14, 20–22

feathers 5, 11, 13, 15, 18

food 9, 12, 16–17, 19

hatching 10–12, 22

hens 6–8, 11, 14–15, 19, 22

nests 6–7, 11, 22

Silkie chickens 18

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