Experiments in Poultry Science

Helper's Guide
Advanced
Grades 6-8
Dear Educator,

*Embryology: Experiments in Poultry Science* is designed to provide you with background information and exciting experiential activities dealing with life science for use in your classroom. Each activity is designed to be grade-level appropriate and has been correlated to U.S. National Science Education Standards.

Children have a natural sense of curiosity about living things in the world around them. Building on this curiosity, students can develop an understanding of biology through direct experience with living things, their life cycles and their habitats. This curriculum was developed with your students in mind. Many believe students learn best by interacting with the world – listening, observing, experimenting and applying their knowledge to real-world situations. Each activity within this curriculum follows these steps in the experiential learning model.

An additional goal of this curriculum is to help students develop life skills. Life skills help an individual live a productive and satisfying life. Within this curriculum your students will have the opportunity to develop life skills related to science processes, teamwork, keeping records, and planning and organizing.

We hope that *Embryology: Experiments in Poultry Science* is an enjoyable experience for both you and your students as well as a beneficial unit in your life science curriculum. Here are a few quotes from students who worked with our pilot:

**The best part of learning about chickens and embryos was...**

“I enjoyed everything we did, because we got to learn by doing, not just reading.”

“Enjoyed the whole project because we actually did something instead of just looking at pictures.”

“This was wonderful because it did not seem like school, even though we were learning the whole time.”

“It was fun the whole time.”

“The best part was seeing how the chick hatched. It was cool how it pecked its way around the shell.”

“The best thing was when they hatched. It was really exciting. I also liked learning about hatching eggs. I learned so much that I didn't know before.”

**Acknowledgements**

**Design Team:** Phillip J. Clauer, Design Team Chairperson, Extension Poultry Specialist, Virginia Tech; Donna Bailey, 4-H Extension Agent, Maryland; Caitlin Boon, Poultry Science Student; Debbie Curry, Vice President Programs and Education, Discovery Place, Inc., Nature Museum; Gary Davis, Extension Poultry Specialist, NC State University; Mickey Hall, Extension Poultry Specialist, Clemson; Ed Maxa, Extension 4-H Specialist, NC Cooperative Extension Service.

**Writing:** Mark Jost

**Editing:** Kate McCarthy

**Photography:** Mark Sumner, Virginia Tech

**Design and Production:** Northern Design Group, MN

**Other assistance from:**

Tom Zurcher
Jim Adams
Pam Segall–Roberts
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A classroom unit in embryology will help you meet the following national science standards:

**In order to conduct a scientific inquiry, you must be able to**

- Identify questions that can be answered through scientific investigations.
- Design and conduct a scientific investigation.
- Use appropriate tools and techniques to gather, analyze and interpret data.
- Develop descriptions, explanations, predictions and models using evidence.
- Think critically and logically to make the relationships between evidence and explanations.
- Recognize and analyze alternative explanations and predictions.
- Communicate scientific procedures and explanations.
- Use mathematics in all aspects of scientific inquiry.

**Reproduction and heredity**

Reproduction is a characteristic of all living systems.

In many species, females produce eggs and males produce sperm. An egg and sperm unite to reproduce.

Every organism requires a set of instructions for specifying its traits. Heredity is the passage of these instructions from one generation to another.

The characteristics of an organism can be described in terms of a combination of traits.

**Structure and function in living systems**

Living systems at all levels of organization demonstrate the complementary nature of structure and function.

All organisms are composed of cells—the fundamental unit of life.

Cells carry on many functions needed to sustain life.

Specialized cells perform specialized functions in multicellular organisms.

**Regulation and behavior**

All organisms must be able to obtain and use resources, grow, reproduce and maintain stable internal conditions while living in a constantly changing external environment.

Behavior is one response by an organism to an internal or environmental stimulus.

An organism’s behavior evolves through adaptation to its environment.

**To succeed in technological design, you must**

- Identify appropriate problems for technological design.
- Design a solution or product.
- Implement a proposed design.
- Evaluate completed technological designs or products.
- Communicate the process of technological design.
Experiential learning means having students do hands-on activities, reflect on the meaning and apply what they learned. This process helps ensure that the students learn actively and make knowledge a part of their world. It also helps students answer questions such as “Why should I learn this?” and “Now that I know this, what do I do next?”

Providing an experience alone does not create “experiential learning.” The activity comes first. The learning comes from the thoughts and ideas created as a result of the experience. This is a “learn by doing” or experiential process. Addressing each step in the process assures a purposeful plan to obtain a specific goal.

**Experience**
The model begins with experience, action. This immediately focuses the attention on the learner rather than the teacher. This requires active co-operation from the learner, coupled with guidance from the teacher to help maintain the learner’s curiosity. Teaching becomes a cooperative enterprise.

**Share**
Sharing is simply asking the group or individuals, What did you do? What happened? What did it feel like to do (whatever)? This step should generate lots of information to lead to the process step.

**Process**
The questions and discussion now become more focused on what was most important about the experience. Common themes that emerge from the sharing session are explored further. Often the key teaching points related to the subject matter are discussed.

**Generalize**
In this step the experience is related to a real-world example. This step helps the student to answer the questions, Why should I learn this? What did the experience mean to me personally? To my everyday life? Subject matter and life skill development can be discussed in this step. For example, if you hope that the activity helps students develop teamwork skills, then questions about teamwork would be appropriate.

**Apply**
This step helps the student answer the question, Now that I know this, what do I do next? Can students express what they learned? Can they use what they learned? Can the student actually apply the learning to a new situation?
Life skill development

A skill is a learned ability to do something well. Life skills are abilities individuals can learn that will help them to be successful in living a productive and satisfying life. The following is a list of skills that students will develop through experiencing the activities within this curriculum. Also included is a set of criteria that can act as indicators to determine if the life skill is being developed.

**Planning and organizing**—A method for doing something that has been thought out ahead of time; how the parts can be put together.

- **Indicator:**
  - Student can develop a part of a plan.

**Keeping records**—Recording selected useful information, usually focused for a specific purpose.

- **Indicator:**
  - Student is able to categorize information and select useful information.

**Teamwork**—Work done by two or more people, each doing parts of the whole task. Teamwork involves communicating effectively, identifying and agreeing on a common task, dividing a task by identifying contributions by each person, accepting responsibility for one’s part of the task, working together to complete the task and sharing accomplishment.

- **Indicator:**
  - Understands roles as essential and enjoys working together with others of similar interests/abilities.

Science skill

These skills represent the scientific thinking and process skills that are essential to scientific inquiry. An inquiry based science classroom uses and encourages the use of these skills in science activities.

**Observing**—Generating reasonable questions about the world based on observation.

- **Examples:**
  - Seeing, hearing, tasting, smelling and feeling.

**Comparing and measuring**—Using simple measurement tools to provide consistency in an investigation.

- **Examples:**
  - Sensory observations, weight, quantity, quality, temperature and capacity.

**Relating**—Developing solutions to unfamiliar problems through reasoning, observation and experimentation.

- **Examples:**
  - Asking questions, making a hypothesis, understanding relationships, designing and conducting simple investigations, and identifying the control and variables in an investigation.

**Applying**—Using sources of information to help solve problems.

- **Examples:**
  - Applying science learning to resolve current issues, inventing a new technology, using math and forming additional questions.

Poultry incubation
<table>
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<th>Embryology Skill</th>
<th>Life Skill</th>
<th>Science Skill</th>
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Planning and Scheduling

Checklist

Planning is crucial to the success of an embryology project. Use this section as a checklist to help you plan the project activities. As you complete each part check it off so you know what has been finished.

*Other important details to assist you with this project follow this checklist.*

### One to six months before you plan to start the project

- **Plan the exact dates during which you wish to do this project.**
  
  Dates of the embryology project:
  
  _______________ to _______________.

- **Before you order eggs, decide what you will do with the chicks that hatch. Contact a farmer, zoo or other animal caretakers who are equipped to properly care for the chicks.**
  
  The chicks will be placed with
  
  _______________.

- **To insure egg availability, order the eggs at least one to three months in advance of the day you plan to set them.**

- **Secure an incubator at least a month before the start of the project and be sure it works properly.**

- **Read the lesson plan and secure any materials you will need at least a month before the project begins.**

### Starting the project

- **Set up the incubator in a safe area and start running it 48 hours before eggs are to arrive.**

- **Prepare the students a few days before the project begins. Help them understand the principles of incubation and embryology. Discuss what the class wishes to accomplish and what role they will play in reaching the goals of the project. This includes preparing calendars and other project resources.**

- **If your class plans to incubate eggs, prepare the eggs for incubation.**

- **Turn the eggs three times daily.**

- **Keep water pans full at all times. Always add water that is warm to the touch.**

- **Keep daily records of all activities involving the eggs (i.e., turning, temperature, water added, candling, and other activities). These records are extremely helpful for trouble-shooting causes of poor hatches.**

- **Candle the eggs every three days to check progress.**

- **Stop turning eggs three days (after 18 days for chicken eggs) prior to expected hatch.**

- **Prepare brooder box at least two days prior to expected hatch.**

- **Remove the chicks from the incubator and place them in a warm brooder within two to six hours after they hatch.**

- **Remove and discard all remaining unhatched eggs 60 hours after the first chick hatches, then disconnect incubator power.**

- **Clean and disinfect the incubator as soon as the power is disconnected.**

- **Let the incubator dry. Then store it in a safe, cool and dry place.**
Important procedures to consider

A. Plan the exact dates for your project. Many teachers use this material as a supplement to a specific curriculum like biology, human sexuality, human development or other related topics. It is extremely important that you understand that this is a continuous project for at least a 25-day period. Plan the project around holidays and testing periods. It is usually best to plan to set your eggs on a Tuesday. This allows you to prepare on Monday and insures that the chicks will not hatch on a weekend.

B. To prevent bacterial contamination, make sure that all students and teachers wash their hands after handling the eggs, raw egg products, incubated eggs, chicks and litter.

C. Before you order eggs, plan what you will do with the chicks that hatch. Contact a farmer, zoo or other animal caretakers who are equipped to care for the chicks properly. NEVER allow chicks to go home with students from your class. It is your responsibility to make sure that the chicks get a good home.

About the eggs

A. Obtaining fertile hatching eggs. Locating fertile eggs may present a problem, especially in an urban area. Most eggs sold in grocery stores are not fertile and cannot be used for incubation. Fertile eggs can usually be obtained from hatcheries or poultry breeding farms. Large hospitals may also be able to provide them. Contact your local Extension office for suggestions.

1. For a basic observation and hatching project, 12 eggs per incubator are adequate. If you are planning to do an experiment or activities, additional eggs may be required.

2. When you obtain fertile eggs from a source that does not routinely hatch its own eggs, you may want to test the eggs in an incubator to ensure that good fertility and hatchability can be obtained before you use the eggs as part of the class project. The presence of a male with a laying hen does not guarantee fertility or hatchability. You are also strongly encouraged to use chicken or coturnix quail eggs to hatch in the classroom. Duck, goose, pheasant and other species of fowl can be more difficult to hatch in classroom incubators. Duck and goose eggs often rot and may explode in the incubator.

3. When you have located a source of fertile eggs, pick them up yourself, if possible, rather than have them shipped or mailed. It is difficult for hatcheries, the postal service and transportation companies to properly handle small orders of eggs.

B. Caring for eggs prior to incubation. Timing, temperature and position are critical to safe storage.

1. The eggs should be collected within four hours from when they were laid.

2. If it is necessary to store fertile eggs before setting, store small end down at a temperature between 50 and 65°F and at 70 percent humidity.

3. Never store eggs more than 10 days after the eggs are laid. Hatchability drops quickly if they are stored for more than 10 days.

4. Transport fertile eggs in a protective carton, small end down. Do not leave eggs in the sun or a hot car. In winter, don’t let the eggs get below 35°F.

5. It is always best to set the fertile eggs in a heated incubator within 24 hours of obtaining them.
C. Preparing the eggs for incubating. Fertile eggs from a commercial hatchery are usually already presorted. However, it is usually wise to check your eggs before setting them.

1. Candle eggs prior to setting to check for cracked eggs, thin-shelled eggs and double-yolked eggs. Do not incubate these eggs since they usually do not hatch.
2. Do not wash the eggs unless necessary. The eggs have a natural protective coating that is removed by washing. Only wash eggs that are visibly dirty. Then wipe the egg clean with a wet cloth warmer (at least 10 degrees warmer) than the temperature on the eggs. Do not set eggs that are excessively dirty.
3. Bring fresh eggs to be placed in the incubator to room temperature two hours prior to setting.
4. Mark the eggs with “X” and “O” on opposite sides to aid in daily turning. Also, number the eggs on the top of the large end to aid in identification and record keeping during the project. When marking eggs always use a pencil or wax crayon. Do not use permanent or toxic ink pens or markers.
5. Eggs that are warmed to room temperature should be immediately placed in the incubator.

About the incubator and incubation

A. Secure an incubator and make sure it is in good working order. You may choose a new or used incubator.

1. If buying a new incubator, order at least one month prior to the start of the project. Forced air incubators (with a fan to circulate the air) are best. Once the new incubator arrives, assemble if necessary and follow instructions for operation.
2. Used incubators should be checked one month prior to the start of the project. Make sure your equipment is clean and working correctly. This will allow you time to order parts or a new incubator if necessary.

B. Turn the incubator on a couple of weeks before the project starts and run it for 48 hours to insure that everything is working properly. Once you know it is in proper working order, unplug and set in a safe area until a few days before the start of the project.

C. Inform the administration and maintenance staff that you are doing this project and ask them to tell you if the electricity needs to be shut off for any reason.

D. Proper incubator placement in the classroom helps avoid problems.

1. Set up the incubator in a room that stays above 65°F.
2. Make sure the electrical outlet that you are using will be “on” 24 hours a day. Some schools turn off entire sections of the school at night and on weekends.
3. Place the incubator on a sturdy level surface.
4. Place the incubator at least six inches away from the edge of the surface to avoid accidental bumps.
5. Avoid high traffic areas, hot sunny windows, heating and cooling vents, drafty windows and doors.

E. Turn incubator on 36 to 48 hours prior to setting the eggs.

1. Adjust the incubator so it holds the desired temperature. Follow manufacturer guidelines for adjusting the temperature. In still-air units (without fans) adjust the temperature to 101°F. In forced-air units (with fans), adjust the temperature to 100°F. Always adjust the thermostat so the heat source goes off when the temperature reaches the desired temperature and comes on when the temperature drops below the desired temperature.
2. Use at least two thermometers to insure you are getting an accurate temperature reading.
3. Check the temperature often. Improper temperature can result in a poor hatch and weak chicks.
During incubation

A. Turn the eggs three times daily. Stop turning eggs three days (after 18 days for chicken eggs) prior to expected hatch.

B. Keep water pans full at all times. Always add water that is warm to the touch. It is best to add the water when you open the incubator to turn the eggs.

C. Keep daily records of all activities involving the eggs (i.e., turning, temperature, water added, candling, and other activities). These records are extremely helpful for trouble-shooting causes of poor hatches.

D. Candle the eggs every three days to check progress.

E. Stop turning eggs three days (after 18 days for chicken eggs) prior to expected hatch.

F. Never help the chicks from the shell.

G. Remove the chicks from the incubator and place them in a warm brooder within two to six hours after they hatch. If your incubator has good levels of humidity the chicks may not dry in the incubator. They will dry once moved to the brooder.

H. Remove and discard all remaining unhatched eggs 60 hours after the first chick hatches, then disconnect incubator power.

I. Clean and disinfect the incubator as soon as the power is disconnected. Once the dirt has dried to the surface, it becomes difficult to remove.

J. Let the incubator dry. Then store it in a safe, cool and dry place.

Brooding the chicks

A. Make sure the brooder box is working 2 to 4 days prior to hatch.

B. Brooders should maintain a temperature of 92 to 95°F (taken at one inch above the floor level, the height of the chick’s back) during the first week. If you keep the chick beyond the first week, decrease the temperature 5°F per week until room temperature is reached.

C. The brooder should have textured, absorbent litter on the floor. If the floor is slippery, the chicks can damage their legs. Pine or cedar shaving or textured paper towel work best in the classroom.

D. Feed 18 to 22 percent protein chicken starter food. This completely balanced ration can be obtained from any feed and garden store. The feed can be placed in jar lids, egg cartons, small tuna-sized cans or a commercial chick feeder.

E. Water should be available at all times. Use watering equipment that will not allow the chick to get into the water and drown. Commercially made water fountains for use with a quart jar work best. If you need to use a watering device that is not proven, it is recommended that you place clean marbles or gravel in the water so the chicks can drink between them but not get into the water and drown.

F. Clean the waterer and brooder daily. This will prevent odors and keep the brooder dry. Dampness provides favorable conditions for the development of molds and bacteria.
The reproductive system and fertilization

The rooster

The male fowl has two testes along its back. These never descend into an external scrotum, as do those of other farm animals. A testis consists of a large number of very slender, convoluted ducts. The linings of these ducts give off sperm. The ducts eventually lead to the ductus deferens, a tube that conducts the sperm to a small papilla. Together, the two papilla serve as an intermittent organ. They are on the rear wall of the cloaca.

The rooster responds to light in the same way as the hen. Increasing day length causes the pituitary to release hormones. These, in turn, cause enlargement of the testes, androgen secretion and semen production, which stimulates mating behavior.

The hen

The reproductive system of the female chicken is in two parts: the ovary and oviduct. Unlike most female animals, which have two functioning ovaries, the chicken usually has only one. The right ovary stops developing when the female chick hatches, but the left one continues to mature.

The ovary is a cluster of sacs attached to the hen's back about midway between the neck and the tail. It is fully formed when the chick hatches and contains several thousand tiny ova—each ovum within its own follicle. As the female reaches maturity, these ova develop a few at a time into yolks. (Figure 7)

The oviduct is a tube-like organ lying along the backbone between the ovary and the tail. In a mature hen, it is about 25 to 27 inches long. The yolk is completely formed in the ovary. When a yolk is fully developed, its follicle ruptures at the stigma line, releasing it from the ovary. It then enters the infundibulum, the entrance of the oviduct (Figure 8).

The other parts of the egg are added to the yolk as it passes through the oviduct. The chalazae, albumen, shell membranes and shell then form around the yolk to make the complete egg, which is then laid. This complete cycle usually takes from 23 to 32 hours. About 20 minutes after the egg is laid, another yolk is released and the process repeats itself. Development takes place as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parts of oviduct</th>
<th>Length of part</th>
<th>Time there</th>
<th>Function of part</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infundibulum</td>
<td>2 in.</td>
<td>15 min.</td>
<td>Picks up yolk, egg fertilized</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magnum</td>
<td>13 in.</td>
<td>3 hr.</td>
<td>40–50% of white laid down, thick albumen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isthmus</td>
<td>4 in.</td>
<td>1 ¼ hr.</td>
<td>10% albumen shell membrane laid down, shape of egg determined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uterus</td>
<td>4.2 in.</td>
<td>20 ¾ hr.</td>
<td>40% of albumen, shell formed, pigment of cuticle laid down</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vagina and cloaca</td>
<td>4 in.</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Egg passes through as it is laid</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 7 - Ovary

![Ovary](image)

Figure 8 - Oviduct

![Oviduct](image)
How eggs are fertilized

Each gender, the rooster and the hen, contributes something to the egg. The rooster provides sperm; the hen provides an ovum. When a rooster mates with a hen, it deposits sperm in the end of the oviduct. These sperm, containing male germ cells, travel the length of the oviduct and are stored in the infundibulum. On the surface of every egg yolk there can be seen a tiny, whitish spot called the blastodisc. This contains a single female cell. If sperm is present when a yolk enters the infundibulum, a single sperm penetrates the blastodisc, fertilizing it and causing it to become a blastoderm. Technically, the blastoderm is the true egg. Shortly after fertilization, the blastoderm begins to divide into two, four, eight and more cells. The first stages of embryonic development have begun and continue until the egg is laid. Development then subsides until the egg is incubated. The joining of sperm and ovum is called fertilization. After fertilization, the egg can develop and become a chick.

The rooster must be present for an egg to be fertilized. Supermarket eggs are from hens that are raised without a rooster. Roosters are not necessary at farms where eggs are produced for people to consume. Eggs for incubation are grown at special farms called breeder farms where roosters are with the hens.

Development during incubation

As soon as the egg is heated and begins incubation, the cluster of cells in the blastoderm begins to multiply by successive divisions. The first cells formed are alike. Then, as the division of cells progresses, some differences begin to appear. These differences become more and more pronounced. Gradually the various cells acquire specific characteristics of structure and cell grouping or layer. These cell groupings are called the ectoderm, mesoderm and endoderm. These three layers of cells constitute the materials out of which the various organs and systems of the body develop.

From the ectoderm, the skin, feathers, beak, claws, nervous system, lens and retina of the eye, linings of the mouth and vent develop. The mesoderm develops into the bone, muscle, blood, reproductive and excretory organs. The endoderm produces the linings of the digestive tract and the secretory and respiratory organs.

Development from a single cell to a pipping chick is a continuous, orderly process. It involves many changes from apparently simple to new, complex structures. From the structures arise all the organs and tissues of the living chick.

Physiological processes within the egg

Many physiological processes take place during the transformation of the embryo from egg to chick. These processes are respiration, excretion, nutrition and protection.

For the embryo to develop without being connected to the hen’s body, nature has provided membranes outside the embryo’s body to enable the embryo to use all parts of the egg for growth and development. These “extra-embryonic” membranes are the yolk sac, amnion, chorion and allantois.

The yolk sac is a layer of tissue growing over the surface of the yolk. Its walls are lined with a special tissue that digests and absorbs the yolk material to provide food for the embryo. As embryonic development continues, the yolk sac is engulfed within the embryo and completely reabsorbed at hatching. At this time, enough nutritive material remains to feed the chick for up to three days.

The amnion is a transparent sac filled with colorless fluid that serves as a protective cushion during embryonic development. This amniotic fluid also permits the developing embryo to exercise. Specialized muscles developed in the amnion gently agitate the amniotic fluid. The movement keeps the growing parts free from one another, preventing adhesions and malformations.

The chorion contains the amnion and yolk sac. Initially, the chorion has no apparent function, but later the allantois fuses with it to form the choric-allantoic membrane. This enables the capillaries of the allantois to touch the shell membrane, allowing calcium reabsorption from the shell.

The allantois membrane has many functions. It:
- serves as an embryonic respiratory organ
- receives the excretions of the embryonic kidneys
- absorbs albumen, which serves as nutriment (protein) for the embryo
- absorbs calcium from the shell for the structural needs of the embryo.

The allantois differs from the amnion and chorion in that it arises within the body of the embryo. In fact, its closest portion remains within the embryo throughout the development.
Daily embryonic development

Before egg laying
- Fertilization.
- Division and growth of living cells.
- Segregation of cells into groups with special functions.

Between laying and incubation
- Very little growth; inactive stage of embryonic life.

During incubation

Day 1
Major developments visible under microscope:
18 hours — Appearance of alimentary tract.
19 hours — Beginning of brain crease.
20 hours — Appearance of vertebral column.
21 hours — Beginning of formation of brain and nervous system.
22 hours — Beginning of formation of head.
23 hours — Appearance of blood island.
24 hours — Beginning of formation of eyes.

Day 2
24 hours — Embryo begins to turn on left side.
24 hours — Blood vessels appear in the yolk sac.
24 hours — Major developments visible under microscope.
25 hours — Beginning of formation of veins and heart.
30 hours — Second, third and fourth vesicles of brain clearly defined, as is the heart, which starts to beat.
35 hours — Beginning of formation of ear pits.
36 hours — First sign of amnion.
46 hours — Formation of throat.

Day 3 (see figure)
Beginning of formation of beak, wings, legs and allantois. Amnion completely surrounds embryo.

Day 4 (see figure)
Beginning of formation of tongue.
Embryo completely separates from yolk sac and turns on left side.
Allantois breaks through amnion.

Day 5
Proventriculus and gizzard formed.
Formulation of reproductive organs—sex division.

Day 6 (see figure)
Beak and egg tooth begin to form.
Main division of legs and wings.
Voluntary movement begins.

Day 7
Digits on legs and wings become visible.
Abdomen becomes more prominent due to development of viscera.
Day 8
Feathers begin to form.

Day 9 (see figure)
Embryo begins to look bird-like.
Mouth opening appears.

Day 10
Beak starts to harden.
Skin pores visible to naked eye.
Digits completely separated.

Day 11
Days 10 to 12 tend to run together. No different changes visible on these days.

Day 12 (see figure)
Toes fully formed.
Down feathers visible.

Day 13
Scales and claws become visible.
Body fairly well covered with feathers.

Day 14
Embryo turns its head toward blunt end of egg.

Day 15
Small intestines taken into body.

Day 16
Scales, claws and beak becoming firm and horny.
Embryo fully covered with feathers.
Albumen nearly gone and yolk increasingly important as nutrient.

Day 17
Beak turns toward air cell, amniotic fluid decreases and embryo begins preparation for hatching.

Day 18 (see figure)
Growth of embryo nearly complete.

Day 19
Yolk sac draws into body cavity through umbilicus.
Embryo occupies most of space within egg except air cell.

Day 20 (see figure)
Yolk sac completely draws into body cavity
Embryo becomes chick, breaks amnion and starts breathing air in air cell.
Allantois ceases to function and starts to dry up.

Day 21
Chick hatches.
Although used only to break through the shell, the egg tooth serves its critical purpose well.

Coturnix (Japanese) quail .............................................. 16–18 days
Chicken ........................................................................ 21 days
Pheasants ......................................................................... 24–26 days
Ducks .............................................................................. 28 days
Geese ................................................................................ 28 days
Guinea .................................................................................. 28 days
Turkey .............................................................................. 28 days
Swan ................................................................................... 35 days
Muscovy duck ................................................................... 35 days
Ostrich .............................................................................. 42 days
Introduction

Because this embryology curriculum involves the use and study of a living organism, there are certain decisions and responsibilities that the class should consider before actually doing all the activities. This activity will help the class make decisions that are best for your class situation.

Some decisions that your class may want to consider include:

1. Should the class incubate the eggs or do a project without incubating eggs?
2. How many eggs does the class need?
3. Should the class create shell windows, conduct experiments and study in-vitro development, which will require the sacrifice of a few embryos?

Get ready

What does the class hope to learn from this embryology in-classroom project? Be familiar with the teachers’ guide and the individual projects contained within the material. Discuss the possibilities with the class.

You may also wish to pull together information from various sources discussing the pros and cons of experiments and using animals to study science. There are links to this information on the World Wide Web site (URL). Pull a cross-section of this information down off the Web and make it available for the students to read as part of this activity.

Do it

A. List the project objectives and some of the activities the class could conduct to accomplish them, such as incubating the eggs, shell windows, experiments and in-vitro development.

B. Select two of the activities for the class to discuss in more detail. The class might wish to select an ethical decision they deal with in their day to day life as well, i.e., lying, stealing, gossiping, or cheating.

C. Divide the class into six groups of at least three students each. This activity provides an opportunity to practice communication skills with real life situations. Ask each student to read background information on the topic and prepare for a debate of the pros and cons of these activities. They should take into consideration the decisions, consequences and responsibilities that must be made and undertaken for each activity. Ask them to compare the activity and possible alternatives. Give the students 20 minutes to assemble their arguments. This is not to be a debate but rather a time for sharing views and each group’s side of the argument. This will allow the groups to find facts that support their side or become more understanding of the other groups’ viewpoints. If you see that they are getting stuck on a strategy to use or need help clarifying their points, you will want to ask questions to help them think rather than giving them an answer.

D. The next day or the next class period ask the group to present its recommendation to the class. This recommendation should include but not be limited to the following points:
1. What benefits are there to doing the activity and to doing the alternative activity?
2. What decisions should the class make before the activity starts?
3. Are alternatives available for class members who are not comfortable with the class’s decision?
Ask the class to discuss the recommendation. Try to come to a consensus for each activity.

**Talk it over**

**Share**
- What factors did your group consider in making its decision?
- Where did you find information to help you make an informed decision?
- What decisions were the hardest? Why?
- How did you feel when the final decision by the group or class was different than the way you felt?

**Process**
- Why is it important to consider the ethical implications of doing these activities in a classroom setting?
- How did your group work through disagreements when trying to make a decision for the class?
- Why are ethics important to science and other professions?
- Why is it important to consider alternative ways of learning about embryology and other living things?

**Generalize**
- How has society benefited from research, studying embryos and chickens?
- What other ethical decisions have you made in your daily life?
- What type of ethical decisions do scientists, doctors and politicians have to make?
- Why do groups of individuals feel strongly about some issues?

**Apply**
- What did you learn about working in groups that may help you in the future?
- How might this exercise help you make ethical decisions in the future?
- Why is it important to consider the ethical implications of decisions you make in everyday life?

**Evaluate it**
- Did the students think through their recommendations to the class?
- Did the students find reasonable alternatives to some activity?
- Did the students explain why they made the decisions they did?
**Introduction**

Ever wondered what an egg yolk is? Or why there is a stringy thing in the white of an egg? Or how a Grade AA egg is different from a Grade A egg?

There are many different parts in an egg. The condition of these parts determines the grade of an egg. This activity will help you understand what makes up an egg and how it is sized and graded.

**Get ready**

The success of this activity depends on the freshness of the eggs. Freshness is important because the higher the grade of the egg, the better the quality of the albumen. Purchase all eggs—especially Grade AA eggs—a day or two before the activity so you will have the freshest eggs possible. When buying eggs, allow several Grade AA eggs per group in case students damage their egg before they finish the activities.

Prepare a few eggs in vinegar before the class meets to do this lesson. To do this, place several eggs in a glass or bowl and completely immerse them in regular vinegar. Allow the eggs to soak in the vinegar solution for one to two days. The shell should dissolve completely. Once this has happened, you may carefully remove the eggs from the vinegar and place them in water until the class uses them.

**Do it**

**Part 1—Identify the Parts of Eggs.**

1. Divide the class into small teams of three to five students. Each team should have a plate, a non-fertile Grade AA egg, and a fertile egg.
2. Make sure that after handling the raw eggs, all students wash their hands to prevent possible bacterial contamination.
3. In this activity, teams identify parts of an egg using the definitions and identify which egg is fertile and which is not fertile. Allow time for the students to experiment with finding the structures and complete the Student Activity Sheet “Parts of the Egg Nutrition” on their own. Should they need help in locating specific structures, try to ask questions like:

   - Where would you expect to find the inner thick albumen?
   - What might its relationship to the yolk be?
   - How might you be able to separate the inner and outer albumen?
   - Where would you find the air cell in the eggshell?
   - Can you separate the inner and outer shell membrane?
   - What is the purpose of each part for the developing embryo?
Part 2—Grade the Eggs.

As the eggs get older, some of their cooking properties also decline. This is one reason why we grade eggs. For instance, while Grade B eggs might be fine for scrambled eggs, you might want to use Grade AA eggs for meringue or baking because a fresh Grade AA egg will give the cake a fluffier texture. A Grade B egg, on the other hand, will cause the cake to come out flat.

In this section, teams differentiate between the grades of eggs. At first, give them no direction and see how they approach the problem. Some might draw a profile of the egg, while others may try to determine measurements. Encourage creativity and, if necessary, offer hints with questions like:

“What parameters could you look at?”

“How might you share what you observed so that other class members would know what you were talking about even if they were absent?”

Ask your students to follow these steps:

1. Label three dishes: 1, 2 and 3.
   - In the first dish, break out a Grade AA egg. In the second dish, break out a Grade A egg. In the third dish, break out a Grade B egg.
2. Look at the three eggs, and note their differences.
3. Draw a top and side view of the eggs on your Student Activity Sheet “Parts of the Egg/Nutrition.”
4. Compare a fertile and infertile egg.

4. To help the students better see the inner thick albumen, use a scalpel to gently lift the thick albumen on the top of the yolk. Avoid puncturing the vitelline membrane surrounding the yolk. Also, have the teacher use a scalpel to cut the albumen. Cut from the inner thick albumen out toward the outer thin albumen. This should release the inner thin albumen.

5. Ask the students to separate the albumen from the yolk to better see the vitelline membrane. Do this by using an egg separator or by gently picking up the yolk with your fingers.

6. Finally, to see another view of the inner and outer shell membranes, allow the students to look at an egg that has been prepared in vinegar.
**Talk it over**

**Share**
- What parts of the egg were hard to see?
- What differences did you see between the fertile and infertile eggs?
- What differences were there between the various grades of eggs?

**Process**
- What should you look for when trying to decide if an egg is Grade AA, A or B?
- How did your group decide who would do the individual tasks?

**Generalize**
- What other products receive quality ratings?
- How do you decide which grade or quality to buy?
- Why is it important to be a part of a team?

**Apply**
- The egg has a shell to protect it, chalaza to hold the yolk in place, and membranes to help keep out bacteria. What parts of your body perform similar tasks for you?
- Can you think of other instances in which it would be helpful to be part of a team?

---

**Break Out**

Invite a USDA inspector to tell the class how grading takes place in an egg processing facility.

Get a variety of eggs from a local farm. Obtain eggs with different shapes, with calcium deposits, and with meat and blood spots. Ask the class to examine the eggs, learn why the imperfections occur and why consumers seldom see them in the store.

Have students research the reproductive cycle of hens and learn when the different egg components are added.

The 1999 estimate for eggs produced was 192.5 million cases. A case of eggs is 30 dozen.

The top 10 egg-producing states are:
1. Ohio
2. Iowa
3. California
4. Indiana
5. Pennsylvania
6. Texas
7. Minnesota
8. Georgia
9. Nebraska
10. Florida

The record for egg production in one year, the number of eggs that the average consumer uses each year can be found on the AEB Web site at: www.aeb.org

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**Evaluate it**

- □ How many more egg parts could student identify after the activity?
- □ Did all students participate as a functional member of a team?
We’re all used to seeing things grow and develop—watching changes that take place over months and years. But watching chicken embryos is different. Huge changes happen in days or weeks. It’s like putting the growth process on fast forward.

In this lesson you will study chicken embryos as they grow. The science of studying the unborn—and in the chicken’s case, the unhatched—is embryology. The unhatched chick is called the embryo, and the development of the embryo is called embryogenesis.

We use a thermometer to measure temperature. Temperature regulation is very important during the incubation process. The range of temperatures inside the incubator should be from 98 to 101°F with 99.5° being the best. We should not let the temperature rise above 101° because higher temperatures can harm or kill the embryo. Temperatures below 98°F can delay the hatch time.

The chicks inside the eggs need humidity to keep them from drying out. When they begin to hatch, increase the humidity to soften the eggshell membranes. At Day 18, increase the humidity by adding small, wet dish sponges next to the water canals or pan.

The eggs need to be turned at least three times a day. This will keep the developing embryo from sticking to one side of the eggshell.

It takes about 21 days for the chicks to hatch. When a chick hatches, it has a special structure at the end of its beak called an egg tooth. The egg tooth helps the chick to break out of its shell. A few days after hatch, the egg tooth will fall off.

Discuss the information in the Introduction section with the class. Ask them how they might keep track of these tasks.

1. Divide the students into teams of three to five. Have each team answer the following questions:
   - How will you mark the eggs?
   - How will you turn the eggs?
   - How will you fill the water canals or water pan?
   - How will you monitor the temperature?

2. Have the teams share their plans with the class. Discuss the plans and determine which plan provides for the best care of the eggs and the incubator by reviewing the preceding questions.

3. A suggested plan follows:
   With a No. 2 pencil, mark an “X” on one side of each egg and an “O” on the other side. Do not use ink, because it may poison the embryos. Set the eggs in the incubator with all “X” sides up. This arrangement will help you monitor egg turning.
   Fill the water canals or water pan with tap water. Adjust the incubator temperature to 99.5°F or as close as possible. Turn the eggs three times per day from Day 2 in the incubator to Day 18.
Share
- Why was marking the eggs important?
- Describe your team’s plan for incubating the eggs.
- How did your marks on the eggs differ from others?
- What is your team’s plan for the best way to mark the eggs?
- What is your team’s average incubator temperature?
- What is your team’s plan for the best way to fill the water canals or pan?

Process
- What should we use to identify the eggs?
- What ways can you think of to keep the humidity at the required levels?
- How could you determine that turning the eggs three times a day is necessary?
- How might you maintain the proper temperature if electricity was not available?
- What will you do differently the next time you hatch chicks? Why?

Generalize
- How does the thermostat that controls the heating and air conditioning at home compare to the incubator?
- What other thermometers have you read?
- How are those thermometers different from the one inside the incubator?

Apply
- What did you learn about working as a group that you can use in the future?

Evaluate it

Did the students learn…
☐ the importance of turning the eggs?
☐ the importance of keeping the water canals filled?
☐ the importance of proper regulation of the incubator temperature?
☐ about the egg tooth and its function?
☐ how long it takes a chick to hatch?
☐ how to average numbers?

Find out how long it takes for other types of chicks to hatch.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animal</th>
<th>Days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>____</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duck</td>
<td>____</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geese</td>
<td>____ to ____</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pigeon</td>
<td>____</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ostrich</td>
<td>____</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parakeet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cockatiel</td>
<td>____</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Introduction

Have you ever wanted to conduct an experiment? You can, and you don’t even need a laboratory and white coat. An experiment begins with an idea or hypothesis. Once you have developed your hypothesis, you test it with an experiment. In other words, an experiment is a planned search for new facts (about your hypothesis), or a search that confirms or denies results or hypotheses from other experiments.

To conduct an experiment, you must use two or more groups. One group is called the control group, which you use for comparison. The other group(s) receives the treatment or procedure that you are testing. Then you measure the effects of the treatment and compare the results with the control group.

For example, to study the effect alcohol has on chick embryos, compare 12 fertile eggs that were not exposed to alcohol (control group), with 12 fertile eggs that were (treatment group). The difference between the two groups shows the effect alcohol had on the embryos.

In this case, this approach not only demonstrates scientific methods; it demonstrates the dangers of alcoholism. The aim of this project is to teach students how to set up an experiment and to show how alcohol can affect a developing embryo.

Get ready

Set up the incubator before you receive the fertile eggs. Make sure the temperature is correctly regulated at 99.5°F.

Do it

Involve the students in planning the experiment. Divide the students into teams of three to five.

Discuss the experimental designs and determine which design provides for the best experiment. Each team should answer the following questions.

- What is a hypothesis?
- What is an experiment?
- Why are there control and treatment group(s) in an experiment?

Have the teams share their experimental design with the class. Have the teams answer the first two Share questions in the “Talk it over” section.

Have the class select an experimental design developed by one of the teams to do during this activity. Begin the experiment as a total class project.

The following instructions provide information for development of another possible experiment.

1. Divide the eggs into two groups, a dozen each. Mark each egg with a No. 2 Pencil (not pen or marker) according to the group it is in. For example, use “T–1” through “T–12” for the treatment group and “C–1” through “C–12” for the control group. Also, mark an “X” on one side of the egg and an “O” on the other side to keep track of egg turning (unless the incubator automatically turns the eggs).

2. Fill one glass container with about two inches of absolute ethanol. Fill the other glass container with about two inches of water. Write “T” (for treatment) on the container with ethanol. Write “C” (for control) on the container with water. Cover both containers to prevent evaporation, and keep them at room temperature.

Embryology skill: Collecting data about embryos and chicks

Life skill: Planning and organizing

Science skill: Observation

School subjects supported: Math

Preparation time: 30 minutes
Activity time: 15 minutes

What you need:
- Two glass containers of equal size (about 2 inches tall) that can hold an egg and fluid
- Absolute ethanol (the chemical name for alcohol) without formalin (Do not use methanol because it will kill the embryos.)
- Incubator
- No. 2 Pencil
- Black and blue fine point markers
- Scale that can weigh grams or ounces (A typical fertile egg will weigh about 2 ounces. When hatched, chicks will approximately double their body weight each week.)
- Notebook
- Thermometer
- Egg candler
- Two dozen fertile chicken eggs
3. Incubate the fertile eggs for one day. On the second day, dip the treatment eggs into the alcohol and the control eggs into the water. Dip the eggs, pointed ends down for five seconds, once a day. Because the eggshell is porous and warmer than the liquids, it will absorb the ethanol or water. Dip the eggs for 17 days or until the 18th day of embryogenesis.

4. After the first seven days of incubation, candle the eggs to determine whether they are fertile. Discard any infertile eggs.

5. Have the students determine egg weight. Each day before dipping, weigh each egg and record the information. Normally, fertile eggs will lose 12 to 15 percent of their weight during incubation. (The egg loses moisture when the embryo metabolizes the egg albumen and yolk.) Determine the weight loss percentage for each egg and create a graph to show daily weight loss. (There may be a difference between the two groups.) Record the number of eggs that hatch in each group and determine the percent hatchability.

\[ \text{Percent hatchability} = \left( \frac{\text{Number of eggs hatched}}{\text{Number of fertile eggs}} \right) \times 100 \]

Answer the remaining Share question and proceed through the remaining questions.

Share
- How was your experimental design different from the class design?
- How did you distinguish between the control and treatment groups?
- What kind of information did you record during this project? Why?

Process
- What happens to the fertile egg weight during development? Why?
- Why would percent hatchability be important to a commercial hatchery?
- Why is creating hypotheses or ideas important?
- What might you do differently the next time you do this experiment? Why?

Generalize
- What other ideas or hypotheses might you try?
- Can you think of other times when you have made evaluations of information in order to learn something new?

Apply
- How might the information you gained transfer to other species?
- What other experiments would you like to try? Why?
**Introduction**

If you like sneak previews, then candling is for you. Candling fertile eggs plays an important role in the embryology project. A candler is used to examine fertile eggs by shining a bright light through the egg. Candling serves three important functions.

**First**, candling eggs before they are set identifies cracked eggs that might burst. **Second**, candling helps detect which eggs are developing into an embryo. **Third**, candling the eggs every few days allows you to watch the embryo grow and develop without damaging the egg.

In the poultry industry eggs are candled for two reasons:

1. At the hatchery, eggs are candled to help remove cracked eggs before setting and infertile eggs that are not developing after a week of incubation.
2. At the consumer grading plants, eggs are candled to help remove cracked eggs and those that have defects that make them undesirable for human markets.

**Get ready**

Involve the students in building a candler by dividing the class into teams. Supply each team with the same supplies and ask each group to design and build their own candler. Plans for using an overhead projector are also included so that you (the teacher) can build a candler for class use if you would like. However, you are encouraged to use a candler designed and built by one of the teams.

**Do it**

1. Divide the class into teams of 3 to 5 individuals. Each team should use the Student Activity Sheet “Building an Eggs-ray Viewer” to help them design and build a candler. Explain that they have 30 minutes to design and build an egg candler with the supplies you give them. Also, show them the overhead projector and explain that it will be the source of light for their candler. Basic questions to answer include:
   a) **Does the candler provide enough light to see cracks in an eggshell or the embryo inside the egg?**
   b) **Can you candle eggs without damaging them?**
   c) **Does the candler limit the amount of light that escapes? So the room can be darkened properly to allow seeing inside the egg?**
   d) **Does the way the egg sets on the candler allow optimal viewing of the different parts of the egg and embryo?**
2. Have the teams share their candler with the class. Ask them to explain:
   a) How did your team decide on the plan before they started to build?
   b) What is unique about your plan?
   c) How does your plan meet the basic needs of a candler mentioned in step 1 above?
3. Try each candler in a darkened room and discuss which candler best allows the students to see inside the egg. If you already have a candler, compare it with the class designs.
The following instructions provide information for development of a typical candler. You may want to build one of these for use in class or to compare it to the candlers developed by the class.

1. Cut out a flat 1 by 1-foot piece of cardboard.
2. Remove one of the large sides of the small box.
3. Cut an egg-shaped hole 1½ inches by 1 inch in the topside of the small box (opposite side as the side you just removed). This hole holds the egg so you can see the embryo while handling the egg as little as possible.
4. Place the small box on the center of the piece of cardboard and trace the box outline. Cut a hole in the center of the piece of cardboard the same size as the small box.
5. With duct tape, fasten the small box to the piece of cardboard (with the egg-shaped hole up).
6. Place the cardboard on top of the glass base of the overhead projector, and you are ready to candle.

Share
- How did your candler differ from the others that were built?
- What do you like about your team’s plan compared to the others? Why?

Process
- Why do we candle eggs?
- What things make a good candler?
- How would you improve your candler?
- What plans did you have to make before starting this project?

Generalize
- What other items have you built? How was this building process like or different from those?
- How can planning and organizing help you in other parts of your life?
- How did not having instructions and specifications affect the building process?

Apply
- What did you learn about working as a group that you can use in the future?
- What will you do differently the next time you plan to build something?
Life is not always what it seems

Introduction
The shell window is an advanced way to observe the embryo. You must sacrifice an embryo for this activity unless your class has elected to do the egg-less embryo version of this activity. However, this activity will allow the students to get a very close look at what is occurring in the egg during development.

Get ready
Review the suggested activities for this lesson and the science of the developing embryo. Determine which suggestions would be most appropriate for your students. During the activity, give your students the freedom to use their imagination and draw or write from their background and experiences.

If using eggs you will ask the students to record what they think a three-day-old chicken embryo will look like without any prior opportunity to observe graphic or an embryo. Have them write, draw or both. Then allow them to observe a three-day-old chicken embryo by developing a shell window in a developing egg.

For the egg-less activity, you will use graphics of developing embryos in similar stages of development. Ask the students to record how the embryo was different than what they expected (orally, written, drawn or combination).

Do it
1. Candle three or four developing eggs at least two hours before you plan to start the activity. Select two eggs with a well-defined embryo in them, and stand these eggs on the small end in the incubator. A section of egg carton works well.

2. While you are preparing to make the shell window ask the students to think about what the three-day-old embryo will look like without any prior opportunity to observe graphic or an embryo. Ask the students to record what they expect a three-day old chicken embryo to look like. Have them write, draw or both. Give your students the freedom to use their imagination and draw or write from their background and experiences.

3. Allow them to observe a three-day-old embryo through the shell window (see instructions on page 26). For the egg-less activity use graphics of developing embryos in similar stages of development. Ask the student to answer these questions:

• What do you see?

• How will or has the embryo changed between observations?

• Is anything moving?

4. After observing the developing embryo, ask students to record how the embryo was different than what they expected (orally, written, drawn or combination).

5. Repeat this activity at other stages of development.
Removing part of the shell of an egg provides another way to study embryo development. In embryos more than two days old, most of the development can be observed inside the egg by removing the shell and shell membranes from the air-cell end of the egg.

**What you need**
- Petroleum jelly
- 3-day-old developing embryo egg
- Tweezers or forceps
- Scissors
- Water pan
- Water
- Egg carton
- Eye dropper
- Plastic wrap

The biggest obstacle after assembling the necessary equipment is to open the shell without damaging the embryo and its membrane. This is not as difficult as it appears. Just follow these steps:

1. Carefully crack the shell at the air-cell (broad) end of the egg. You may wish to candle the egg before beginning, to make sure the egg is developing and to find the location of the air-cell. Do not puncture the inner shell membrane.

2. Cut or peel off the shell covering the air cell. Do not puncture the inner shell membrane.

3. Using forceps or tweezers, remove the inner shell membrane covering the air cell. To help soften the inner-shell membrane covering the air cell, place a few drops of warm water on the membrane with an eyedropper.

4. Set the egg in an egg carton, window up, and observe the embryo with a magnifying glass.

5. To continue to observe the embryo as it develops you will need to seal the window. It is important that you keep the environment as clean as possible as you cover the window.
   A. Carefully apply a thin layer of petroleum jelly (½ inch wide) to the shell all the way around the window opening.
   B. Cut a 2 by 2-inch piece of plastic wrap. Place the plastic over the opening and press the plastic to the petroleum jelly to create a seal.

You can then remove the plastic wrap and observe the embryo as long as it lives. Most embryos will survive in a shell window throughout 15 to 17 days of development.

In young embryos (three to eight days), a rich network of blood vessels spreads from the embryo and surrounds the yolk. This network is the vitelline or yolk sac circulatory system. In embryos two to four days old, observe the tiny red heart beating rapidly and pumping the blood throughout the intro- and extra-circulatory systems. One characteristic of birds is the remarkable growth and development of the eye after the embryo is 24 hours old.

**Discuss:**

Explain what the main membranes (amnion, allantois and yolk sac) do.

Identify the parts of the embryo. How will these parts change as the embryo grows?
Share
- What happened as you observed the embryo for the first time?
- What differences did you see between the eggs?
- What parts of the embryo were easiest to see?
- What was the most interesting thing you saw? Why?

Process
- What are some things you should do to keep the eggs from cooling off too much during candling?
- Why is it helpful to candle the eggs?
- Why do the heart and eye develop so fast?

Generalize
- Why would it help a doctor to be able to view an unborn human baby?
- How do we view the developing fetus in human or other animal pregnancies?

Apply
- Why is it important to chart the growth of a developing fetus?
- How will what you learned in this lesson be useful in the future?

Students may display their drawings or writings about what they saw and how the embryo parts compared to what they expected. Students also may share any birthing experiences they may have had with a mother’s pregnancy, younger siblings being born, pets reproducing, and so on.

Ask students to study pictures or graphics of other species that develop as an embryo or fetus. Observe similarities and differences. Have a parent or doctor bring in ultrasounds of a human fetus, and discuss how being able to observe and identify the different parts is important. (Obtain permission from parents, if necessary.)

Evaluate it
- Can students identify parts of the embryo?
- Can students explain what they are seeing?
- Student should be able to identify the “extra-embryonic” membranes (yolk sac, amnion and allantois) and explain their basic functions.

6-Day embryo
Notice the distinct blood system and eye (black spot).

12-Day embryo
**Introduction:**
Brooders are fairly easy and inexpensive to build. You may change the proportions if necessary. The brooder is designed to trap heat in one half to keep the chicks warm. The other half allows your students to observe the chicks eating and moving about.

**Get ready:**
Build the brooder at least two days before hatching. The brooder should maintain a temperature of 95°F (temperature taken at chick level) during the first week. If you keep chicks beyond one week, decrease the temperature 5°F per week until you reach room temperature. Use fresh pine shavings for litter. If shavings are not available, use five layers of newspaper with two layers of paper towels on top of the newspaper. Do not use news or magazine paper for the top layer because the surface may become slick, which can cause the chicks to develop “spraddle legs.”

**Do it:**
1. Involve the students in planning the brooder for their chicks. Divide the students into teams of 3 to 5. Basic questions to consider are:
   - Does the brooder provide shelter for the chicks?
   - Does the brooder provide heat for the chicks?
   - Does the brooder provide food for the chicks?
2. Have the teams share their brooder plan with the class.
3. Discuss the plans and determine which plan provides for the best brooder.
4. Build one brooder box as a total class project. The following instructions provide information for development of a typical brooder. You may wish to build one of these and compare it to the one built by the class.

**Teacher note:**
You may choose which brooder you would like your class to build.

The courtyard brooder will be used for an example in this lesson since it is easily made with supplies in an everyday classroom. However, teachers who plan to do this project again and would like to construct something more permanent may wish to build a wooden observation brooder.
Building a courtyard brooder

A. Remove the top of each cardboard box. Cut the sides of the largest box (24 by 18 inches) down to 6 inches in height. This is the chick courtyard where the feed and water will be placed.

B. Cut a hole 4 inches high by 6 to 10 inches across (depending on the size of the box) in three of the four sides of the small box. These holes serve as doors to the heat source. Cut these holes close to the open-end edge of the three sides. (Remember that the chicks have to get in and out.)

C. Turn over this small box so the covered side is up. Cut a round hole the size of your light socket in the center of the covered end of the box.

D. Cut three slits from the inside of the round hole about 1 inch out into the box top. (Cut these three slits at different angles.)

E. Punch the light socket down into the hole about 3/4 of the length of the socket.

F. Tape the electric cord to the box top. This will help keep the light bulb from falling to the floor and causing a fire. Never place the light closer than 18 inches from the brooder floor or walls.

G. Cover the bottom of the largest box (courtyard) with shavings or newspaper and then with two layers of paper towels. The paper towels give the chicks traction and prevent leg damage.

H. Place the other box (the open end down) in the center of the box with the paper towel surface.

I. Add waterer and feeder, and your brooder is ready for the chicks.

J. Test the brooder temperature for several days before the chicks hatch. Be sure that the temperature is 95°F for the first week, and then lower it 5 degrees a week by raising the light bulb or decreasing the light bulb size.

Share
- What materials did you use to make the brooder? Why?
- What does the chick need to stay alive?
- What is your team's plan for the best brooder?
- What is the difference between homeothermic and poikilothermic? Which are you?

Process
- How could you help the chick that is shivering or panting?
- Why was it necessary to have pine shavings or paper towels in the bottom of the brooder box?
- How was the planning process different from other items you have planned?

Generalize
- Why is it important to organize your plan before doing it?
- How was the final brooder plan like or different from the ideas generated at the beginning of class?

Apply
- How can you use what you learned about planning and organizing in other work that you might have?

1. At home, read about animals that are cold-blooded. Make a list and share it with your class at school. A warm-blooded animal is called homeothermic. A cold-blood animal is called poikilothermic.

2. Scientists use Celsius temperature. Practice converting temperatures from Fahrenheit to Celsius and vice versa.

3. To convert Fahrenheit temperature to Celsius, subtract 32 from the Fahrenheit temperature and multiply by 5/9. For example, if the temperature is 212°F, then Celsius = 212–32 (5/9) = 100°C.

4. To convert Celsius temperature to Fahrenheit, multiply the Celsius Temperature by 9/5 and add 32. For example, if the temperature is 100°C, then Fahrenheit = 9/5 (100) + 32 = 212°F
Who rules the roost?

**Introduction**

Although not given much credit for their intelligence, chickens have the ability to learn conditioned responses. In other words, if chickens are rewarded when they perform a certain behavior, they will learn to perform that behavior to get the reward. For example, a chicken could learn to ring a bell to receive a kernel of corn.

Trained chickens may not rank up there with show dogs and tamed lions, but studying their conditioned responses is important. In fact, by observing how chickens treat each other you can understand how they learn their place within the flock.

When a chicken is placed in a flock, one chicken will peck at another to establish dominance. In some cases, fights will occur. The winner of each encounter then has the right to peck the loser. At the bottom of the social order is a chicken that will be dominated by all of the rest. This social arrangement, a famous metaphor for many hierarchies, is known as a pecking order.

**Get ready**

Prepare a study sheet with questions about the embryology project that your students have been learning in class.

For example:

- How many days does it take for a chicken egg to hatch?
- At what temperature is the incubator set?
- How often do you have to turn a chicken egg in a day?
- Why do you put water in the bottom of the incubator?
- Without breaking the egg, how would you see whether the embryo is developing?
- What is a candler?

A day or two before class, ask the students to write a short story, poem or article, create artwork, or research information from the Internet. The work should relate to the species they will study.

**Do it**

The students will create their own temporary and flexible pecking order.

Begin the class with a question about chickens from your study sheet. The first student who raises his or her hand and has the correct answer should “go to the head of the class.” That person doesn’t have to answer any more questions for the rest of the class period. That student also gets to ask the next question from the study sheet and pick the person to answer the question. If that next person answers the question correctly, he or she gets to go to the head of the class. He or she asks the next question and calls on the next person. This process continues until everyone has had an opportunity to share his or her work.
Conditioned responses take place among chickens and help establish a social order within a flock. When a small flock of chickens is confined in a pen, each bird will establish its rank by pecking at another bird or by allowing another bird to peck it. In this way, a social order develops. The hen in the first rank of the pecking order has the right to peck all others in the group. The others may peck only those beneath them in the social order. At the bottom of the pecking order is a single hen that can be dominated by all the rest and does not fight back in any way.

With males, the fights are more intense. Usually in a mixed flock of males and females, the males will be at the top of the pecking order. The existence of a pecking order among chickens indicates that they are able to recognize each other as individuals. Some researchers believe this recognition is based on features of the head, because changing the position of the comb (or removing it) can disrupt the hen’s position in the pecking order. The pecking order will determine which birds get to eat and drink first.

Other types of behavior common to most birds are definite patterns of sexual activity. Breeding can influence some behaviors. For example, genetic selection easily can affect the degree of aggression.
Introduction

You have learned how to incubate eggs and care for chicks. You know how much work is involved. Imagine how much work is needed to care for thousands of birds and move their eggs to the store.

Fortunately, along with the work, goes salaries and careers. The poultry industry is much larger than most people think. To succeed, it requires a diverse group of talented and knowledgeable people working together to produce the poultry products we all enjoy.

The following activity will acquaint you with various careers in the poultry industry and demonstrate how each aspect affects the overall industry.

Get ready

Encourage students to think about what they experience during the game and to answer the questions. Allow plenty of time for them to discuss and answer the activity questions when the game is over. There are many ways the industry can work and many possible answers to the questions. Encourage students to think of a variety of answers.

Do it

Give each player a game piece. Players should take turns choosing cards and following the card’s instructions. After the game, the small groups of players should discuss the questions on the students sheet.

Embryology skill:
Learning how the poultry industry works

Life skill:
Critical thinking

Science skill:
Applying

School subjects supported:
Social studies

Preparation time:
20 to 30 minutes

Activity time:
One hour

What you need:
Game board (see insert) and game cards (pages 34–35)

Acknowledgement:
The NCSU Poultry Science Club developed “Chance Card” scenarios.
The poultry industry involves many companies from around the world. There is a career for almost any interest that connects with poultry. Poultry farmers house and care for the birds; other farmers provide the soybeans, corn, and cottonseed that goes into feed. Poultry scientists improve poultry genetic characteristics, create better feeds and look for ways to prevent disease. Food scientists use poultry products to create new foods and improve the quality of existing products.

Marketers find new ways of encouraging the public to eat poultry. Processing plant managers have the difficult job of making sure that the right amount of birds are ready for processing on a given day and that the processing plant is ready to handle these birds. Professors conduct research and teach the future leaders of the industry.

How do all of these people work together to supply the products consumers enjoy? The answer is “vertical integration.” Through vertical integration, a company owns parts of the production process between the farm and the finished product. For example, the company that produces the eggs you buy in the grocery store may own feed mills and processing plants. It may employ veterinarians who care for the birds, and geneticists who study how certain characteristics develop. The company also may contract with farmers to raise the birds or to supply feed components.

Many companies in the poultry industry have adopted vertical integration. This system spreads out the financial risk and allows a company to make up for losses in one part of the production process by changing another part.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Genetic researchers discover new breeding techniques that cause hens to produce more eggs each year.</th>
<th>Advance five spaces.</th>
<th></th>
<th>Food scientists develop new egg products that increase market demand for eggs.</th>
<th>Advance five spaces.</th>
<th></th>
<th>Reports about adverse effects of cholesterol cause people to buy fewer eggs.</th>
<th>Move back one space.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>A drought in the Midwest causes corn prices to rise... Feed becomes more expensive.</td>
<td>Move back one space.</td>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Three more farms contract to supply feed.</td>
<td>Advance three spaces.</td>
<td>16.</td>
<td>A salmonella outbreak in a diner scares consumers.</td>
<td>Move back one space.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>One of your largest farms loses laying flock to disease.</td>
<td>Move back one space.</td>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Geneticians find genes that influences feed conversion.</td>
<td>Advance three spaces.</td>
<td>18.</td>
<td>Flooding destroys 30 percent of your broiler houses.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Your company contracts with five more farmers to raise birds.</td>
<td>Advance four spaces.</td>
<td>12.</td>
<td>A better incubation system is created that improves hatchability.</td>
<td>Advance four spaces.</td>
<td>19.</td>
<td>There is an economic boom in Asia causing a demand for poultry exports.</td>
<td>Advance four spaces.</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>New lighting systems improve energy efficiency.</td>
<td>Advance five spaces.</td>
<td>13.</td>
<td>One of the company incubators breaks and the eggs inside are lost.</td>
<td>Move back one space.</td>
<td>20.</td>
<td>A higher feed conversion saves you 3 percent on costs.</td>
<td>Advance two spaces.</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>One of the company incubators breaks and the eggs inside are lost.</td>
<td>Move back one space.</td>
<td>21.</td>
<td>Reports about adverse effects of cholesterol cause people to buy fewer eggs.</td>
<td>Move back one space.</td>
<td></td>
<td>A salmonella outbreak in a diner scares consumers.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>cards</td>
<td>22. A sweet-potato processing plant moves into area providing lower cost feed additives.</td>
<td>29. A major fast-food chain that you supply for has started a new chicken sandwich promotion.</td>
<td>36. You attend seminars at your local extension office on proper application of poultry litter to farmland.</td>
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<td>23. City officials lower the amount of organic solids acceptable in wastewater. This will cost your company money at first, but it will also lead to better environmental conditions.</td>
<td>30. Your company merges and stocks split.</td>
<td>37. Your caged layer house was built with the floor slanting away from the coolers making collection harder. You have to redesign the house.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Stay where you are.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>24. A new deboner is installed in your plant. It increases productivity by 10 birds per minute.</td>
<td>31. Computer errors miscalculate the feed additives reducing production.</td>
<td>38. Your company wins an award for being one of the “Top 20” employers to work for.</td>
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<td>25. A new egg storage method is found extending shelf life by four weeks.</td>
<td>32. A new egg white separating system is manufactured, saving you $100,000 a year.</td>
<td>39. A new marketing campaign increases your company’s sales 10 percent.</td>
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<td>26. Your HACCP (Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points) plan fails to prevent fecal contamination in chillers.</td>
<td>33. You sponsor the 4-H Poultry Record Book Award for your state 4-H program.</td>
<td>40. Your company’s nutritionists develop a new feed formula for your laying hens, giving the eggs stronger shells that don’t break as easily.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>27. There is an avian influenza outbreak and you lose most of your birds.</td>
<td>34. You invest in ratite farming. This has a bright future, but you are uncertain.</td>
<td>41. You give $100,000 to a local program that provides teens safe and fun activities after school.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Move back one space.</td>
<td>Stay where you are.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>28. Geneticists find a hybrid cross that yields a more heat-tolerant bird.</td>
<td>35. Your egg farm becomes infested with rats.</td>
<td>42. You pay for a new course that is offered on the Web to educate company workers on good sanitation practices.</td>
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</table>
Air cell – the air pocket that forms between the inner and outer shell membranes to replace moisture the egg loses as it cools and is stored.

Albumen – a combination of four layers of a whitish watery substance (88 percent water, 11 percent protein) that surround and contain the yolk within the center of the egg shell. Inner and outer thick albumen is the major source of egg riboflavin and protein. In high-grade eggs, it stands higher and spreads less than the thin albumen. In lower-grade eggs, it thins and looks like the thin albumen.

Allantois – an organ in the embryo of birds that develops into part of the umbilical cord and unites with the chorion, forming the placenta. Responsible for respiration, absorption of minerals from the shell and handling waste.

Amino acid – the building blocks for the synthesis of proteins and the end products of protein digestion.

Amnion – a membranous, fluid-filled sac surrounding the embryo. Important for protection and allows the embryo to exercise during development.

Average – the arithmetic mean. Computed by dividing the total value by the number of items that make up the total.

Avian – of, or pertaining to, Aves or birds.

Bacteria – microscopic single-celled organisms.

Bantam – a miniature fowl, some distinctive breeds, others being miniatures of a large breed or variety, approximately one-fourth (1/4) to one-fifth (1/5) normal weight.

Blastoderm or germinal spot – the collective mass of cells produced by the splitting of a fertilized ovum from which the embryo develops.

Blastodisc or germinal disc – the germinal spot on the ovum from which the blastoderm develops after the ovum is fertilized by the sperm.

Bloom – the coating or covering on the eggshell that seals its pores.

Breed – a group of birds that have the same physical features, like body shape or body type, skin color, number of toes, feathered or non-feathered shanks (legs) and carriage or station.

Brood – baby chicks hatched from one nest (setting) of eggs.

Brooding – caring for the young of animals.

Candling – shining a bright light through an egg in order to observe its interior.

Carbohydrate – compounds containing carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen, a sugar or starch.

Career – a job that is undertaken as a long-term commitment.

Cell – a mass of protoplasm (usually microscopic) within a semi-permeable membrane, containing a nucleus, and capable of functioning as an independent unit.

Celcius – a temperature scale that registers freezing point of water as 0°C and the boiling point as 100°C under standard atmospheric pressure. Named after Anders Celsius (1701–1744).

Chalazae – prolongations of the thick inner-white or albumen that are twisted like ropes at each end of the yolk. Their function is to anchor the yolk in the center of the eggshell cavity.

Chorion – a membrane enveloping the embryo, external to and enclosing the amnion.

Chromosomes – a series of paired bodies in the nucleus, constant in number in any one kind of plant or animal.

Class – a group of chicken breeds from the same geographical origin (large fowl) or showing similar characteristics (bantams).

Cloaca – in birds, the common chamber into which the intestinal, urinary and generative canals discharge.

Cold-blooded (poikilothermic) – having a body temperature that varies with the environment (reptiles).

Control – to verify or regulate (a scientific experiment) by conducting a parallel experiment or by comparing with some other standard.

Data – numerical information in a form suitable for processing.

Diffusion – the movement of atoms, ions, or molecules from a region of higher concentration to one of lower concentration.

Dorsal – of, on or near the back).

Ectoderm – a cell layer grouping responsible for the development of the skin, feathers, beak, claws, nervous system, lens and retina of the eye, linings of the mouth and vent.

Egg (avian) – the female reproductive cell (ovum) surrounded by a protective calcium shell and, if fertilized by the male reproductive cell (sperm) and properly incubated, capable of developing offspring.

Egg tooth – also called “chicken tooth.” The temporary horny cap on the chick’s upper beak that serves for pipping (breaking through) the shell. Usually dries and falls off within 18 hours after hatch.

Embryo – a fertilized egg at any stage of development prior to hatching. In its later stages, it clearly resembles the fully developed chick.

Embryogenesis – the formation and development of plant and animal embryos.

Embryology – the study of the formation and development of plant and animal embryos.

Endoderm – a cell layer grouping responsible for the development of the linings of the digestive tract and the secretory and respiratory organs.

Evaporation – changing of moisture (liquid) into vapor (gas).

Experiment – a test made to demonstrate a known truth, to examine the validity of a hypothesis, or to determine the efficacy of something previously untried.

Fahrenheit – a temperature scale that registers freezing point of water as 32°F and boiling point as 212°F under standard atmospheric pressure. Named after Gabriel D. Fahrenheit (1686–1736).

Fertile egg – an egg that has been fertilized by sperm or is capable of developing an embryo.
Fertilized – an ovum or egg that has been impregnated by sperm.

Follicle (ovarian) – the thin membrane of the ovary which encloses the developing yolk; the yolk sac.

Gene – an element in the chromosome of the germ cell that transmits hereditary characteristics.

Germs – microorganisms that can cause sickness or disease.

Gram (g) – unit of weight of the metric system. There are 28+ grams in an ounce and 454 grams in a pound.

Hatchery – a facility where eggs are incubated commercially.

Hatching egg – a fertilized egg with the potential of developing an embryo.

Humidity – see “relative humidity.”

Hypothesis – an explanation that accounts for a set of facts and that can be tested by further investigation.

Incubate – to maintain favorable conditions for developing and hatching fertile eggs.

Incubator – a container with the proper humidity and temperature to allow fertile eggs to hatch.

Infundibulum – the entrance to the oviduct.

Lysozyme – a protein enzyme in the egg albumen that kills bacteria.

Mean – a number that represents a set of numbers in any of several ways determined by a rule involving all members of the set, i.e., average.

Membrane – a soft, pliable sheet or layer of tissue covering an organ.

Mesoderm – a cell layer grouping responsible for the development of the bones, muscle, blood and the reproductive and excretory organs.

Metabolism – the chemical energy changes that occur within a living organism that are involved in various life activities.

Methanol – a colorless flammable liquid, CH₂(OCH₂)₂, used as an antifreeze, general solvent, fuel, and denaturant for ethyl alcohol.

Nutritious – food or feed contains substances necessary to sustain life and growth.

Ovary – the female reproductive gland in which eggs are formed.

Oviduct – the tube through which eggs pass after leaving the ovary.

Ovum – the female reproductive cell.

Pecking order – the basic pattern of social organization within a flock of poultry in which each bird can peck the birds lower in the order without fear of retaliation. Social hierarchy.

Peristaltic action – involuntary movement of the muscles of the oviduct that forces the egg onward.

Pipping – a baby chick breaking from its shell.

Pituitary – a small, oval, two-lobed vascular body attached to the infundibulum of the brain that secretes hormones affecting growth.

Pores – miniature opening in the shell of an egg through which gases are exchanged.

Protein – one of a group of nitrogenous compounds commonly known as amino acids.

Relative humidity – the amount of moisture in the air compared with the amount the air could contain at specific temperatures. Expressed as a percentage.

Semen – the fluid secreted by the male reproductive organs that serves as a vehicle for the sperm.

Shell – the egg’s outer covering consisting mainly of Calcium Carbonate. The shell is the egg’s first line of defense against bacterial contamination.

Shell membrane – the membranes between the shell and the liquid portion of the egg. The outer shell membrane is fused to the shell, and the inner shell membrane surrounds the liquid portion of the egg. The air cell forms between the two membranes, usually at the large end of the egg.

Sperm – the male reproductive cell.

Standard deviation – a measure of distribution around a mean.

Statistics – the science of creating, developing, and applying techniques such that the uncertainty of specific reasoning may be evaluated.

Still-air incubator – a container for hatching chicks that does not have mechanical ventilation.

Strain – families or breeding populations of chickens that possess common traits.

System – a functioning unit of the anatomy, such as the skeletal, muscular, glandular, respiratory and digestive systems.

Testes – the male genital glands (plural) testicle, testis (singular).

Treatment – the act or manner of handling.

Variance – the measure of the difference around a mean.

Variety – a subdivision of a breed. Different characteristics include feather color, comb type and the presence of a beard and muffs.

Vertical integration – a method of organizing a business in which one company owns many different parts of the production cycle in order to minimize costs.

Vitamin – a fat- or water-soluble substance necessary, in very small amounts, to allow for normal growth and maintenance of life.

Vitelline membrane – the clear seal that holds the yolk.

Warm blooded (homeothermic) – having a body temperature that stays the same, despite the temperature of the environment.

Wet-bulb thermometer – a device used to measure the amount of moisture or water vapor in the air.

Yolk – a globular mass of yellow, nutritious semi-liquid contained in a transparent membrane (the vitelline membrane) and located in the center of an egg. The yolk is the chick’s food during its pre-hatching life and its first food after it emerges from the shell.

Yolk sac – a membrane that surrounds the yolk of the egg.
### Embryology Student assessment rubric

#### Science as inquiry
- **5 points**
  - Student demonstrates above average ability to identify questions for investigation, plan and conduct experiments, use appropriate tools to gather and analyze data, develop explanations and predictions, think critically, use math, and communicate results.

- **3 points**
  - Student demonstrates satisfactory ability to identify questions for investigation, plan and conduct experiments, use appropriate tools to gather and analyze data, develop explanations and predictions, think critically, use math, and communicate results.

- **1 point**
  - Student demonstrates unsatisfactory ability to identify questions for investigation, plan and conduct experiments, use appropriate tools to gather and analyze data, develop explanations and predictions, think critically, use math, and communicate results.

#### Structure and function in living systems
- **5 points**
  - Student demonstrates above average understanding that the embryo and the chick are composed of cells that specialize for functions needed to sustain life.

- **3 points**
  - Student demonstrates satisfactory understanding that the embryo and the chick are composed of cells that specialize for functions needed to sustain life.

- **1 point**
  - Student demonstrates unsatisfactory understanding that the embryo and the chick are composed of cells that specialize for functions needed to sustain life.

#### Reproduction and heredity
- **5 points**
  - Student demonstrates above average understanding of reproduction in chickens and that heredity is the passage of traits from one generation to another.

- **3 points**
  - Student demonstrates satisfactory understanding of reproduction in chickens and that heredity is the passage of traits from one generation to another.

- **1 point**
  - Student demonstrates unsatisfactory understanding of reproduction in chickens and that heredity is the passage of traits from one generation to another.

#### Regulation and behavior
- **5 points**
  - Student demonstrates above average understanding that the behavior of the chicks is related to their internal and external environment, i.e., warmth, shelter, food. A chick’s behavior changes as it adapts to its environment.

- **3 points**
  - Student demonstrates satisfactory understanding that the behavior of the chicks is related to their internal and external environment, i.e., warmth, shelter, food. A chick’s behavior changes as it adapts to its environment.

- **1 point**
  - Student demonstrates unsatisfactory understanding that the behavior of the chicks is related to their internal and external environment, i.e., warmth, shelter, food. A chick’s behavior changes as it adapts to its environment.

#### Abilities of technological design
- **5 points**
  - Student demonstrates above average understanding of the steps in the process of design, i.e., identify the problem, design solution, implement solution, evaluate and improve, communicate the process.

- **3 points**
  - Student demonstrates satisfactory understanding of the steps in the process of design, i.e., identify the problem, design solution, implement solution, evaluate and improve, communicate the process.

- **1 point**
  - Student demonstrates unsatisfactory understanding of the steps in the process of design, i.e., identify the problem, design solution, implement solution, evaluate and improve, communicate the process.

#### Planning and organizing skills
- **5 points**
  - Student shows above average skills in developing and implementing a simple plan. They involve others in planning and can accept responsibility within the plan.

- **3 points**
  - Student shows satisfactory skills in developing and implementing a simple plan. They somewhat involve others in the plan and accept some responsibility within the plan.

- **1 point**
  - Student is not capable of developing and implementing a simple plan. Student does not involve others in planning and does not accept responsibility within the plan.

#### Record-keeping skills
- **5 points**
  - Student demonstrates above average skills in categorizing information, selecting useful information, and applying the skill of keeping records for specific tasks.

- **3 points**
  - Student shows satisfactory skills in categorizing information, selecting useful information, and applying the skill of keeping records for specific tasks.

- **1 point**
  - Student shows unsatisfactory skills in categorizing information, selecting useful information, and applying the skill of keeping records for specific tasks.

#### Teamwork skills
- **5 points**
  - Student understands their role in the team, enjoys working with others, and appreciates the contributions of other team members.

- **3 points**
  - Student shows some understanding of their role in the team, likes to work with others, and somewhat appreciates the contributions of other team members.

- **1 point**
  - Student does not understand their role as part of a team, does not like to work with others, and does not appreciate the contributions of other team members.
### Science skill of observation

- **5 points**
  - Student generates reasonable questions about the world based on observations. Student uses all senses when observing.

- **3 points**
  - Student generates satisfactory questions about the world based on observations. Student uses most senses when observing.

- **1 point**
  - Student does not generate reasonable questions about the world based on observations. Student uses only one sense when observing.

### Science skill of comparing and measuring

- **5 points**
  - Student demonstrates above average skills in using simple measurement tools to provide consistency in an experiment.

- **3 points**
  - Student demonstrates satisfactory skills in using simple measurement tools to provide consistency in an experiment.

- **1 point**
  - Student is not able to use simple measurement tools to provide consistency in an experiment.

### Science skill of relating

- **5 points**
  - Student demonstrates above average skills in developing solutions to unfamiliar problems through reasoning, observation, and experimentation.

- **3 points**
  - Student demonstrates satisfactory skills in developing solutions to unfamiliar problems through reasoning, observation, and experimentation.

- **1 point**
  - Student is not able to develop solutions to unfamiliar problems through reasoning, observation, and experimentation.

### Science skill of applying

- **5 points**
  - Student demonstrates above average skills in using sources of information to help solve problems.

- **3 points**
  - Student demonstrates satisfactory skills in using sources of information to help solve problems.

- **1 point**
  - Student is not capable of using sources of information to help solve problems.

### Planning and organizing skills

- **5 points**
  - Team was capable of considering the situation and coming up a good plan.

- **3 points**
  - Team was capable of considering the situation and coming up with a satisfactory plan.

- **1 point**
  - Team developed an unsatisfactory plan.

### Record-keeping skills

- **5 points**
  - Student shows above average skills in categorizing and selecting useful information.

- **3 points**
  - Student shows satisfactory skills in categorizing and selecting useful information.

- **1 point**
  - Student shows poor skills in categorizing and selecting useful information.

### Teamwork skills

- **5 points**
  - Team demonstrates above average skills in communication and sharing responsibilities.

- **3 points**
  - Team demonstrates average skills in communication and sharing responsibilities.

- **1 point**
  - Team demonstrates poor skills in communication and sharing responsibilities.

---

### Adding Up

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skill</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Science as inquiry</td>
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<td>Structure and function in living systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reproduction and heredity</td>
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<td>Regulation and behavior</td>
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<td>Abilities of technological design</td>
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<td>Planning and organizing skills</td>
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<td>Teamwork skills</td>
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<td>Science skill of comparing and measuring</td>
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<td>Science skill of relating</td>
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<td>Planning and organizing skills</td>
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<td>Record-keeping skills</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teamwork skills</td>
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</table>

**Student name**

**Total points**
Parts of the egg/nutrition

1. Fill in the blanks with the name of the correct egg part.

What nutrients do the following parts contribute to the embryo?

Yolk ____________________________  Albumen_______________________________

Shell_______________________________

2. Break out an egg.
   In the space on the right, draw the top and side view of your egg.
   Label the grade.
Warming up with eggs
(Incubating eggs)

What’s the problem?
Write about why we need to turn the eggs, fill the water canals, and monitor the incubator temperature.

___________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

How could you solve the problem?
Write about your ideas for turning the eggs, filling the water canals, and monitoring the incubator temperature.

___________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

How could you test your plan?
Share the plan. Listen as each team shares its plans. Write down the ideas that you think are best.

___________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

What could you do to improve your ideas?
1. With your teacher’s help, work as a class to turn the eggs, fill the water canals, and monitor the incubator temperature. Consider setting up a schedule that would allow teams to rotate responsibilities.

2. Test your measurements.
Using the embryology record sheet, record the temperature each time you turn the eggs and take an average.
Try it yourself

Building an eggs-ray viewer

Have you thought about what the chick might look like as it is developing inside the egg? With the candler, you will be able to see different parts of the egg and portions of the chick as it develops. Use your planning skills to design a candler. Answer the following questions to make your plan.

1. What’s the problem?
Write about why we need to candle fertile chicken eggs.

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

2. How could you solve the problem?
Write about your ideas for the candler.

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

3. How could you test your plan?

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

4. Share the plan.
Listen as each team shares their plans.
Write down the ideas that you think are best.

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

5. How could you improve the candler?

Draw a new picture.

Draw a picture of what the candler will look like.

Help your team design and make a candler.

Test your candler.
Candle an egg. Can you see what is inside?

Write down the egg parts that you can identify with the aid of your candler.
Observing an embryo

Life is not always what it seems

Did you know a chicken embryo looks a lot like you did during your first three months of life inside your mother? Don’t feel insulted. Many embryos look alike during their early development.

What makes chickens special is that the embryo develops outside the mother’s body. This arrangement lets us get a closer look at how the embryo develops without harming the mother or other embryos.

What does the yolk sac supply for the embryo?

_________________________________________________________________________________________________

What supplied food for you when you were developing in your mother?

_________________________________________________________________________________________________

What does the amnion (sac of clear fluid that surrounds the embryo) do for the embryo?

_________________________________________________________________________________________________

What did you learn?

☐ What shape did the embryo have for the first five days of incubation? Draw the shape and label the head, heart and tail. Circle the first part of the embryo you noticed.

What does the yolk sac supply for the embryo?

_________________________________________________________________________________________________

What supplied food for you when you were developing in your mother?

_________________________________________________________________________________________________

What does the amnion (sac of clear fluid that surrounds the embryo) do for the embryo?

_________________________________________________________________________________________________

How does this activity relate to other life experiences?

Have you ever gotten involved in something or started a project and found that your expectations and what actually happened were different?

How did you adjust your approach to the situation?

What did you learn from those situations?
Pecking out who’s in charge?

When the chicks hatch, mark them and observe which one is at the top of the pecking order.

Materials needed

- colored tape or a felt-tip marker
- stopwatch, watch or clock.

Directions

After the chicks have been in the brooder for one week, mark each one with a small piece of colored tape around the left or right leg or place a small mark on the back of the chick with a felt-tip marker.

Spend 15 minutes each day counting the number of times each chick goes to the feeder and waterer.

After five days, total the number of times each chick went to the feeder and waterer.

Would the chick with the highest number be at the top of the pecking order?

How does the space that the chicks have affect the pecking order?

What could you do to ensure that all the chicks got to eat and drink regularly?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Number</th>
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## Advanced Embryology record sheet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day set</th>
<th>Day expected to hatch</th>
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</thead>
</table>

Number eggs set: ______
Number eggs fertile: ______
Number eggs pipped: ______
Number eggs hatched: ______

Percent fertility = ______ %  
Number of fertile eggs / Number of eggs set

Percent hatchability = ______ %  
Number of fertile eggs / Number of eggs set

Hatch = ______ %  
Number of fertile eggs / Number of eggs set

Every time the eggs are turned make an entry in each column. Make special notes if the class did anything other than turn the eggs, i.e., add water, candle, weigh eggs, other experiments and activities that could have affected the eggs, etc.

### Date

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time Turned</th>
<th>Temperatures</th>
<th>Special Notes</th>
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<tbody>
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</table>
Egg-stra notes
Poultry resources

Breed reference

American Bantam Standard
American Bantam Association
P. O. Box 127
Augusta NJ 07822
e-mail: fancybntms@aol.com

American Standard of Perfection
American Poultry Association
133 Millville St.
Mendon MA 01756-1210
(508) 473-8769
e-mail: apanetcontact@home.com

Extension publications

The following publications are available from:

Extension Publications
630 W. Mifflin St.
Madison WI 53706
(608) 262-3346
Bantams NCR 209
Chicken Breeds and Varieties A2880 (1989)
Home Slaughter of Poultry A1478 (1989)
Poultry for Fun and Food 4H281 (1993)
Pigeons 4H135 (1985)
Raising a Small Turkey Flock NCR060 (1981)
Raising Waterfowl A3311

4-H “Skills for Life” Poultry Science Series
NCR 507 Poultry 1 – Scratching the Surface
NCR 508 Poultry 2 – Testing Your Wings
NCR 509 Poultry 3 – Flocking Together
NCR Poultry 4 – Group Activity Guide

Minnesota Chicken Pattern BU–2350
Distribution Center
20 Coffey Hall
Minnesota Extension Service
University of Minnesota
St. Paul MN 55108
(612) 625-8173

Poultry Judging 408-050
Cooperative Extension Bulletin Distribution
P. O. Box 68583
University of Nebraska
Lincoln NE 68583
(402) 472-9712
(402) 472-0542 fax
e-mail: gnickels@unl.edu

National poultry archives

National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference
Contact: Ken Koelkebeck
282 Animal Sciences Lab
1207 West Gregory Dr.
University of Illinois
Urbana IL 61801
(217) 244-0195
http://www.ext.vt.edu/national4hpoultry/index.html

Organizations

American Egg Board
1460 Renaissance Dr.
Park Ridge IL 60068
http://www.aeb.org/

American Bantam Association
P. O. Box 127
Augusta NJ 07822

American Poultry Association
133 Millville St.
Mendon MA 01756-1210
(508) 473-8769
e-mail: apanetcontact@home.com
http://www.ampltya.com/

National Chicken Council
1155 15th St. NW
Washington DC 20005
(202) 296-2622
http://www.eatchicken.com/

The National Turkey Federation
1225 New York Ave. NW, Suite 400
Washington D.C. 20005
(202) 898-0100
(202) 898-0203 fax
http://www.turkeyfed.org/

U.S. Poultry & Egg Association
1530 Cooledge Road
Tucker GA 30084
Telephone: (770) 493-9401
Fax: (770) 493-9257
http://www.poultryegg.org/

Periodicals

Game Breeders Gazette
1155 E. 4780 South SS
Lake City UT 84117

Hen House Herald (exhibition poultry)
Box 1647
Easley SC 29641

Poultry Digest (egg and meat chickens)
Watt Publishing Co.
122 S. Wesley Ave.
Mount Morris IL 61054

Poultry Press (monthly)
P. O. Box 542
Connersville NY 47331
http://www.poultrypress.com/pp

Turkey World
Watt Publishing Co.
122 S. Wesley Ave.
Mount Morris IL 61054

Supply catalogs

Carolina Biological Supply
2700 York Rd.
Burlington NC 27212
(800) 334-5551

Wards Natural Science, Inc.
5100 West Henrietta Rd.
P. O. Box 92912
Rochester NY 14692
(800) 962-2660

“Development of the Chicken Embryo” (color poster)
Jamesway Incubator Company
1712 Williams Rd.
P. O. Box 629
Monroe NC 28111
(704) 291-9113
Discover over 180 National 4-H Curriculum titles in mission areas of Science, Engineering and Technology; Healthy Living; and Citizenship. Youth activity guides are filled with fun, engaging experiences that cultivate abilities youth need for everyday living as they progressively gain knowledge about subjects that interest them. All titles have been reviewed and recommended by the National 4-H Curriculum Jury Review process, signifying their excellence in providing hands-on learning experiences for youth.

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**Animal Science**
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- Cat
- Dairy Cattle
- Dairy Goat
- Dog
- Embryology
- Entomology
- Exploring Farm Animals

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- Electric Excitement
- Computer
- Exploring 4-H Robotics
- Geospatial
- Sewing Expressions
- Small Engines
- Woodworking Wonders

**Environmental Science**
- Exploring Your Environment
- Forestry—Forests of Fun
- Fishing for Adventure
- Outdoor Adventures

**Plant Science**
- Down-to-Earth—Gardening in the Classroom
- Gardening

**Science Discovery**
- Science Discovery Series
- Meat Goat
- Pets
- Poultry
- Rabbit
- Sheep
- Swine
- Veterinary Science
- Horse

**Healthy Living**

**Health and Fitness**
- Bicycle Adventures
- Child Development—Kids on the Grow
- Keeping Fit and Healthy

**Nutrition**
- Foods
- Microwave Magic

**Citizenship**

**Communication and Expressive Arts**
- A Palette of Fun
- Communications—Express Yourself!
- Photography
- ¡Qué Rico! Latino Cultural Arts
- Theatre Arts
- Visual Arts

**Community Action**
- Citizenship—Public Adventures
- Service Learning

**Leadership**
- Exploring 4-H
- Step Up To Leadership

**Personal Development**
- Consumer Savvy
- Financial Champions

**Workforce Preparation**
- Be the E—Entrepreneurship
- Get in the Act!

**Resources**
- Experiential Learning Video

Find more about Embryology and other projects online at:
www.4-hcurriculum.org
The 4-H Pledge

I pledge
my Head to clearer thinking,
my Heart to greater loyalty,
my Hands to larger service, and
my Health to better living,
for my club, my community,
my country, and my world.

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