



All about

POULTRY

Florida Poultry Facts

- There are over 78 million broilers and over 11 million layers in Florida.
- **Broilers** are raised for meat production while **layers** are raised for egg production.
- Eggs take 21 days to hatch.
- Egg color depends on the **breed** or type of the chicken.
- **Poultry** is a **domesticated** or tame fowl. A **fowl** is a bird that we raise for meat or eggs. It includes chickens, ducks, geese and turkeys.



Chickens are thought to have come from wild fowl found in Southeast Asia; however, today chickens are raised on farms for their meat and eggs. There are over 113 different **breeds**. Raising chickens for eggs, meat or as a hobby is not new, chickens were raised by people beginning over 4,000 years ago. Chickens are essential to the agriculture industry because Americans eat it's meat more than any other meat-producing animal. Whether chickens are raised on large farms inside of chicken houses or small farms as free range chickens their history with humans has been one of a large food source priced less expensive to produce and purchase compared to pork and beef. Chickens ability to produce both meat and eggs make them special.

Chicken Life Cycle

1. The egg grows in the **hen**, a female chicken. When the egg is ready the hen will lay the egg in her nest.
2. The hen will then sit on her eggs to keep them warm. The hen will turn the eggs over 50 times during the day to make sure the **chick** does not stick to the side of the egg. Inside of the egg the chick will begin to grow its body, legs and head.
3. After 21 days the chicks have fully developed and will begin to hatch. They will begin to peck through the shell with their **egg tooth**.
4. The chick will be wet when it hatches and will then dry off and the feathers will be fluffy.
5. If the chick is a female it is called a **pullet** and if the chick is a male it is called a **cockerel**.
6. As the pullet grows up it will then become a **hen** and the cockerel will become a **rooster**. The hen will then be able to grow eggs of her own and the cycle will begin again.



Create your own chicken life cycle!
Draw a picture to represent the stages
of the life cycle.

1	2	3	4	5	6
---	---	---	---	---	---

All About Poultry Word Search

V I F D E G G T O O T H Y B S
Q H L D Q D C H E N S T Y W C
Y W A F H A H T K L K B X E O
F M Y D X D I S D V J R F X J
O D E K A D C C Q Y S O U X W
W A R F S F K Z D W B I W O S
L D I P U L L E T C X L N T R
P O U L T R Y S X V J E N N Z
C O K A M W V W T N Z R L Q Z
R S R A C N R O O S T E R I D
G B D O M E S T I C A T E D P
C O C K E R E L F S T P N K Z
J D B W F R Y E M R X F H F Z
E E H F K Y I B R E E D Y T Z
E L D X D J B J D E E T G D R

WORD BANK

- Breed**– a certain type of animals defined by their appearance
Broiler– a chicken raised for meat
Chick– a newly hatched bird
Cockerel– a young rooster
Domesticated– tame and kept as a pet or on a farm
Egg tooth– a toothlike growth on the beaks of birds
Fowl– a bird raised for eggs and meet
Hen– an adult female chicken
Layer– a chicken raised for egg production
Poultry– domesticated fowl
Pullet– a young hen
Rooster– an adult male chicken

Brainstorm for a few minutes and answer the age old question:

Which came first, the chicken or the egg?

I think the _____ came first.

1. State what you believe and give a specific reason for your belief.
2. Defend your reason against the opposite view.
3. Restate your belief and your strongest reason for this belief.



Make Your Own Egg Candler!

Candling eggs allows for you to watch a chick grow inside the egg!

How to make your own egg candler:

1. Take the Play-Doh and form an egg sized cone around the top of the flashlight.
2. Place the egg in the cone in a dark room and this will allow you to see the chick's development!

Materials:

- Small LED Flashlight
- Dark colored Play-Doh

Pro Tips:

- Make sure the eggs are clean
- Don't candle daily
- Don't keep the eggs outside of the incubator for more than 30 minutes
- Darker eggs are harder to see through

"PECK" Out

Your Vocabulary!

Several important vocabulary words are in **bold** throughout this handout. Find the words, define them and then pick one word and draw a picture that tells a story about that word.



The mission of Florida Agriculture in the Classroom is to increase agricultural literacy through K-12 education in Florida.

Please visit Florida Agriculture in the Classroom's website www.agtag.org/teachers/ for answer key, standards and additional resources.

FAITC is funded by the:



Information provided by:

National Agriculture In The Classroom
UF/IFAS Extension

Created for:

Florida Agriculture In The Classroom

Created by:

Travis Stanley