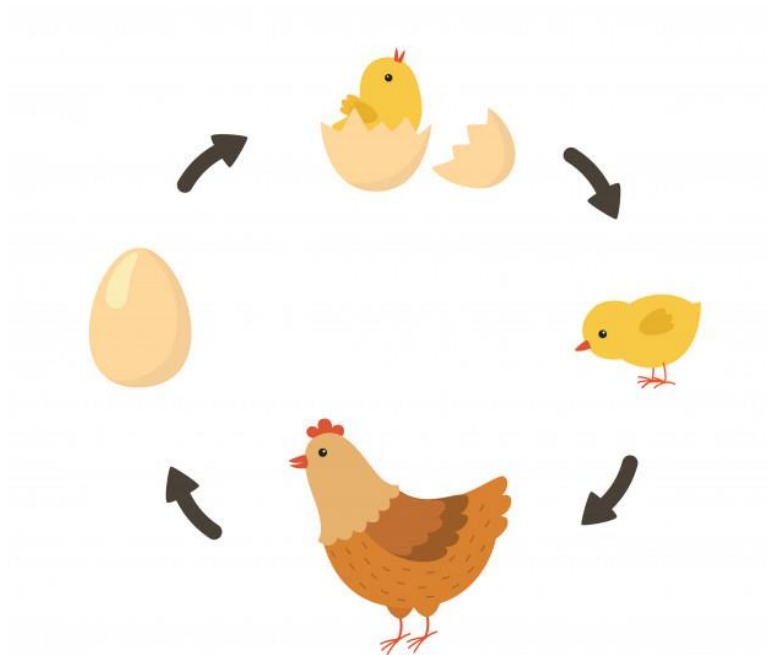


# Primary Science: Chicken Life Cycle



What came first? The chicken or the egg?

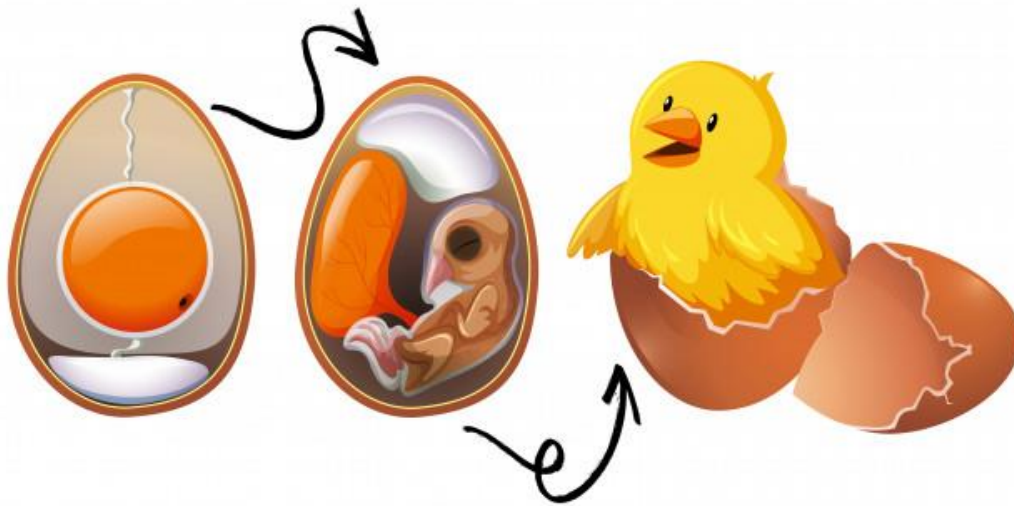
Chickens live between three to five years and have three stages: the egg, chick, and chicken stage.

A rooster is a male chicken and a hen is a female chicken. There are differences in their appearance. Roosters have neck feathers and back pointed feathers. Only the hens can lay eggs.



# Primary Science: Chicken Life Cycle

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A hen must have mated with a rooster to lay a clutch of fertilized eggs. The time to form an egg is around 25 hours.

The process begins with the yolk. It will begin the formation of the chick. The yolk is produced by the hen's ovary.

The yolk is then released into the oviduct where it can be fertilized. The yolk gets covered with a white membrane and layers of albumen. It will keep on travelling and the egg white and yolk will begin to form. The shell will be developed eventually, and the egg will fall out!



# Primary Science: Chicken Life Cycle

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The mother hen will sit on the eggs. Eggs need to maintain optimum temperature so they can continue developing. The chick inside the egg will grow for around 21 days.

On around the 19<sup>th</sup> day, chicks will begin the pipping process. The baby will use their 'egg tooth' to peck a hole in the eggshell to be free. It can take up to 24 hours for a chick to get out of their shell.

Chicks will grow their true feathers at around 5 days old. After 16 to 24 weeks, the chick is considered to be an adult and can start laying eggs.



# Primary Science: Chicken Life Cycle

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Answer the questions.

What are the 3 stages of a chicken?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

What are the differences between the rooster  
and the hen?

\_\_\_\_\_

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# Primary Science: Chicken Life Cycle

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**Answer the questions.**

How long does it take to form an egg?

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Explain the process.

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# Primary Science: Chicken Life Cycle

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**Answer the questions.**

What will the mother do when she has laid the eggs?

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Explain the piping process.

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