

Name: _____

From Peep to Chicken

Have you ever wondered what happens inside a smooth, white egg before a fluffy chick pops out? The life of a chicken is a circle that keeps on going. It starts with a tiny egg and ends with a full-grown bird ready to start the cycle all over again.

Keeping it Warm

The journey begins when a mother hen lays an egg. For the egg to grow into a chick, it must stay very warm. The hen sits on her eggs to keep them at the right temperature. This is called incubation. Inside the egg, a tiny embryo is growing. It eats the yellow yolk, which gives it the energy to get bigger every day. It takes about 21 days—exactly three weeks—for the chick to be ready for the world.

The Great Breakout

When the chick is fully grown inside, it is time to hatch. This is hard work! The chick has a special, sharp bump on its beak called an egg tooth. It uses this "tool" to poke a small hole in the shell, which is called pipping. The chick slowly pecks a circle around the top of the egg until the shell cracks open. It may take many hours, and the chick is often very tired and wet when it finally steps out.



The great breakout

Growing Up Fast

At first, the new chick is covered in soft, yellow "fuzz" called down. These aren't real feathers yet! As the chick eats grain and bugs, it grows quickly. Soon, it will lose its down and grow real feathers. This process is called molting. In about six months, the chick becomes an adult. A female is called a hen, and a male is called a rooster. A healthy hen can lay an egg almost every single day, starting the whole cycle once more!

1. Which of these happens first in the chicken life cycle?
 - A. The chick grows real feathers and loses its yellow down.
 - B. A mother hen sits on the egg to provide incubation.
 - C. The chick uses its egg tooth to begin the pipping process.
 - D. An adult hen lays an egg almost every day in the nest.

2. Read this sentence: "For the egg to grow into a chick, it must stay very warm." Based on the text, what does the word incubation mean?

- A. The process of a chick eating the yellow yolk for energy.
- B. The way a chick pecks a circle around the top of its shell.
- C. The act of keeping eggs warm so they can develop and hatch.
- D. The time it takes for a hen to grow her very first feathers.

3. According to the passage, what is the effect of the embryo eating the yellow yolk?

- A. The shell becomes thinner and easier for the chick to break.
- B. The mother hen does not have to find food for the chick.
- C. The chick grows a sharp bump on its beak called an egg tooth.
- D. The embryo gets the energy it needs to grow larger every day.

4. How is the entire passage organized?

- A. Chronological: It describes the life of a chicken in the order it happens.
- B. Comparison: It shows how chicks are different from mother hens.
- C. Cause and Effect: It explains why hens need to lay eggs every day.
- D. Problem and Solution: It explains how chicks solve the problem of a hard shell.

5. This is a two-part question. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B. (DOK 3)

Part A: What can you infer about a chick that has just finished hatching?

- A. It is ready to fly and find its own food immediately.
- B. It is hungry because it has not eaten any yolk for three weeks.
- C. It has used up most of its energy to get out of the shell.
- D. It no longer needs the mother hen to keep it warm.

Part B: Which detail from the text best supports the answer to Part A?

- A. "The journey begins when a mother hen lays an egg."
- B. "Soon, it will lose its down and grow real feathers."
- C. "The chick eats the yellow yolk, which gives it energy."
- D. "The chick is often very tired and wet when it finally steps out."