

READY-MADE RESOURCES

ChickQuest

Welcome to the ChickQuest lesson, designed to help you become more aware of the diversity of birds and chickens. Chickens are an important food source for our country, as they provide us with both eggs and meat. Ohio's soybeans help feed chickens and have made Ohio the number-two producer of eggs in the country! Let's see what you know about birds and chickens!

You will need access to a computer with internet access, library (animal books), and a writing utensil.

Activity 1: What makes a bird a bird?

What comes to mind when you hear the word "bird?" Discuss bird characteristics with your class or partner and write them in the chart below.

Bird characteristics	Animals that share these characteristics
Backbone	Goldfish, snake, frog, and bear
Warm-blooded	Coyote, whale, horse
Beak	Platypus, turtle



Are all of these characteristics unique to birds? Discuss in class or use research materials such as the internet or the library to determine if these characteristics are found in any other organisms. Name two or three animals that share each of the characteristics.

Which characteristic is unique to birds?

Look at the feather below and label its parts. Use the words in the word box.



Word box

- vane
- shaft
- barb
- quill

Activity 2: Chicken 101

The chicken is the most common species of bird in the world. There are over 25 billion chickens around the world, making it one of the most common domestic species.

Let's write that number out: _ _ , _ _ _ , _ _ _ , _ _ _ . Wow, that is a lot of chickens!

Chickens eat soybeans, and a lot of chickens eat a LOT of soybeans. Let's do the math!

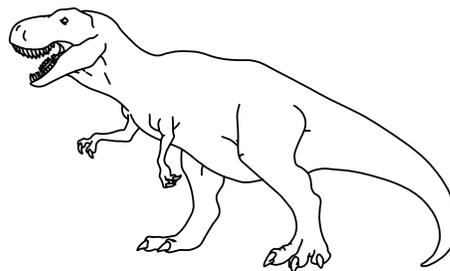
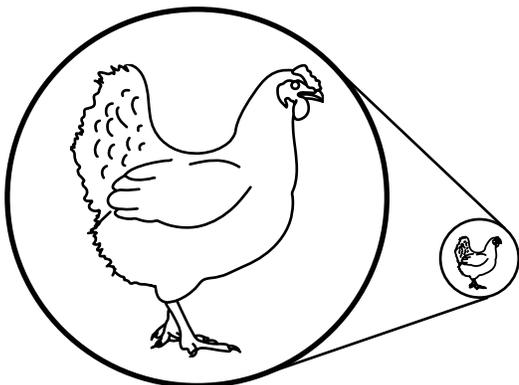
- Ohio is home to 30,000,000 million hens and 10,000,000 pullets each year.
If 1 chicken eats 1 bushel of soybeans each year, how many bushels do Ohio's chickens eat each year?
- One bushel of soybeans weighs 60 pounds. How many pounds of soybeans are needed to feed Ohio's chickens?
- Ohio produces over 264,470,000 bushels of soybeans last year. How many chickens would that feed for 1 year?

How much do you know about chickens?

Research the fun chicken facts below or discuss with your partner to match the correct answers.

Time it takes for a chick to hatch	clutch
A group of eggs	eggs
A group of chicks	feather
A group of chickens	pullet
A male chicken	omnivore
A female chicken that lays eggs	rooster
A young female chicken that does not lay eggs	brood
A baby chicken	flock
Eats plants or animals like insects	hen
Keep chickens warm	21 days
Chicks form inside	chick

Fun fact: Did you know that the chicken is the closest living relative to the great *Tyrannosaurus rex*? What similarities do you see? Write a quick story about these distant cousins meeting each other!



Activity 3: ID your chick!

Scientists use dichotomous questions to help organize animals into groups and classify them. Today we are going to classify chickens! Cut out the chick cards. Start with one chick card and answer the questions below to help you identify your chick.

1	a.	This chick was hatched from a brown egg. Go to question 2.
	b.	This chick was hatched from a white or blue egg. Go to question 7.

2	a.	This chick was hatched from a dark brown egg. Go to question 4a.
	b.	This chick was hatched from a light brown egg. Go to question 3.

7	a.	The chick was hatched from a blue egg. Go to question 9b.
	b.	The chick was hatched from a white egg. Go to question 8.

3	a.	This chick is yellow or brown. Go to question 5.
	b.	This chick is mostly black. Go to question 4b.

8	a.	The chick is completely yellow. Go to question 9a.
	b.	The chick is not completely yellow. Go to question 10.

4	a.	Are you holding a picture of a Blue Copper Maran chick with a black head and light body ? Yes → go to the next animal. No → start over!
	b.	Are you holding a picture of a Barred Plymouth Rock chick ? Yes → go to the next animal. No → start over!

9	a.	Are you holding a picture of a White Leghorn ? Yes → go to the next animal. No → start over!
	b.	Are you holding a picture of a Blue Ameraucana ? Yes → go to the next animal. No → start over!

5	a.	The chick is yellow. Go to question 6a.
	b.	The chick is red. Go to question 6b.

10	a.	Your chick is yellow and black. Go to question 11a.
	b.	Your chick is yellow and brown speckled. Go to question 11b.

6	a.	Are you holding a picture of a Buff Chantecler chick ? Yes → go to the next animal. No → start over!
	b.	Are you holding a picture of a Rhode Island Red chick ? Yes → go to the next animal. No → start over!

11	a.	Are you holding a picture of a White Crested Black Polish ? Yes → go to the next animal. No → start over!
	b.	Are you holding a picture of a Golden Campine ? Yes → go to the next animal. No → start over!



White Leghorn

Origin	Italy
Egg color	White
Egg size	Large
Production	Excellent
Hardiness	Heat tolerant
Personality	Active and skittish

Blue Ameraucana

Origin	United States
Egg color	Blue/green
Egg size	Medium
Production	Good
Hardiness	Very cold hardy
Personality	Active and friendly

Video: youtu.be/FMsrzLhAMMc



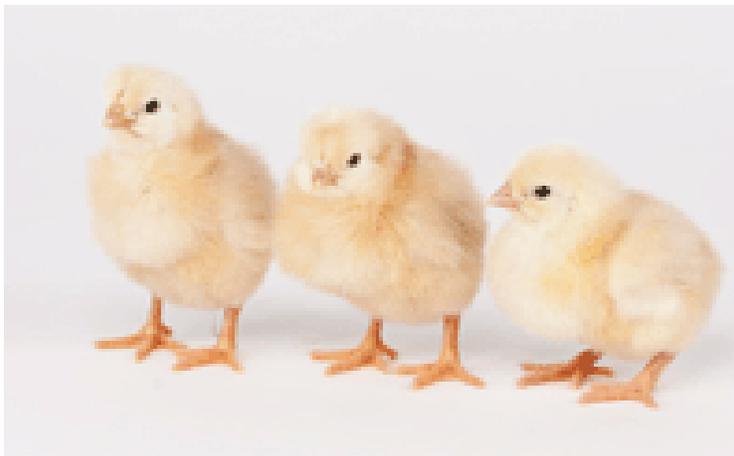
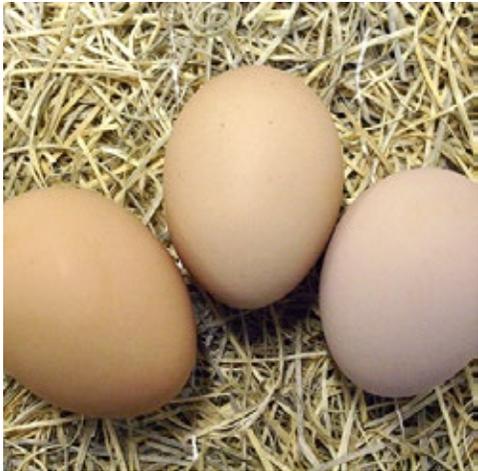
White Crested Black Polish

Origin	Holland
Egg color	White
Egg size	Small to medium
Production	Fair
Hardiness	Heat and cold hardy
Personality	Quiet and docile

Golden Campine

Origin	Belgium
Egg color	White
Egg size	Medium
Production	Good
Hardiness	Cold tolerant
Personality	Friendly and talkative





Barred Plymouth Rocks

Origin	United States
Egg color	Brown
Egg size	Medium
Production	Very good
Hardiness	Very cold hardy
Personality	Docile

Video: youtu.be/xqfAYpXK2os



Rhode Island Red

Origin	United States
Egg color	Brown
Egg size	Large
Production	Excellent
Hardiness	Heat & cold tolerant
Personality	Docile (males can be aggressive)

Video: youtu.be/Ukcex2Elv4U



Blue Copper Maran

Origin	France
Egg color	Dark brown
Egg size	Large
Production	Good
Hardiness	Cold hardy
Personality	Calm, quiet, and gentle



Buff Chantecler

Origin	Canada
Egg color	Brown
Egg size	Large
Production	Very good
Hardiness	Extremely cold hardy
Personality	Calm and docile

