

Grades: primary

The Little Red Hen “Chicken Coop & Hatchery”

Before your visit:

- *Read several books about chickens and discuss the information with the students.
- *Introduce and define vocabulary: hen, rooster, chick, bird, feathers, wings, oviparous, and henhouse
- *Brainstorm facts about chicks and make a circle map. (If the children do not state that a chicken is a bird, guide them to this fact and remind them of the characteristics of a bird...feathers, warm blooded, oviparous, wings)
- *Discuss the fact that it takes 21 days for a chick to develop inside an egg. Mark the start and end day on your calendar and refer to it during calendar time each morning.
- *Transfer the information from the circle map to the tree map (Chicks..can/have/are)
- *Watch an online video of a baby chick hatching from its egg. There are several available on u-tube.
- *Create an art project that shows the life cycle of a chicken. Use a paper plate for the background. In the middle of the plate, write “the life cycle of a chicken”. At the top, 12:00, draw and label an egg. At the 3:00 position, draw and label a chick hatching out of its egg. At the 6:00 position, draw and label a chick. At the 9:00 position, draw and label a hen. Add arrows between the drawings to indicate the sequence of the chicken’s life cycle.
- *Place the following poem in a pocket chart. Read it many times so that the students can memorize it and act it out.

A Warm Brown Egg
by Aileen Fischer

Peck, peck, peck
on a warm brown egg,
Out comes a neck,
out comes a leg.
How does a chick who’s never been about
Discover the way of how to get out?

During your visit:

- *Look at the hens. How are they alike/different? Find these body parts: head, legs, wings, feathers, and beak. Why do you think the chickens have sharp, pointy toes?
- *Look at the chicks. How are they alike/different from the hens? Do you see chicks that are different sizes?
- *Do you see the hens and chicks eating? What do they eat?
- *Count the hens and the chicks. Which group has more/less?

After your visit:

* Discuss the real hens and chicks that you saw at Fairview Farms. Add information to your circle map and tree map as needed.

*Complete the first/next/then/finally writing page to show the sequence of the chick's life cycle.

*Use the thinking maps to write information about chicks. (Assign the number of sentences that is appropriate for your grade level.) Illustrate your sentences.

Books About Chickens:

Big Red Barn by Margaret Wise Brown

Chicken and Egg by Christine Back and Jens Olesen

Chickens Aren't The Only Ones by Ruth Heller

Egg To Chick by Millicent E. Selsam

From Egg to Chicken by Gerald Legg

Good Morning, Chick by Mirra Ginsburg

Here A Chick, There A Chick by Bruce McMillan

How and Why Animals Hatch From Eggs by Elaine Pascoe

Life Cycles—Chicken by David Schwartz

Minerva Louise by Janet Morgan Stoeke

Roosters Off To See The World by Eric Carle

Rosie's Walk by Pat Hutchins

Tap! Tap!...The Egg Cracked by Keith Faulkner

The Chick and the Duckling by Mirra Ginsburg

The Chicken Book by Garth Williams

The Little Red Hen pictures by Lucinda McQueen

Where Do Chicks Come From? By Amy Sklansky