

## The Life Cycle of Chickens

### Simple Science Activity

<b>Purpose:</b>	Students develop a model to illustrate the life cycle of chickens.
<b>Standard(s):</b>	<p><b>S2L1. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information about the life cycles of different living organisms.</b></p> <p>a. Ask questions to determine the sequence of the life cycle of common animals in your area: a mammal such as a cat, dog or classroom pet, a bird such as a chicken, an amphibian such as a frog, and an insect such as a butterfly.</p> <p>d. Develop models to illustrate the unique and diverse life cycles of organisms other than humans.</p>
<b>Materials:</b>	6 in. foam plate, 1 brass fastener, Chicken Life Stages Spokes (printed on cardstock), scissors, tape, hole punch
<b>Procedures:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Begin by asking the students, what are the different stages of a chicken’s life cycle? Allow students time to respond. Ask, what order do these stages occur in? Allow students time to respond. <i>If students need help, show this video Can You Name the Stages of the Life Cycle?: <a href="https://youtu.be/mhnmK4tcKTE">https://youtu.be/mhnmK4tcKTE</a></i> Once they have the correct order determined, explain that they will make a model to illustrate the chicken’s life cycle.</li> <li>2. Placing the plate face down, punch the brass fastener through the center of the plate. Cut out the hen picture and tape it onto the center front of the plate over the brass fastener. Flip over.</li> <li>3. Cut out each life stage spoke and punch a hole in the designated spot. Put them on the end of the brass fastener in order (picture face down) and secure using the brass fastener when finished.</li> <li>4. With a partner, have students use their model to explain the different stages of a chicken’s life cycle.</li> </ol>
<b>Science Behind It:</b>	A life cycle is an entire lifespan of an organism: birth, growth, and development into an adult, reproduction, and death of the adult. It is considered a cycle because most adult organisms reproduce new offspring, which keeps the cycle going. Stages of the life cycle vary for different types of organisms. Some undergo major changes where the offspring looks very different from the time it’s born to the time it’s an adult, like a butterfly. Other organisms have offspring that are born with features very similar to the adult, like humans. Some life cycles are short, and some are long. The life cycle of a chicken consists of an egg, embryo,

	chick, pullet/cockerel, and hen/rooster. On average chickens live 3 to 8 years.
<b>Questions to Ask:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What are the different stages of a chicken's life?</li></ul>