

Life Cycle of a Bird

Most animals come from eggs. The eggs are produced by the adult female. Many eggs contain everything needed to form a new animal. Many eggs have a shell or outer covering. The covering keeps the egg from drying out. It also protects the new animal growing inside. Bird eggs have a hard shell. When the animal has grown enough, it breaks out of the egg. This is called hatching. Here you can see how a chicken hatches.

The new chick quickly grows into an adult. The adult female can then lay eggs and the cycle continues.



Student Activity for Lesson 1

Obtain one hard-boiled egg and one uncooked chicken egg. The hard-boiled egg should not have developed a crack while cooking. Open the uncooked egg carefully (don't break yolk) and place it in a petri dish.

Procedure:

A. Carefully crack the shell of a hard-boiled egg. Peel the egg. Notice the dent at the end. Between this dent and the shell was an air space.

1. Use a hand lens to examine the shell and its lining.
2. Use a plastic knife to cut the hard-boiled egg open and observe the inside of the egg. Notice the white and yolk of the egg.
3. Observe the uncooked egg in the petri dish.
4. Find the twisted strands of egg white, called chalazae [kuh-**ley**-zuh].
5. Find the white spot on the yolk. The white spot is the part that may grow to be a chicken.
6. Draw a picture of your findings and label the parts of an egg.