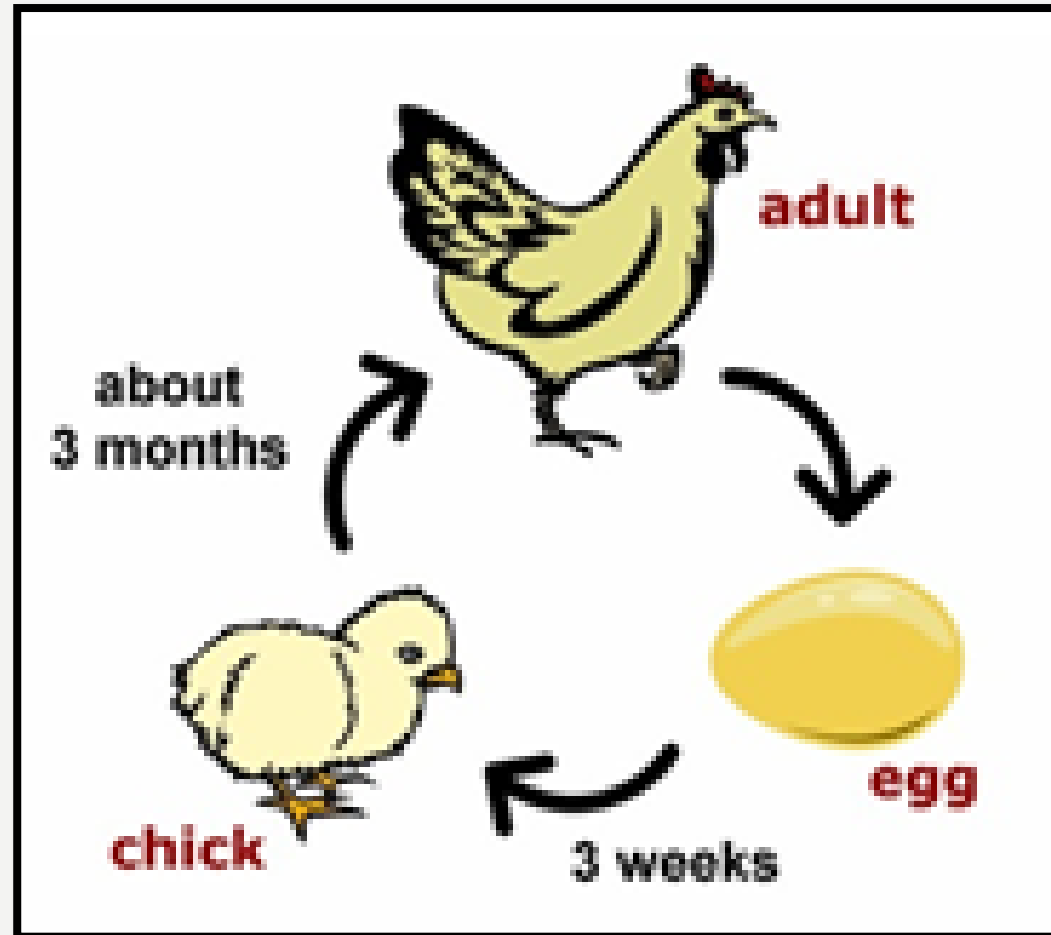




THE LIFE CYCLE OF A CHICKEN

PINE HILLS FARM

THE LIFE CYCLE OF A CHICKEN



THE EGG



- The hen will sit on her eggs to keep them warm so that they will hatch into chicks.
- A fertilized egg starts developing into a chicken when its temperature reaches 86 degrees Fahrenheit.
- A chicken takes 21 days (3 weeks) to hatch.
- The hen does not need a rooster to lay eggs. However, the eggs will not hatch because they are not fertilized.
- Chicken eggs come in different colors like white, brown, blue or bluish green and pink.
- A hen lays an average of 300 eggs per year

CHICKS



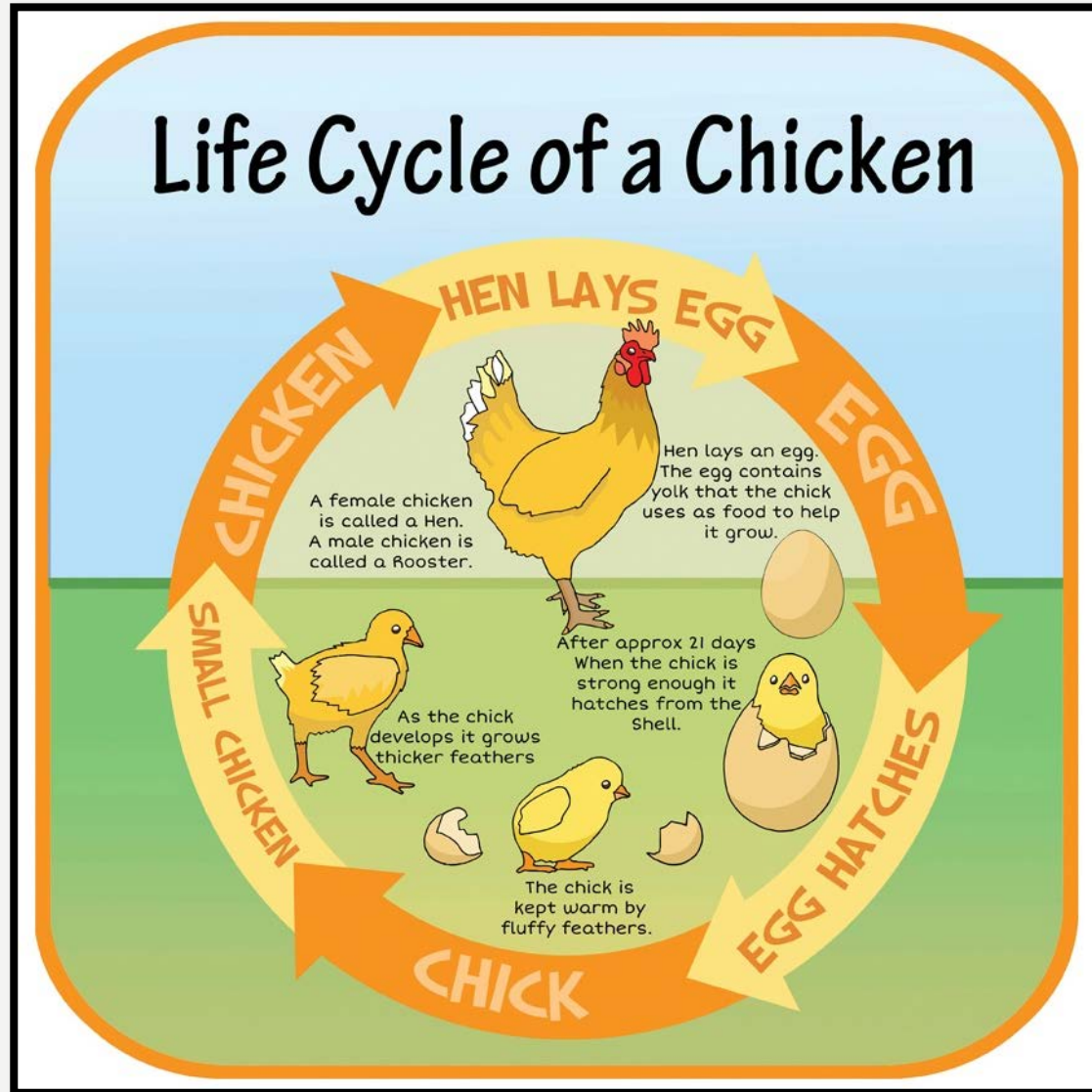
- Young hens are called chicks.
- The young are called chicks and they go "chick-chick".
- It takes about 3 months for them to mature into adult chickens.

ADULT CHICKENS

- The female is called a hen.
- Chickens are domestic birds.
- Their life span is about 10 to 15 years.
- A chicken has a comb on the head and two wattles under the neck.
- The female is usually ready to lay her first eggs when she is around six months old.
- The female is called a hen and she goes "cluck-cluck".
- Pullets are female chickens.
- There are approximately 175 varieties of chickens.



DID YOU KNOW?



What do chickens eat?

- Chickens eat worms, insects, seeds, grains, snails, slugs, fruits, vegetables and many other foods. The gizzard which is a part of the stomach contains tiny stones to help grind up the food.

Who are the chicken's enemies?

- Animals like hawks, bobcats, snakes, skunks, owls, raccoons, foxes and opossum prey on chickens.

ROOSTER

- The male is called a rooster.
- The male is larger and more brightly colored than the female.
- This is common feature in birds.
- The males show off their colorful feathers to attract the females.
- The male has a larger comb compared to the female.
- The morning call you hear on the farm every morning is actually the rooster crowing "cock-a-doodle-doo".

