

Egg-cellent Eggs

Chickens are a source of both meat and eggs. Broiler chickens, those that are bred for their meat, are Virginia's top agricultural commodity. The chicken's life cycle has 3 stages – egg, chick, and adult (rooster or hen). It takes 21 days for an egg to hatch after having been laid by the hen and then 6 weeks for the chick to grow to maturity. Hens lay an egg approximately every 25 hours.

Children will be provided with an opportunity to learn about chickens by reading a book and creating a chick that has just hatched from an egg. They will also benefit from practicing fine motor skills and expressing their creativity.

You will need:

Egg cartons (cut apart so each child gets one square)
Large Yellow pom poms
Scissors
Brown/beige construction paper
Google eyes
Orange construction paper
Glue

How to:

1. Discuss with children the importance of poultry to Virginia and the people who live there. Also make sure to talk about the life cycle of chickens as mentioned in the book.
2. Make sure to explain what they are to do before they get into the activity.
3. Give each child a square from the egg cartons, a piece of yellow felt, and pieces of orange and brown/beige construction paper. Make sure they also have scissors, a black marker, and glue at their seats.
4. Children should glue eyes on the pom pom to represent the chick body.
5. Next have them cut out a small diamond from the orange construction paper and glue it under the eyes to make a beak.
6. They should then cut out stripes from the brown/beige construction paper and fold them so they fit in the square piece of the egg carton they have.
7. Set the chick in the egg carton. The brown/beige pieces should come out around the chick to form a nest.

Suggested Books:

Chicks and Chickens by Gail Gibbons
Eggs and Chickens by Fiona Patchett
Chicken said, "Cluck!" by Judyann Ackerman Grant



For more resources to connect children to agriculture visit AgInTheClass.org.