

# Chicken Life Cycle

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Read the passage explaining the life cycle of a chicken and answer the questions that follow.

## Life Cycle of a Chicken

A chicken's life cycle begins when a female chicken, or hen, lays eggs. The hen squats on the eggs to keep them warm. This process is called brooding. It goes on for about 21 days, as the embryo develops within the egg. This 21-day period is

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When a chick hatches, it is called a chick. It grows and pecks at the ground. When it is about 6 weeks old, it is called a pullet. This is the adolescent stage, where the chicken is neither a chick nor an adult. A pullet's body has patchy feathers, wings, and functional legs, but it has to develop further to reach the adult stage.

As the pullet reaches its full size, it becomes an adult chicken. Female chickens lay eggs regularly for the first year or two, before taking a break to shed their old feathers and grow new ones in a process called molting. With new eggs being laid, the life cycle of a chicken continues.

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1) Name the major stages of a chicken's life cycle.

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2) What is brooding?

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3) Fill in the gaps.

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_


c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

4) Write down the website address.

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5) Describe the adolescent stage of a chicken's life.

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