

Chicken Workshop

Exploring the Lives of Chickens on Farms



Duration: 10–12 minutes

Number of Students: 5–20

Age Range: All

Materials:

- Table
- Two bowls
- Store-bought and farm egg
- 4lbs of chicken feed??
- Chicken Trivia

CONTEXT: GRuB has a flock of chickens living on our farm, it is a mutually beneficial relationship.

OBJECTIVE: Educate field trip guests regarding chicken diets, the role they play on the farm, and the nutritional qualities of eggs.

PREP:

- Set up a table
- Set out two bowls with one egg in each
- Collect feed and worms, chickweed, or other food scraps

THE FLOW:

When they get to the chicken station, explain the simple rules of hanging out with the chickens.

1. Don't yell at the chickens. Be nice to them.
2. Don't run after the chickens, walk up to them slowly and they may let you pet them.
Why: It stresses them out and affects their egg laying!

Give everyone something to feed the chickens - Three minutes for feeding and observing the hens.

Circle up around the table.

Ask - "Why do we have chickens on the farm?"

- Eat the weeds, so we don't need weed-killing chemicals or chemical fertilizers
- Chicken poop is great fertilizer!
- We get delicious eggs that we use to cook community meals.

Say - "I'm going to crack these two eggs in a bowl - What differences do you see? Which one do you think is from the farm? Why do you think there is a difference?"

- Difference in diets of our farm chickens vs factory farm chickens - ours eat bugs, grass, veggies and fruits VS corn/animal byproducts.
- More protein in the eggs, better living conditions for the chickens

Ask - ??? "How many pounds of feed do you think this is? How many eggs do you think this amount of food makes?"

- 4lbs - enough for a dozen eggs!

Chicken Trivia! - Use wooden boards, have them guess, and have a dramatic reveal!

Chickens are the closest living relative to which extinct animals? (A: Tyrannosaurus Rex)

How long does it take to hatch a chicken egg? (A: 21 days)

How fast can a chicken run? (A: 9 mph)

OUTCOMES: What do you want the students to leave this lesson remembering?

Check for understanding- Ask them... Can you remind me...?

Why did there a difference between the two eggs?

Why do we have chickens here at GRuB? How do the chickens benefit from living here?