

Life Cycle of a Chicken

2nd Grade

Egg to chick to hen — 21 days from start to hatching.

Unlike a frog or a butterfly, a chick looks like a small version of the adult from day one.

1

EGG

The hen lays it. Inside, the chick has yolk to feed on.

2

INCUBATION

Kept warm for about 21 days by the hen sitting on it.

3

HATCHING

The chick chips its way out using a hard egg tooth on its beak.

4

CHICK

Fluffy, can walk and peck within hours.

5

PULLET

A young hen. Feathers replace the fluff.

6

HEN

Fully grown at about 6 months, and starts laying eggs of her own.

This is direct development — no complete change of body shape. Most birds and mammals work this way.