

Clucking Chickens

Objective

Students will learn about sound by creating the model of a chicken that makes chicken sounds using a plastic cup and string.

Background

Chickens are a source of both meat and eggs. Most chickens weigh between seven and 10 pounds, although they can weigh as much as 13 pounds or as little as 1.5 pounds.

Hens start laying at 22 weeks of age. Laying hens produce about 240 eggs each year. During the hen's most productive period, she may lay an egg about six out of every seven days. Eggs hatch in 21 days. The hen requires a minimum of 25 hours to produce an egg. Thirty minutes later, she starts all over again.

The chicken life cycle has three states—egg, chick and adult (hen or rooster). A young chick is very small when it hatches. After eight weeks it has grown to weigh about 3 1/2 pounds.

A chicken is different from other birds because it has a comb and two wattles. The comb is the red appendage on top of the head, and wattles are the two appendages under the beak.

Because the pecking order of the hens sometimes causes them to hurt each other, the beaks of baby chickens are trimmed.

Language Arts

1. Students will read and discuss background and vocabulary.
2. Students will label the comb and wattle on the picture of a chicken included with this lesson.
3. Students will color the picture of a chicken, as desired.
4. Hand out newspapers and magazines with advertisements related to chicken, along with the advertisement worksheet.
 - Discuss fact and opinion.
 - Students will find opinion statements in the advertisements and write some of them on the worksheet.
 - Students will write some of the attitudes and opinions conveyed by pictures in the advertisements.
 - Students will design their own advertisements for poultry on separate sheets of paper, using a mixture of opinion and fact from the background provided.

Oklahoma Academic Standards

GRADE 1

Visual Arts—3.2

Science Process—3.2; 4.3

Physical Science—1.1

Music—3.1

Physical Education—1.3; 2.2; 3.1,2;
4.4; 5.3,4; 7.1,2,3,4

GRADE 2

Visual Arts—3.2

Science Process—3.2; 4.3

Physical Science—1.2

Visual Literacy—1.2

Music—3.1

Physical Education—1.1; 2.2; 5.2,3;
6.1; 7.1,2,3

GRADE 3

Visual Arts—3.2

Science Process—3.2; 4.3

Physical Science—1.2,3

Visual Literacy—1.1,3

Music—3.1

Physical Education—1.1,3; 3.3; 5.3;
6.2

COMMON CORE

Language Arts—3.RI.1

GRADE 4

Visual Art—3.1,2

Science Process—1.2

Visual Literacy—1.1,3

Music—3.1

Physical Education—1.1;
5.2; 6.3

COMMON CORE

Language Arts—3.RI.5

GRADE 5

Visual Art—3.1

Science Process—1.2

Visual Literacy—1.1,3

Music—3.5

Physical Education—
1.1,2; 2.4; 4.1; 5.3; 7.1,3,4

COMMON CORE

Language Arts—3.RI.5

Materials

8-oz red plastic drinking cups
cotton string cut in 24-in
lengths
red felt
hot glue gun
black felt permanent marker
newspapers and magazines
with advertisements
crayons, colored pencils, etc.

Visual Arts

1. Prepare cups ahead of time by using an ice pick to punch two holes, 1/2 inch apart, in the bottom of each cup.
2. Hand out the cups and string to students.
3. Students will follow the directions below to create “Clucking Chickens.”
 - Lace the string through the holes and tie a knot inside the cup. (The string should hang down from the cup when it is held upside down. The upside-down cup will form the body of the chicken.)
 - To form a beak, cut the felt into long diamond shapes, about 1 1/2 inches long and 1/2 inch wide, and fold the diamond in half.
 - Glue the fold of the beak at the center of the cup’s ridges.
 - Use the same red felt to cut a ridged comb, about 3/4 inch wide, and glue the flat side of the comb over the string on the bottom of the cup (the top of the chicken’s head).
 - Cut eyes from felt and glue them on, or draw eyes, using the black permanent marker.
4. Once all the glue has dried, show students how to make their chickens cluck.
 - Use a moistened square of cloth to moisten the fingers of one hand.
 - Hold the chicken/cup with the other hand. and gently tug while sliding your moistened fingers down the string. This will produce a sound similar to that of a clucking chicken.

Science/Music

1. Students will compare making sounds with and without wetting the string on their chickens (above) and by tugging at different spots.
 - Students will describe the differences.
 - Discuss how sound travels.
2. Students will use their cluckers to play rhythm as they sing some familiar chicken songs, e.g., “There was a little chickie, she wouldn’t lay an egg . . .” (See “Poems and Songs About Agriculture.”)
3. Students will make water xylophones, as follows.
 - Fill eight identical quart jars with water at different levels.
 - Tap them on their sides to create different pitches.
 - Tune the jars to a piano or pitch pipe by adding water or pouring some out.
 - Label the jars 1-8 to indicate the eight different pitches.
 - Make beautiful music.

Physical Education

1. Divide the class into two sections.
 - Half the class will use their chicken cluckers (from “Visual Arts” above) to make chicken noises and the other half will demonstrate how a chicken walks.

2. Play “Pass the Bone.”

- Divide your class into teams, and provide each team with a clean, dry chicken bone and a ball of string (approximately three feet per player).
- The first player pushes the bone up his sleeve, across his chest and down the other sleeve.
- He or she then passes the bone to the next teammate.
- This procedure is repeated until the whole team is connected by the string. The first team to be connected is the winner. (The string can easily become tangled. Do not unwind the string from the ball until you’re at school.)

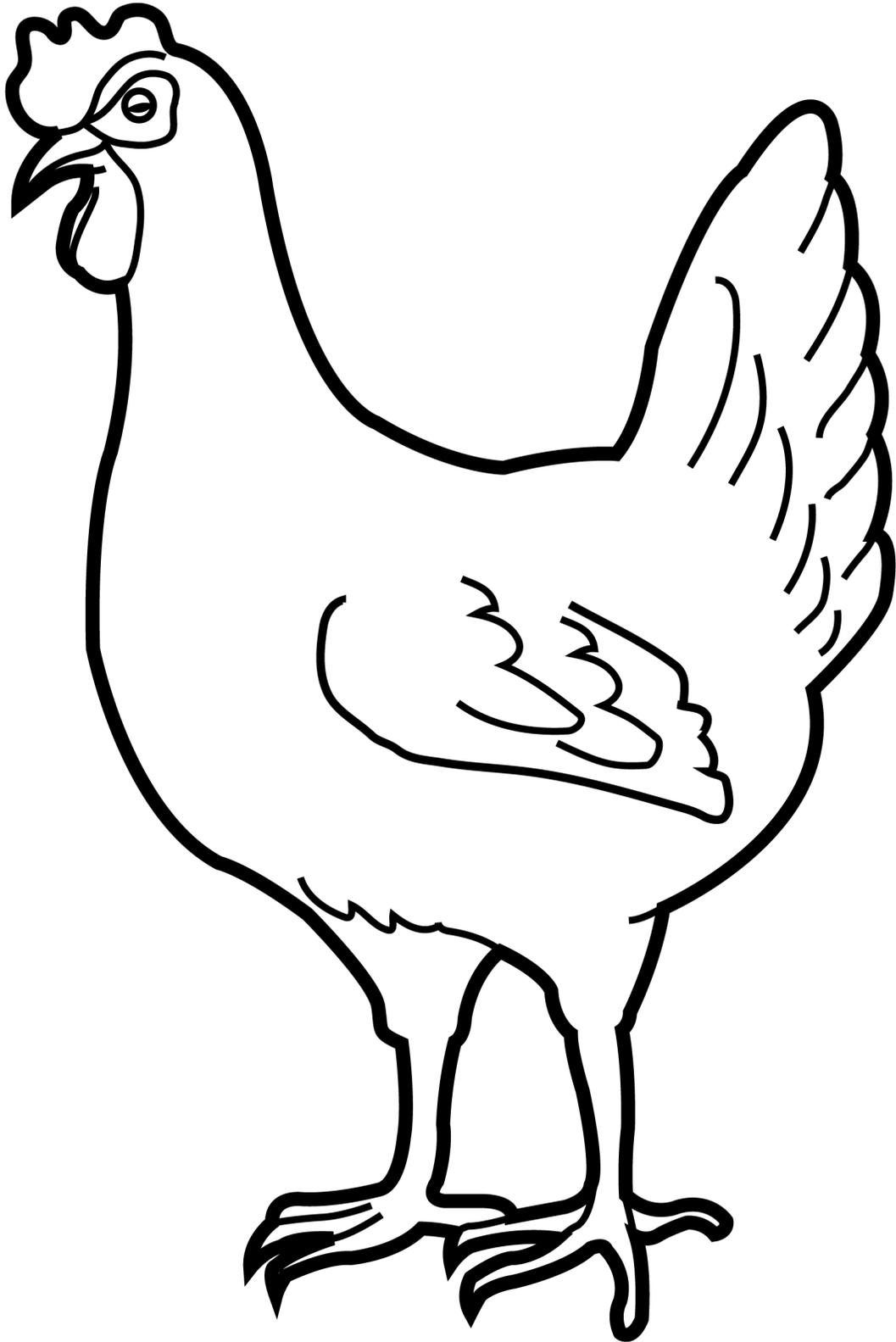
Extra Reading

- Burstein, John, *Big Fat Lies: Advertising Tricks (Slim Goodbody’s Lighten Up!)*, Crabtree, 2008.
- Donovan, Gail, *Sounds on the Farm (Here & There Books)*, Innovative Kids, 2004.
- Freedman, Deborah, *Blue Chicken*, Viking, 2011.
- Harvard, Christian, *Face to Face With the Chicken*, Charlesbridge, 2003.
- Kindschi, Tara, *4-H Guide to Raising Chickens*, Voyageur, 2010.
- Mahoney, Ian F., *Sound Waves (Energy in Action)*, Rosen Classroom, 2007.
- O’Malley, Kevin, *Gimme Cracked Corn and I Will Share*, Walker Books for Young Readers, 2007.
- Rader, Mark, and Eric Carle, *The World of Eric Carle: Around the Farm Sound Book*, Publications International, 2011.
- Ray, Hannah, *Chickens (Down on the Farm)*, Crabtree, 2008.

Vocabulary

- appendage**—a projecting part of an animal or plant body; especially an arm, leg, or similar part
- beak**—a rigid mouth structure (as of a bird) that sticks out
- comb**—a fleshy crest on the head of the domestic chicken and some related birds
- chicken**—the common domestic fowl especially when young
- egg**—a hard-shelled reproductive body produced by a bird and especially by domestic poultry
- hatch**—to emerge from an egg, pupa, or chrysalis
- hen**—a female chicken especially over a year old
- lay**—to produce and deposit eggs
- rooster**—an adult male domestic chicken
- wattle**—a fleshy flap of skin hanging usually from the neck (as of a bird)

Clucking Chickens



Name _____

Facts and Opinions in Advertising

Opinions in advertising can be very persuasive. Look at the advertisements in the newspapers and magazines provided. Pay attention to the wording. Can you tell which statements are opinion and which are fact? Write some of the opinion statements below.

Look at the pictures in the ads. Pictures can also convey an attitude or opinion about a product. What attitudes or opinions are conveyed by the pictures in the ads?

Now, pretend you are an advertiser for the poultry industry. You want to sell your breed of chickens to farmers. How will you promote your product? Create an ad on a separate sheet of paper. You may use some factual statements, but you need to include some opinions, too. What kind of image will you draw? Will your chicken look strong? Friendly? Smart? Include opinion statements. Refer to the information below for facts.

- Chickens are a source of both meat and eggs.
- Most chickens weigh between seven and 10 pounds, although they can weigh as much as 13 pounds or as little as 1.5 pounds.
- Hens start laying at 22 weeks of age. Laying hens produce about 240 eggs each year.
- During the hen's most productive period, she may lay an egg about six out of every seven days.
- The hen requires a minimum of 25 hours to produce an egg. Thirty minutes later, she starts all over again.
- Eggs hatch in 21 days.
- The chicken life cycle has three states—egg, chick and adult (hen or rooster).
- A young chick is very small when it hatches. After eight weeks it has grown to weigh about 3 1/2 pounds.
- A chicken is different from other birds because it has a comb and two wattles. The comb is the red appendage on top of the head, and wattles are the two appendages under the beak.
- Because the pecking order of the hens sometimes causes them to hurt each other, the beaks of baby chickens are trimmed.