Egg Toss

Skills: Math, Science, Social Studies

Objective: Student will practice counting by playing a game with an egg carton and ping pong balls.

Background

An egg grows and develops much like a seed. Every animal begins life as an egg cell. When you eat an egg, you are eating a single cell.

Most of the eggs we eat come from chickens. Chickens are in the poultry group, along with ducks, geese and turkeys. Farmers raise poultry for their eggs and for their meat. In the US, goose eggs are very rarely used in cooking. Goose eggs have a rubbery texture and very little flavor. Most goose eggs are placed in incubators or left with the mother to incubate, so they will hatch into goslings.

Chicken producers place nests in their hen houses so the hens will lay their eggs in places that are safe and protected. If the farmer didn't provide a nest, the hen would hide her own nest so carefully that the farmer might not be able to find it. The mother goose will spend weeks building her nest before laying time.

Science

1. Read and discuss background and vocabulary. If available, bring a variety of eggs to show students.

Math

1. Divide your class into groups of four or five.
   —Provide each group with an egg carton.
   —Number the sections with a marking pen. Use the numbers one through 12 or any numbers you wish to teach.
   —Provide a ping pong ball for each group.
   —One student from each group will toss the ping pong ball into any section of the egg carton.
   —The other members of the group will call out the number of the section in which the ball lands.
   —Students will take turns tossing within their groups.
   —Students will use tally marks to keep track of the numbers.
   —Students may also use unifix cubes to show each number as they land on them.

P.A.S.S.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Creative Skills—1.1,2,4
Oral Language—1.1,2,5
Literacy—3.1,8; 4.2; 7.1; 8.1
Math—1.1,2; 2.1,2,3,4; 5.1,2,3
Large Motor—1.1,2,4,6
Small Motor—2.1
Science—1.1; 3.1,2

KINDERGARTEN

Reading—1.4; 2.2; 4.1
Oral Language—1.2,3
Math—1.1; 2.4; 5.1,2
Large Motor—1.1,7
Health—1.2
Science Process—1.1
Life Science—2.1,2
Visual Arts—3.1a

GRADE 1

Math—2.1,2b,3,4
Science Process—3.1
Life Science—2.1
Physical Education—2.1; 3.1; 4.4; 5.4; 7.1,3
Visual Arts—3.1,2

GRADE 2

Math—2.1a,2a; 5.1,2
Life Science—2.1; 2.2
Reading—2.2; 3.1; 5.1
Physical Education—2.1; 3.1; 5.2; 7.2
Visual Arts—3.1,2

GRADE 3

Reading—1.2; 2.1; 4.1,2c
Visual Arts—3.1,2

GRADE 4

Reading—1.1; 3.1,2d
Visual Arts—3.1

Materials

egg cartons

ping pong balls

straw or large paper bags to serve as "nests."

index cards

large paper clips

—Students will create a graph to show how many times the ball landed on each number.

2. Pair up and have an egg toss outdoors.
   —Hard-cook eggs and bring them to class.
   —Cut holes in large trash bags for heads and armholes, and have students wear them to help cut down on the mess.
   —The class will formulate strategies for measuring the distance of the winning egg toss, or each team will formulate a strategy for measuring the distance of its own egg toss.
   —Students will create a graph showing the results and post it in the classroom.
3. Place small objects inside plastic eggs and allow students to count and record the number on an answer sheet.
4. Hard-boil 12 eggs.
   —Number the eggs with a marking pen.
   —Students will place the eggs in numerical order in an egg carton.
5. Place plastic eggs in a plastic gallon jar.
   —Students will estimate how many eggs are in the jar.
   —After several days, count the eggs.
   —Fill the plastic jar with smaller plastic eggs.
   —Students will estimate again.
6. Bring plastic eggs to class.
   —Students will sort the eggs by color.
   —Students will graph the colors.
7. Write number words in the sections of an egg carton and the corresponding numerals on plastic eggs.
   —Students will place the plastic eggs in the matching egg carton section.
9. Make up stories, using plastic eggs as manipulatives, to practice addition and subtraction.

Language Arts

1. Hand out copies of the "Excellent Egg" reading page and the worksheet.
   —Read the story together as a class and discuss.
   —Students will answer the questions on the worksheeet.
2. Play this syllable game using an egg carton.
   —Mark each hole in the egg carton with a "1," "2," or "3."
   —Make word cards using one-, two-, or three-syllable words from the reading page. Add in four-syllable words for older students.
   —Code the back of the cards with the correct syllable count.
   —Two or four players may play the game. (Use as center or make enough for the whole class to play at the same time, with four to a group.
   —On a table, scatter word cards with the words showing.
   —Place the egg carton at back of table.
   —Students will take turns tossing paper clip into the egg carton.
   —The player will pick up a word card with the same number of syllables as the number that is in the bottom of the hole in which he/she has

tossed the paper clip. For example, if the player tossed the paper clip into a hole with a "2," he/she must find a two-syllable word card.
—If the player picks up a card with the correct number of syllables, he/she keeps the card. If not, the card is placed back on the table.
—The object is for each player to collect as many cards as possible. The student with the most cards wins.

Prize Idea: Put small items such as erasers or stickers inside plastic eggs.
Variation: Instead of syllables, code word cards with synonyms, antonyms, or homonyms. Students pick up matching pairs of cards.

Visual Arts

1. Trace a large egg shape on black construction paper.
   —Students draw lines on the egg to create a "stained-glass" effect.
   —Students trace every line with liquid glue, using a fat stream of glue for each line.
   —Allow to dry.
   —Students color in each section of the "stained glass" egg with pastel chalks.
   —Cut out the finished egg and glue onto a pastel colored piece of construction paper.

Physical Activity

1. Set up 60-70 nests of straw or paper bags with tops rolled down.
   —Place one egg (or substitute, such as ping pong balls) in each nest (5 dozen total).
   —Group students into five groups with one empty egg carton in fron tof each group.
   —As a relay, students will collect eggs and place them in the egg cartons. One student from each group collects at a time. First group to fill their carton wins.

Extra Reading

Polacco, Patricia, *Just Plain Fancy*, A Bantam Little Rooster Book, 1990.
Potter, Tessa, and Donna Bailey, *Chickens and Eggs*, My World Books, Red Level, Steck-Vaughn, 1990.
San Souci, Robert D., *The Talking Eggs*, Scholastic, 1989.

Vocabulary

cell—one of the tiny units that are the basic building blocks of living things, that carry on the basic functions of life either alone or in groups, and that include a nucleus and are surrounded by a membrane
chicken—the common domestic fowl especially when young; also : its flesh used as food
egg—a hard-shelled reproductive body produced by a bird and especially by domestic poultry
poultry—domesticated birds kept for eggs or meat

Reading Page

Excellent Eggs

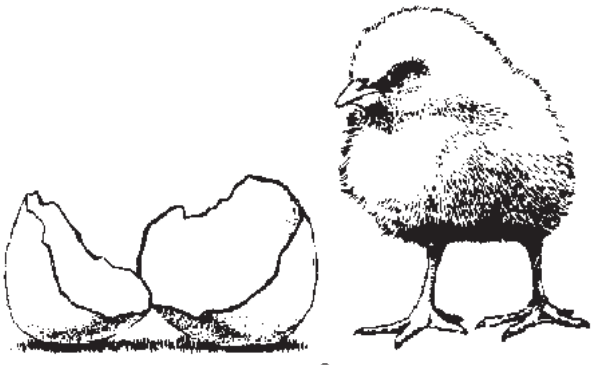
Most of the eggs we eat come from chickens. Chickens are in the poultry group, along with ducks, geese and turkeys. Farmers raise poultry for their eggs and for their meat.

Chicken producers place nests in their hen houses so the hens will lay their eggs in places that are safe and protected. If the farmer didn't provide a nest, the hen would hide her own nest so carefully that the farmer might not be able to find it.

The egg-laying process for a chicken begins in its eye. Chickens lay eggs only after receiving a light cue, either from natural sunlight entering a coop or artificial light illuminating a commercial egg hatchery. The light stimulates a photo-receptive gland near the chicken's eye, which in turn triggers the release of an egg cell from the chicken's ovary. A chicken will lay bigger and stronger eggs if you change the lighting in a way to make her think a day is 28 hours long.

Eggs are a good source of protein. Research shows that eating high-quality protein foods like eggs for breakfast can help you feel more satisfied and energized throughout the day. Eggs help build and maintain muscles.

At a cost of approximately 15 cents, eggs are one of the most affordable sources of high-quality protein you can buy. Eggs are excellent fuel for your body!



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Name _____

Excellent Eggs

1. List two other foods from the poultry group besides chicken:
_____ _____

2. In paragraph 2, what word was used in place of "farmer?" (Circle one.)
provide protected producer

3. If the farmer did NOT provide a nest for the hen, what would happen?
_____
_____

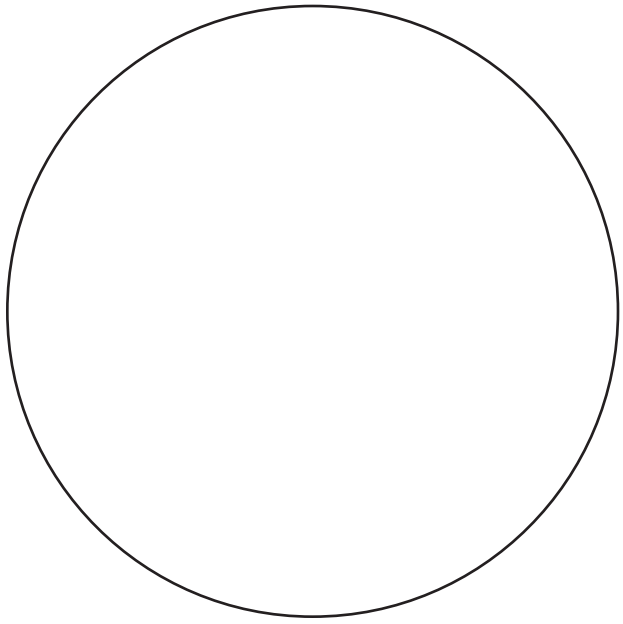
4. Chickens only lay eggs after receiving _____

5. Eggs are a good source of (Circle one.)
sugar protein fat

6. Count the syllables in the following words. Write the number of syllables beside the word:
protein ____ poultry ____ producers ____ coop ____
illuminating ____ energized _____ commercial _____

7. Create a breakfast menu that includes eggs. What would you eat? Draw your food items on the plate below. List the foods beside the plate.

_____ _____



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