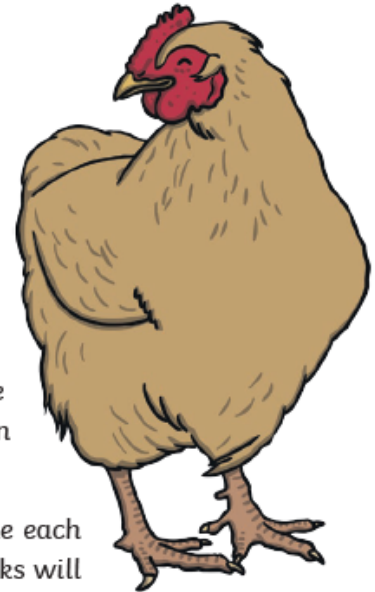


How Does a Chicken Hatch?



The hen is a female bird and the cockerel is a male bird. A hen and a cockerel mate and the hen will lay eggs. These eggs will hatch into chicks.

To begin with, the hen makes a nest for her eggs. Each day, the hen lays one egg in her nest. After ten days, there are ten eggs in the nest. This is called a clutch of eggs.

At this stage, the hen sits on her eggs to keep them warm. Inside each egg, a chick will soon begin to grow. If the eggs get cold, the chicks will die. During the incubation period, the eggs are turned so that they will be warm all over.



After 21 days, the chick is fully-developed and ready to hatch from the sack that protects the egg. Not long after, the chick uses its egg tooth to tap the shell. If the chick is unable to tap the shell, it will not hatch. Soon it makes a tiny hole in the shell.

At last, the shell breaks open and the chick comes out of the eggshell. If it is wet and very tired, it lies down to rest. Within a few hours, the chick can stand up and run about provided that it is not injured. Now it is soft and fluffy and ready to feed.

If the chick is healthy, it will grow up to be a hen or a cockerel. If it is a hen, it may mate with a cockerel and lay some eggs.