

All about hen eggs

Emerging readers

Hen eggs are one of the most common types of egg people eat. They come in many colours, such as white, brown, and even blue or green. Each egg has a hard shell that protects the yolk and the white inside.

Eggs are full of nutrients, including protein, which helps us grow strong. People use eggs in lots of ways, boiled, scrambled, fried, baked, or added to cakes and other foods.

Comprehension questions:

1. Name two colours a hen egg can be.
2. What does the eggshell do?
3. Why are eggs good to eat?
4. Give one way people can eat eggs.



All about hen eggs – answers

Emerging readers



Comprehension questions:

1. Name two colours a hen egg can be.

White, brown, blue or green.

(Accept any two).

2. What does the eggshell do?

It protects the yolk and white inside.

Accept: It protects the egg/baby chick.

3. Why are eggs good to eat?

They are full of nutrients and protein.

Accept: They help us grow strong.

4. Give one way people can eat eggs.

Answer should ideally be one of the ways referenced in the text (boiled, scrambled, fried, baked), but any way people can eat eggs is acceptable.

Fascinating facts about eggs

Expected Readers

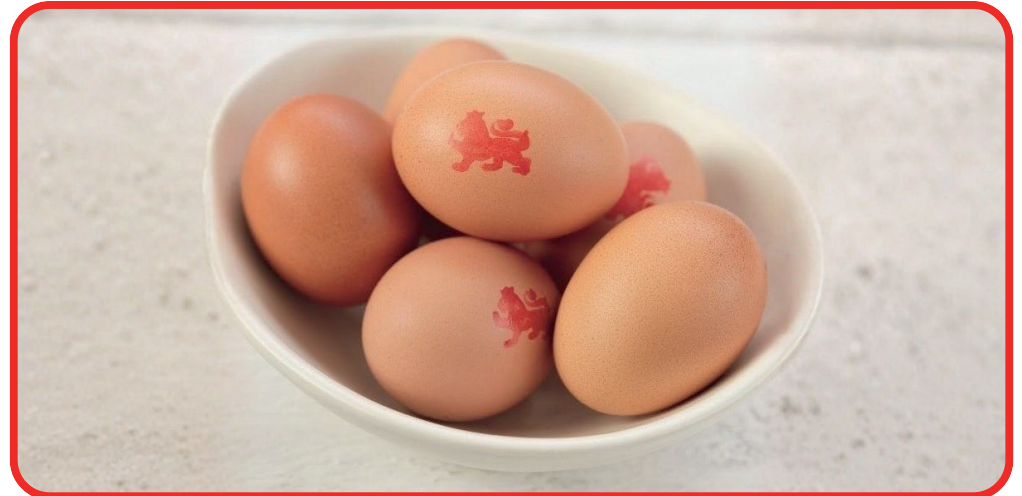
Eggs are not just food; they are also amazing natural packages. Birds, reptiles, fish and even some mammals lay eggs. Every egg has a protective shell, which can be soft or hard depending on the animal. Inside the egg is the yolk, which provides food for the growing embryo, and the egg white, which also protects it.

Hen eggs are the most common egg that humans eat. The colour of the shell depends on the breed of the bird. Eggs come in many shapes and sizes. Ostrich eggs, for example, are huge and can weigh over 1.5 kilograms.

When a bird lays an egg, it may sit on it to keep it warm, helping the baby inside grow and develop. After some time, the egg hatches, and a chick emerges.

Comprehension Questions:

1. Name **three** types of animals that lay eggs.
2. What is inside an egg, and what does it do?
3. How much can an ostrich egg weigh?
4. Why do birds sit on their eggs?
5. Explain why eggs come in different colours.
6. What does the word 'embryo' mean?



Fascinating facts about eggs – answers

Expected Readers



Comprehension questions:

1. Name three types of animals that lay eggs.

Birds, reptiles, fish and some mammals (accept any three).

2. What is inside an egg, and what does it do?

The yolk feeds the embryo.

The egg white protects the embryo. (Both parts and functions must be mentioned).

3. How much can an ostrich egg weigh?

Over 1.5 kilograms.

4. Why do birds sit on their eggs?

To keep them warm so the baby inside can grow and develop.

5. Explain why eggs come in different colours.

The shell colour depends on the breed of the bird.

6. What does the word 'embryo' mean?

The developing baby animal inside the egg.

Accept: The chick before it hatches.

Eggs: nature's incredible capsules

Greater depth readers

Eggs are a marvel of nature, designed to protect and nourish life before birth. They are produced by birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish and even some mammals like echidnas and the platypus.

The shell acts as a sturdy barrier against the outside world, while the yolk serves as a concentrated source of nutrients for the developing embryo. The albumen, or egg white, cushions the embryo and provides water and protein.

Eggs vary dramatically in size, shape, and colour. Hummingbird eggs can be as small as a pea, while ostrich eggs are enormous, about twenty-four times the size of a hen's egg, and weigh around 1.5–2 kilograms. Some birds lay speckled eggs to camouflage them from predators, while others lay plain-coloured eggs.

The incubation process is fascinating. Warmth from the parent or an artificial incubator stimulates the embryo's development. After a specific period, ranging from days to weeks, depending on the species, the chick or hatchling breaks free from its protective shell.

Comprehension Questions:

1. What are the two mammals that lay eggs called?
2. What are the functions of the yolk and the albumen?
- How do the sizes of hummingbird and ostrich eggs compare?
4. Why might some birds lay speckled eggs?
5. What does "incubation" mean in this text?
- Explain why eggs are described as 'nature's incredible capsules'.
7. Find a word in the text that means "carefully covering to keep warm."
8. What evidence from the text shows that eggs can be very different from each other?



Eggs: nature's incredible capsules – answers

Greater depth readers

Comprehension questions:

1. What are the two mammals that lay eggs called?

Echidna and platypus.

2. What are the functions of the yolk and the albumen?

The yolk provides nutrients/food for the growing embryo, and the albumen (accept egg white) cushions the embryo and provides water and protein.

3. How do the sizes of hummingbird and ostrich eggs compare?

Hummingbird eggs are tiny/as small as a pea. Ostrich eggs are enormous.

A clear comparison that one is smaller/bigger than the other must be given. Do not accept information about only one animal.

4. Why might some birds lay speckled eggs?

To camouflage them from predators. Accept: to keep them safe/to help them blend in.

5. What does “incubation” mean in this text?

Keeping the egg warm so that the embryo can develop. Accept: The process of warming the egg until it hatches.

6. Explain why eggs are described as 'nature's incredible capsules'.

Accept any answers that include a variation of BOTH points. They protect and nourish the embryo. They hold everything needed for a new life in one small container.

7. Find a word in the text that means “carefully covering to keep warm.”

Incubator/incubation/incubate

8. What evidence from the text shows that eggs can be very different from each other?

Accept any two examples from the text.

Answers could include: They vary in size (pea-sized to 2 kg), They have different colours and patterns (speckled/plain), They can have different shell types.