

Lifecycles - Year Two

Key Stage One (Year Two) links:

- *Science: Animals, including humans: 'Notice that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults. Find out about and describe the basic needs of animals, including humans, for survival (water, food and air)' (Department for Education, 2014).*

Using the Farm to support this topic

Take your students to visit a variety of the animals around the farm. Discuss the following points:

- How long are different animals pregnant for?
- Is the baby born or does it hatch?
- What is the baby of each animal called?
- What is the name for an adult female and male of each animal?
- How many babies can each mother have at any one time?
- How do mothers help their babies to survive?
- How do babies look different as they start to grow up?
- Why is washing your hands important?

Pointers for teachers

Look out for the following animals around the farm:

Sheep

A baby sheep is called a *lamb*. An adult female sheep is a *ewe*, and a male is a *ram*.

A *ewe* will *give birth* to a single lamb or twins. Triplets can occur. Sheep are pregnant for an average of 147 days (around 5 months). Ewes will feed their lambs milk from their udders.

Goats

A baby goat is called a *kid*. An adult female is a *nanny*, and a male is a *billy*.

A *nanny* will give birth to a single kid or twins. Triplets occur quite commonly. Goats are pregnant for an average of 150 days (around 5 months). Nannies will feed their lambs milk from their udders.

Pigs

A baby pig is called a *piglet*. An adult female is a *sow*, and a male a *boar*. A young female who has not had a litter of piglets yet is known as a *gilt*.

A *sow* can have an average of 8-12 piglets. Sows are pregnant for 115 days (3 months, 3 weeks, 3 days). Sows will feed their piglets milk from their udders.

Cows

A baby cow is a *calf*. An adult female is a *cow*, and a male is a *bull*. A young female who has not had a calf before is known as a *heifer*.

A *cow* will only have one calf per pregnancy. A cow is pregnant for 283 days (9 months). Cows will feed their calves milk from their udders.

Ponies and donkeys

Both ponies and donkeys (and horses) have *foals*. An adult female pony is a *mare*, and a male is a *stallion*. An adult female donkey is a *jenny*, and a male is a *jack*.

A pony/donkey/horse will only have one foal per pregnancy. *Mares* are pregnant for 11-12 months, *Jennies* for 11-14 months. Both will feed their foals milk from their udders.

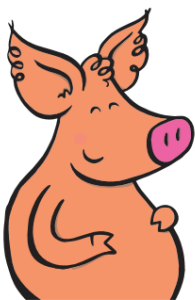
Poultry

A baby chicken is a *chick*. An adult female is a *hen*, a male is a *cockerel*. A hen will collect a *clutch* of eggs she has laid, and will sit on them for 21 days. After this time the chicks will begin to *hatch*. The chicks will peck their way out of their shells. The chick will begin to eat the same food as its mother once it hatches.

Suggested Classroom activities

Following resources and discussion points can be used before or after your visit.

- Discussion of growth. Students should be able to recognise the animals grow throughout different stages of their lives, and human growth from birth through to infancy, adolescence and adulthood could be discussed. Discuss which animals give birth, and which lay eggs.
- Worksheet: Name that family. For this activity students are required to complete the worksheet with the names of the members of each family. This is a writing/literacy activity that will encourage children to learn and spell the names of the babies. There is a harder version with two additional questions included.
- Worksheet: Life cycle of a chicken. This activity asks students to create a drawing for three stages of a chicken's life. The bottom of the worksheet has an area for explaining what happens during the different stages of a chicken's life, showing its growth. This will encourage students to consider what happens to babies that hatch.



Name that family

Write the name for a male, female and baby of each animal.

Sheep

Male:

Female:

Baby:

Goat

Male:

Female:

Baby:

Pig

Male:

Female:

Baby:

Cow

Male:

Female:

Baby:

Horse

Male:

Female:

Baby:

Donkey

Male:

Female:

Baby:

Rabbit

Male:

Female:

Baby:

Name that family

Write the name for a male, female and baby of each animal.

Sheep

Male:

Female:

Baby:

Goat

Male:

Female:

Baby:

Pig

Male:

Female:

Baby:

Cow

Male:

Female:

Baby:

Horse

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Female:

Baby:

Donkey

Male:

Female:

Baby:

Rabbit

Male:

Female:

Baby:

Challenge:

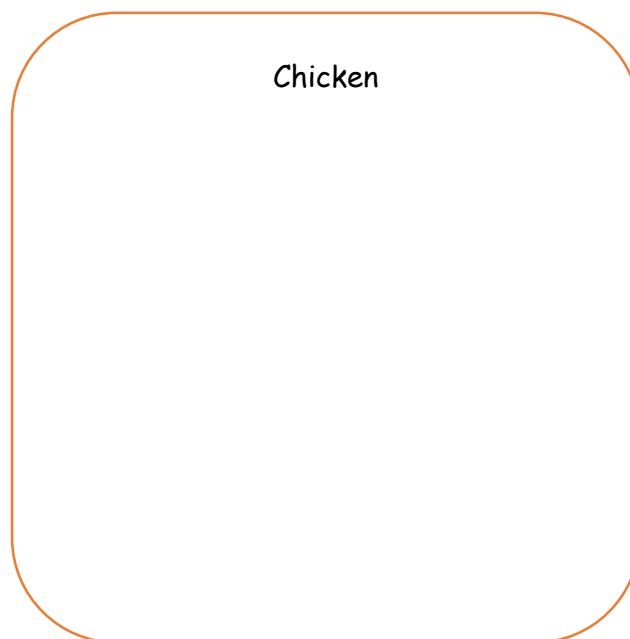
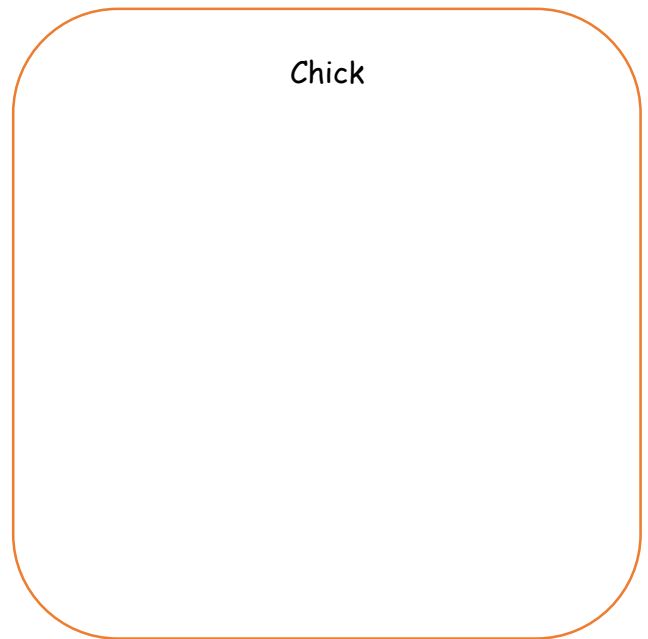
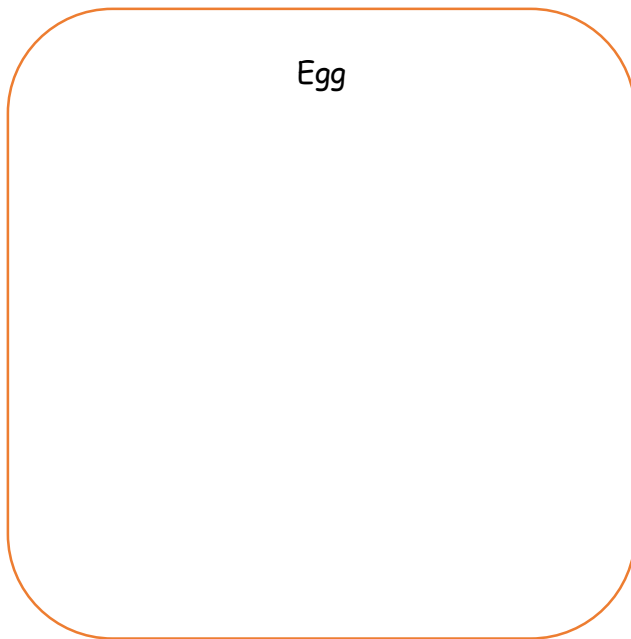
A different name is given to a young female cow that has not had a baby. It is called a:

a:

A different name is given to a young female pig that has not had a baby. It is called a:

The lifecycle of a chicken

Create a drawing to show each stage of a chicken's life.



Write a few sentences to explain what happens at each stage:

The mother chicken (hen) lays _____

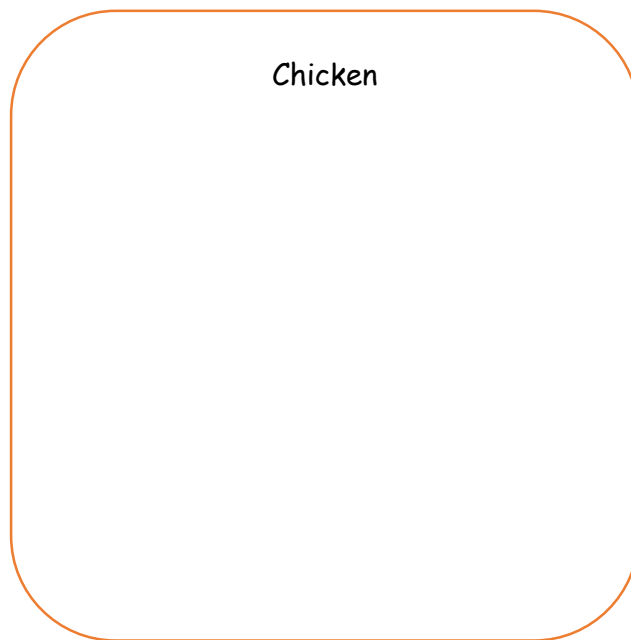
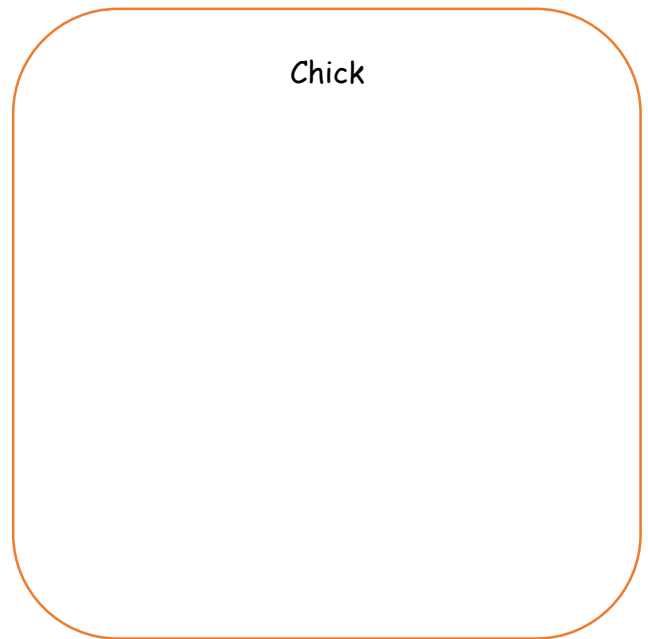
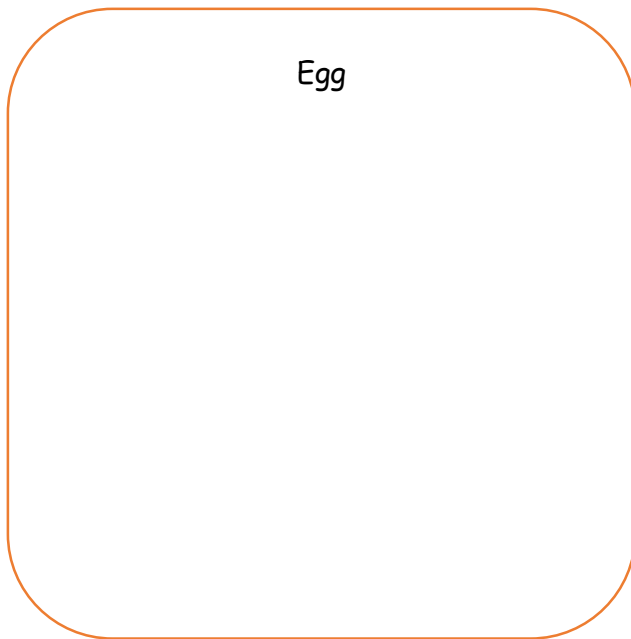
After she has sat on the egg, it will _____

The chick will grow _____

When the chick has finished growing, it becomes a _____

The lifecycle of a chicken

Create a drawing to show each stage of a chicken's life.



Write a few sentences to explain what happens at each stage.
