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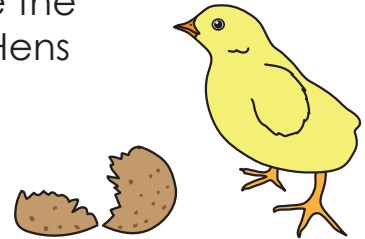
A Chicken's Life Cycle

Part 1:

Read the informational text together as a class. Next, use a dictionary to figure out the meaning of the underlined words. Record the meaning of the words below!

Chickens experience change throughout their life. This is called a life cycle. Chickens are **oviparous** animals. Oviparous animals hatch from an egg. Let's learn more about a chicken's life cycle!

To create an egg, a cell from a female hen and a cell from a male rooster join. Together, these cells create an **embryo**. The egg starts as a yolk. Next, the hen's body makes the egg white, also called **albumen**, and it forms around the egg.

Before the hen lays the egg, the egg is covered in a calcium-rich shell. The shell protects the embryo inside the egg. The albumen acts like a soft cushion and keeps the embryo safe.

The hen needs an entire day to create the egg. Inside the egg, there is enough food to help the embryo grow. Hens make sure their eggs are safe and don't get too cold.

1. _____ means _____.

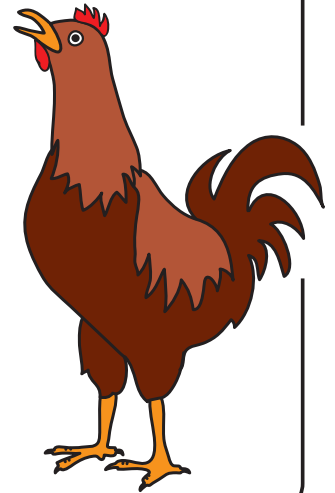2. _____ means _____.

3. _____ means _____.

Part 2:

Finish reading about a chicken's life cycle. Use a dictionary to figure out the underlined words. Record the meaning of the words below!

Next, hens sit on their eggs to keep them warm. This is called **<u>incubation</u>**. Once the mother hen starts incubating the egg, the embryo starts changing into a baby chick. The brain, eyes, and heart begin to form!

After two weeks of incubation, the embryo forms a small, hard bump on the end of its beak. The hard bump is called an **<u>egg tooth</u>**. The egg tooth helps the baby chick break open its shell when it's ready to hatch!

Once the newborn chick is out of its shell, the mother hen makes sure it stays safe. The mother hen keeps the chick warm and teaches it how to find food and drink water.

Chickens are interesting birds! Chickens live in the wild and are raised by people. All living things go through a life cycle, and a chicken's life cycle starts with an egg!

4. _____ means _____.

5. _____ means _____.