



Animals of the World: Birds



CHICKEN

Roosters and hens belong to the domestic subspecies of the species *Gallus gallus*, or *Gallus domesticus*. It is from the order of the galliform bird in Southeast Asia.

Males are called roosters, while females are called hens. Adults are known by the name of chicken. Newborns are called chicks.



Despite being birds, most have lost the ability to fly, most likely due to the acclimatization of their lives with those of humans.

They are essential animals for human consumption since their meat and eggs are highly valued by people. We also use their feathers for textile use.



They feed on all kinds of vegetables, plants, fruits, small insects, and bugs. They are easy animals to feed.



Males are easily distinguished from females because of the long reddish crest on its head. It is a symbol of power and hierarchy, showing the rest of the chickens which one is the dominant male. In each chicken coop, there is a male in command who dominates the others. To identify the dominant rooster, watch how it lifts its tail and head. Chickens generally feel safe under rooster domination. When the dominant rooster loses its position, the next rooster in the hierarchical order takes over immediately.

Regarding size, chickens are smaller than males. These can weigh up to 4 kilos and are about 50 centimeters tall. The females, on the contrary, weigh about 2 kilos

and measure about 40 centimeters in height. Its plumage is also different, presenting the roosters with more vivid colors to attract females.



Their life expectancy is between five and ten years, depending on the race.



To communicate, roosters and chickens use a particular song. Males usually sing at dawn, beginning a new day. The onomatopoeia that describes this song is the quiquiriquí or kikiriki. On the other hand, the females use a song called cacareo, whose onomatopoeia is clo-clo or coco.

It is one of the most numerous domestic birds on the planet, with millions of specimens scattered around the world. It is believed that there are more chickens in the world than humans.

They usually reproduce between spring and summer. Chickens usually lay eggs every day. If the egg is not incubated, a new chick will not hatch. If, on the other hand, the hen sits on it and incubates it for a few days, a new chick will be born.



On egg production farms, this incubation occurs artificially if the temperature is well controlled.

Chicken eggs can be of different sizes and colors, such as white, beige, blue, brown, and green. Eggs have two parts, the yolk (yellow or orange) and the white (whitish). Its multiple vitamins and its large amount of protein make the egg a superfood. It can be eaten fried, cooked, steamed, soft-boiled, and in a host of other ways.

The chicken is believed to be the closest living descendant of the Tyrannosaurus Rex. Can you believe it?



Name _____

Date _____

CHICKEN



Answer the questions.

1. Chickens are _____

- a. dwarf flying animals.
- b. originally from Europe.
- c. dominant animals.
- d. animals that sing a certain song.
- e. omnivorous.
- f. mammals.

2. Match the word to its correct definition.

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| a. Hen | 1. Male |
| b. Rooster | 2. Newborn |
| c. Chick | 3. Female |



3. Without chickens, humans would run out of food and could die.

- a. True
- b. False

4. Think about the rooster. Draw each part.

- ◇ its beak
- ◇ its bright colored feathers
- ◇ its crest
- ◇ its strong legs



5. Write three things that humans use chickens for.

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

Name _____

Date _____

6. Read the following sentences and circle the correct ones.

- a. Chickens can weigh 4 kilos and are about 40 centimeters tall.
- b. Life expectancy is above 5 years, depending on the species.
- c. Roosters crow kikiriki and chickens crow clo-clo.
- d. Eggs are hatched by roosters.

7. Roosters and hens are omnivorous reptiles, so they eat almost anything.

- a. True
- b. False



8. For a new chick to be born, _____

- a. chickens incubate the egg for several months.
- b. roosters hatch the egg after several months.
- c. chickens incubate the egg for several days.
- d. an artificial incubator is required.

9. Chicken eggs are _____

- a. rich in vitamins and proteins.
- b. different colors.
- c. considered a superfood.
- d. All the answers are correct.



10. According to the text, the chicken is believed to be the closest living descendant of Tyrannosaurus Rex. What do you think? Explain your reasons.
