

Shh, Peep, Cluck!

MATERIALS

FOR STUDENT:

(for one set of the three stages)

- FloraCraft® Make It: Fun® Foam Eggs:
2", 2 1/2" and 3" long (see FOR TEACHER)
- Chenille stems, 12" length, two yellow
- Marabou feathers, yellow, three short and two long
- Cardstock, orange, 1" x 2"
- Toothpicks, three
- Washable black fine line felt tip marker
- Paper plate
- Ziploc bag



FOR TEACHER:

- FloraCraft® Design It:® Wire Cutter
- FloraCraft® Make It: Fun® Foam Egg Assortment Package (Contains: Three 2", three 2 1/2" and two 3" eggs which give you enough for 2 1/2 groups)
- Glue gun (for teacher only) or thick white tacky glue
- Craft knife
- Permanent black felt tip marker
- Scissors
- Ruler

TEACHER PREPARATION

Note: Read through all the instructions first and check out the TIPS! Decide how many sets of the three stages of chickens the class will make and how you'll handle the students making different projects. Have a glue gun plugged in and ready to use (ideally set on low temperature) but out of student reach. This can give you immediate adhesion when you're in a hurry to help students. Be sure that the glue has cooled before returning the projects to students (takes a minute or so.) It is also recommended that you make one set first, before preparing the materials for any others, since knowing how the parts fit, might affect how you prepare the rest of them. Also, suggest that you show your finished project samples only when you want to explain something, or students tend to work ahead by seeing and copying.

[1] For legs/feet, use a ruler and wire cutter to measure and cut in half one yellow chenille stem per middle size and per large size chicken (two 6" lengths each). Repeat for the number of middle size and large size chickens needed.

[2] For eyes, use a wire cutter to cut into thirds, one toothpick per character. Discard the middle third. Repeat for the number of characters needed. Decide if you will color the ends of the toothpicks or if the students will do so.

[3] For beaks, use scissors to cut from orange cardstock, three triangle beaks for the three size characters: 1", 3/4", and 3/8" tall. Repeat for the number of characters needed.

In each of the three sizes of foam eggs, (with the pointed end of the egg up) draw a horizontal pencil line:

Large: 3/4" long, a little over half way up on the egg;

Medium: 1/2" long, one third the way up on the egg;
Small: 3/8" long, a little under half way up on the egg.

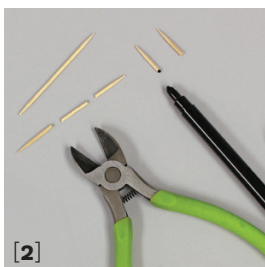
Use a craft knife to cut a slit in the pencil line, in each one. Fit the beaks into the slits to be sure that the slits are long enough. If not, make them longer as needed. Repeat by making slits in the number of eggs needed.

[4] Sort feathers and cut in half any feathers that seem too long. Prepare one short feather for the middle size chicken's head. Prepare two longer (wing) and two short (head and tail) feathers for the large size chicken. Repeat for the number of chickens needed.

Write the students' names on the plastic bags. Prepare the work area by setting the three sizes of eggs, feathers, chenille stems, toothpick pieces, beaks and marker, on a paper plate for each group of students.



[1]



[2]



[3]



[4]

SCIENCE

GRADE LEVEL

KINDERGARTEN – FIRST

COMPLETION TIME

• 45 minutes

OBJECTIVES

Students learn:

- About the life cycle of animals
- The stages of growth for a chicken
- Listening and following step by step instructions

STANDARDS

- Animals have life cycles
- Life cycles include: being born; developing into juveniles, adolescents, then adults; reproducing (which begins a new cycle); and eventually dying
- The details of the life cycles are different for different animals

LESSON INTRODUCTION

- Explain to students about the cycle of life, through the growth stages of a chicken – first the egg, then a newly hatched chick, juveniles and adolescents and then a full grown chicken. You might mention that baby chicks have yellow feathers but when they are adults, the feathers turn white. So, the largest foam chick in the samples is a juvenile or adolescent and not a full-grown adult chicken, because its feathers aren't white yet.



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INSTRUCTIONS

[1] Discuss how students will work in groups to make the three stages of the chicken. Demonstrate and have students locate the pencil lines where the slits are, in the foam eggs. Have them insert the correct size beaks into the slits.



[2] If you are having students do it, demonstrate and have them use their marker to color the cut ends of the toothpicks, for the eyes. Then, show them how to insert the points of the toothpicks into the foam eggs, a little way above the beaks, and in line with the corners of the beaks. Have students push them in.



[3] For the students making the medium and large chickens, demonstrate the foot/leg: Fold one end of a yellow chenille stem into short (1/2" long) zig-zags, making three V's with the end of the third V left long (3 3/4"). Have students bend that much first and check them.

Then, demonstrate how to hold (close to the folds) the two outside V ends. Pull them down, so that it looks like an M. Bring the short end over the top of the long one, while bending the long one straight up. Show them your chicken foot/leg. Then, go through it with them again as they make their foot/leg. Repeat with the other foot/leg.

Have students bend the legs in any zig-zag or wiggly way they want and insert two of them into the bottoms of each of the middle and large eggs.

While students are bending and posing their legs, demonstrate and have the students with the small eggs, use their marker to draw zig-zag lines in a circle formation around the eyes and beak, to make it look like the chick is hatching out of its egg.



[4] Have students with middle and large size chickens look at the feathers, finding the bottoms of them and showing them that the feather wisps grow up and out of the center shaft. Ask them to find one small feather for the top of the head. Have them put their fingers close to the bottom of the feather and push the shaft into the top of the head, being careful not to break it.

Ask students with large chickens to pick two large feathers and insert them into the sides of the foam egg, angled up, or down, or both, as they prefer. Have them insert a small feather in the bottom back for a tail.



[5] Instruct students to put their three-chicken-group into their plastic bag.

MODIFICATIONS

To simplify project:

- Make only one of the chickens.
- During the Teacher Preparations, bend one end of each chenille stem into a simple V for a foot, and use the glue gun to attach two of them to a cardboard base so that they will stand.

To expand project:

- Have the students research the age at which chicken feathers change from yellow to white, when the chicken becomes an adult. (Then use a larger foam egg and white feathers to make an adult chicken.)
- Create a backdrop: Tape together two cardstock sheets to make an L-shape to set against something for display. Students can make a sky in the vertical sheet and a foreground in the horizontal sheet.

For multiple ages:

- Younger and older students can work side-by-side with older students doing the chenille stem bending and drawing of the cracked egg, while younger students can insert eyes, beaks, legs and feathers.
- Older students can provide a write-up on the various ages and characteristics of the chicken at those ages.

ADDITIONAL IDEAS

- All around the room, display the chickens in various poses by bending the chenille stem legs and feet.
- Create dioramas and write stories about the hatching of a chick to provide sequencing practice.
- Make giant chickens using three larger, graduating size foam eggs, jumbo (larger diameter and longer) chenille stems (found in specialty toy stores) and wiggle eyes.
- Cut eggs in half and mount on construction paper to save some cost.



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TIPS

- To cut long feathers, use the tips of the scissors to cut the shaft and pull apart the pieces, without clipping off any of the fuzzy strands.
- During Teacher Prep, make a chart of the stages of bending the legs, for students to copy in case they need more help after going through it step by step with you.
- Have extras of all materials on hand.
- If it's difficult for students to finish pushing the toothpick eyes all the way in, have them turn the foam egg down onto the table and press the egg until the eyes are all the way in.
- If the students making the egg chicks are disappointed that they don't get a feather, have them draw another cracking circle on the back and insert a very small feather into the center of it as though it's cracking through the front and the back.
- Use a glue gun to attach any beaks that won't stay in the foam eggs.

REFERENCES

From Caterpillar To Butterfly by Deborah Heiligma
From Tadpole To Frog by Wendy Pfefer
Egg To Chicken by Camilla de la Bedoyere
Frogs by Nic Bishop