

Project FOCUS
Best Lessons
FIRST GRADE

Title of Lesson: Life Cycle of a Chicken

Theme: Life Science

Unit Number: 3 **Unit Title:** Animals

Performance Standard(s) Covered (enter code):

S1CS4

S1L1

Enduring Standards (objectives of activity):

Habits of Mind

- Asks questions
- Uses numbers to quantify
- Works in a group
- Uses tools to measure and view
- Looks at how parts of things are needed
- Describes and compares using physical attributes
- Observes using senses
- Draws and describes observations

Content (key terms and topics covered):

Animals, animal appearance, animal growth, animal sizes, animal ages (baby/adult)

Learning Activity (Description in Steps):

Abstract (limit 100 characters): This lesson was designed to help teach students about the life cycles of animals.

Details: Before class make an example of a life cycle of a chicken. Cut out large ovals of grey or light blue construction paper for what the life cycle will go on. Cut out two different sized, egg-shaped pieces of paper, one about the length of your thumb and the other close to the size of your palm. These will be for the first, smallest egg that will be in a nest and will start the cycle at the top of your grey or light blue paper, and the second, bigger one will be for the egg that will start to hatch that will go to the right on the circle. Then, from yellow construction paper, cut out an egg-shaped circle a little bigger than the palm-sized white paper. This will be used as the body for the baby chick that will go at the bottom of the paper. You will also need to cut out little strips of brown construction paper for the nest that the first egg will go with. Finally, you will need red paint (for the grown chicken) and googly eyes for the hatching egg (2), chick (2), and chicken (1). The red paint will be used to make a hand print for the adult chicken on the final left side of the circle to complete the cycle. The cracks in the egg and the legs and feathers of the chick and chicken can be drawn on. You can also write the title "Life Cycle of a Chicken" and draw arrows going clockwise to practice aspects of writing and capitalization and to demonstrate

the motion of the cycle. Though you will have your own as an example, the students will need all these things.

Open the lesson by reviewing what you've learned about animal needs and about life cycles so far then, if applicable, the life cycles that they've already learned about (Ie a frog, butterfly). The majority of the lesson is spent in the craft. Start by handing out glue sticks, the brown paper strips and the small, white eggs. When everyone begins to finish hand out the next white egg for the second step in the cycle, and then the yellow cut outs for the chick. Let the other teacher (or yourself) start painting children's hands as they finish the third step in the cycle. While hands are being painted/washed the other kids can continue coloring and writing the title/arrows to their cycle.

After everyone finishes, ask questions/discuss why the arrow can go from the adult chicken to the egg, and the difference in the life cycle of a chicken versus another animal life cycle, such as that of a frog.

Throughout the craft focus on emphasizing the reason the cycle goes in a circle and what makes each picture/part of the cycle different.

Materials Needed (Type and Quantity):

- grey or blue construction paper (1 per student)
- white computer paper (2/3 sheets total)
- yellow construction paper (2/3 sheets total)
- brown construction paper (1 sheet total)
- scissors (1 pair per student)
- glue stick (1 per student)
- googly eyes (5 per student)
- markers/crayons
- red nontoxic paint

Notes and Tips (general changes, alternative methods, cautions): Before this lesson I did the life cycle of a frog using pictures and then a simple matching worksheet so that I could compare this lesson with that of a frog to be able to ask the students the differences in the two after completion of the chicken. If you're the only teacher you may need to split up this lesson into two days, perhaps saving the hand painting for the next class so that everyone would have time to be painted.

Sources/References:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)