

Activity 11



HATCHING CHICKS



STUDY QUESTION:

Who hatches little chicks these days?

THE ACTIVITY:

In this activity children will create a description for a picture sequence that depicts a chick hatching.

SUBJECT AREA:

Science

CURRICULUM CONCEPTS:

LANGUAGE ARTS

Read a variety of materials: pictures.

Use various forms of written language: stories.

SCIENCE

Environment: identify and describe changes in the environment resulting from man's activities.

Time and Order: describe changes that occur in a regular pattern.

AGRICULTURE CONCEPTS: Mechanization: hatching.

PURPOSE

To introduce children to the different ways of hatching chicks (mechanized vs. natural).

To give children the opportunity to further their language skills while learning about hatching chicks.

MATERIALS REQUIRED:

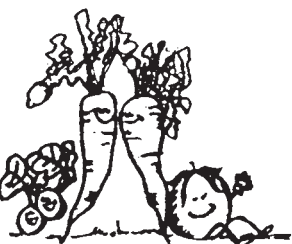
A good supply of eggs (hard boiled!).

Information sheet and pictures about poultry farming. Supplied in this activity.

Picture series showing a chick hatching in a natural and in a mechanized setting. Supplied in this activity.

TIME REQUIRED:

1 to 2 class periods.



PROCEDURE

Part One

Introduction

Give each child an egg to look at and take care of during the activity. Explain the conditions necessary for hatching a baby chick (heat/ encouragement/time/etc.).

NOTE:

Use hard boiled eggs and supply each child with a small container to set the egg in while they work.

Part Two

Preparation

Examine the pictures of chicks in a hatchery to help the children compare mechanized and natural hatching - especially to help them understand that temperature control is the function an incubator takes over from a brood hen.

Part Three

Drafting

Give each child a copy of one of the picture series. Let children work alone or in pairs to write simple explanations or narratives for their pictures.

Part Four

Conclusion

Share the stories and discuss them, emphasizing the contrast between mechanized hatching so common today and natural hatching.

FOR DISCUSSION

What is mechanized hatching?

What is natural hatching?

What are the differences between the two methods?

How long does the chick take to come out of the egg?

**EVALUATION
STRATEGIES**

Have children draw a picture of a chick hatching, showing the different stages (whole egg/cracks egg/out of egg).

Have children write a short story on the subject and note the ideas and information presented.

RELATED ACTIVITIES

1. Visit a hatchery or a chicken farm if one is accessible (e.g. Lillydale Farms).
2. Read stories such as The Little Red Hen.
3. Have the children write their own little stories about a baby chick; share the stories.
4. If possible, hatch out an egg (longterm project which takes 10 minutes a day).



TEACHER RESOURCE

Hatching Chicks



Alberta had 12 hatcheries in 1988. Their total capacity was approximately 6 million eggs every 3 weeks. These eggs produce chicks for both egg laying and meat.



A chicken lays about 240 eggs a year - about 5 per week or nearly 1 every day.

Approximately 42 million chicks were hatched in 1988. Two million one hundred and fifty-nine thousand were used for egg laying and thirty-four million thirty-six thousand for broiler production. Some were not good enough to sell, and some were exported to hatcheries in other provinces.

TEACHER RESOURCE

Hatching Chicks



Different eggs are used for hatching egg layers and broilers. Even chickens specialize; some are good at egg laying and some are big and good for meat. Turkeys are produced in a similar way.



Some farmers raise chickens for themselves, but many farmers buy eggs and chicken for eating.

Based on Alberta Agriculture, Agriculture Statistics Yearbook - 1988.

STUDENT RESOURCE

Hatching Chicks

Natural



1.



2.



3.



4.




STUDENT RESOURCE

Hatching Chicks


Mechanized




1.



2.



3.



4.

