



EXPLORING EGGS

GET READY

Big or small, all birds hatch from eggs. Eggs come in many sizes colors, and even shapes. Though different on the outside, the structures inside eggs are very similar.

Observing a chicken egg can teach us a lot about how all baby birds develop.

CAREER CONNECTION

An **ornithologist** is a scientist who studies all about birds. An **ecologist** studies how different species interact so ecologists study birds too!

WHAT YOU NEED

The best part about this activity is you probably have everything you need in your very own kitchen.

Collect the following:

- * Clear Plastic Cup
- * Uncooked Egg
- * Paper Towel
- * Egg Diagram (provided)



TRY THIS:

Learners of all ages can participate in this activity. You may find adults learn just as much as kids!

Step 1: Set Up Your Investigation

Assemble your raw egg, clear cup, paper towel, and diagram.

Step 2: Crack Your Egg

Crack your egg into the cup, careful not to break the yolk. Set the shells on the paper towel. You will study these too.

Step 3: Identify Each Part of the Egg

Use your diagram to identify the parts of the egg that help an embryo develop into a baby bird. Can you locate all the parts? It can be tricky to separate the shell membrane from the shell. Can you do it?

Step 4: Clean Up

Be sure to wash up after your investigation.



WHAT YOU DISCOVERED:

Since birds in nature will usually lay eggs safely away from human eyes, most of us have only seen wild bird eggs a few times. However, now you've discovered how much you can learn from observing something as easy to find as a chicken egg. The structures you observed in the chicken egg are the same structures that help birds like eagles and ostriches develop!



EXPLORE FURTHER:

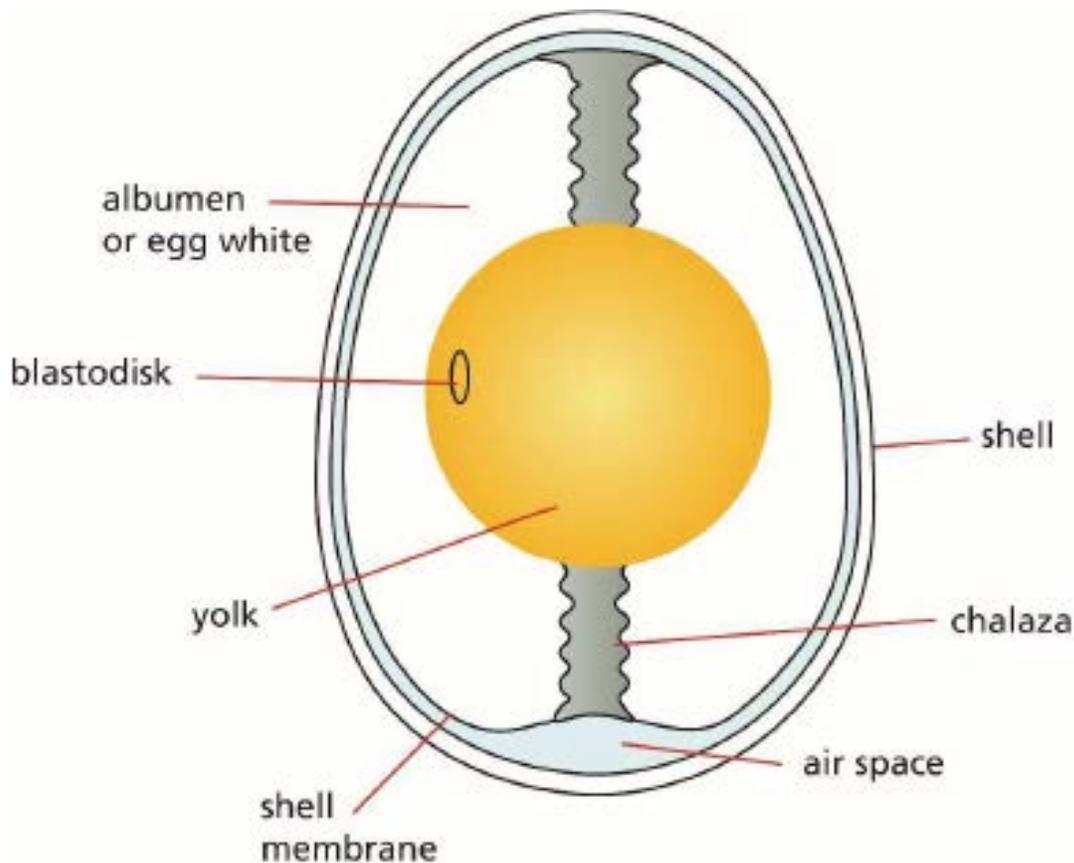
Egg shells are similar to the enamel on our teeth. To learn how what we drink may affect the enamel on our teeth, try soaking the eggshells in your favorite beverage as well as a glass of water for 24 hours.

What did you observe?

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Parts of a Chicken Egg

Use the information below to investigate your egg. Can you find each of these parts?



The hard **shell** protects the growing chick.

The **shell membrane** helps keep moisture in and bacteria out of the egg.

The **yolk** nourishes the chick as it grows.

The **chalaza** keeps the yolk in place and prevents damage.

The **albumen** or **egg white** protects the yolk and provides nutrients to the chick as it grows.

The **blastodisk** is a tiny spot on the yolk. If there was a rooster and this was a fertilized egg, this is where the chick would begin to develop.

The **air space** is where the chick will take its first breath before hatching.