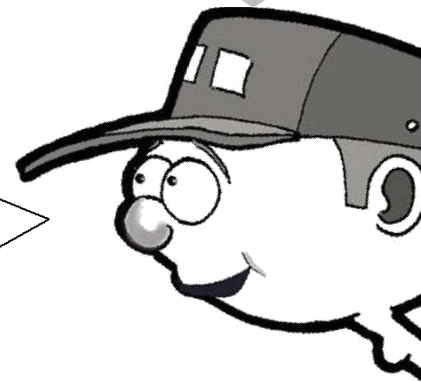
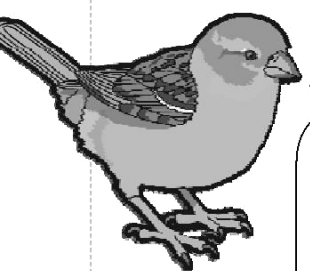


What's inside an egg?



Hopefully, you have some birds laying eggs in your nest box or you can watch some on the live cams. Once the nest is finished, the female will lay eggs... but what is inside an egg and how can it turn into a baby bird? By looking at an ordinary hen's egg, we can learn a little more about what is happening....



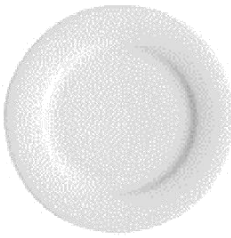
Break your egg onto the plate. Try not to break the yolk.

You will need:

One egg



A plate

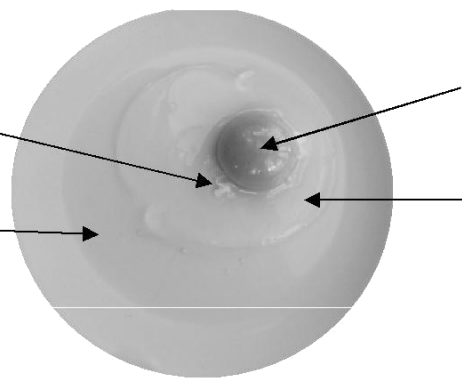


A magnifying glass (if you have one)



Twisted threads

Thin jelly



Yolk

Thick jelly

Look carefully at your egg. Can you see the different parts?



This picture explains what all the parts of the egg are....

You may see a little spot on the yolk. This is where a chick would start to grow.

The dark yellow centre is the yolk. This is what the chick eats as it grows inside the shell

You should see some twisted threads at either end. These hold the yolk in place so it doesn't move around.

There is a little sac of air in the end of the egg. You should be able to see this inside the broken shell.

There is jelly-like stuff all around the egg. Look carefully and see if you can see some thick 'jelly' near the yolk and a thinner, more watery 'jelly' in the rest of the egg. This is called the 'albumen'. It protects the chick as it grows.

The shell protects the egg as the chick grows. There is a thin skin inside the shell. It helps to stop germs getting into the egg.

Thicker jelly

(albumen) round the yolk.