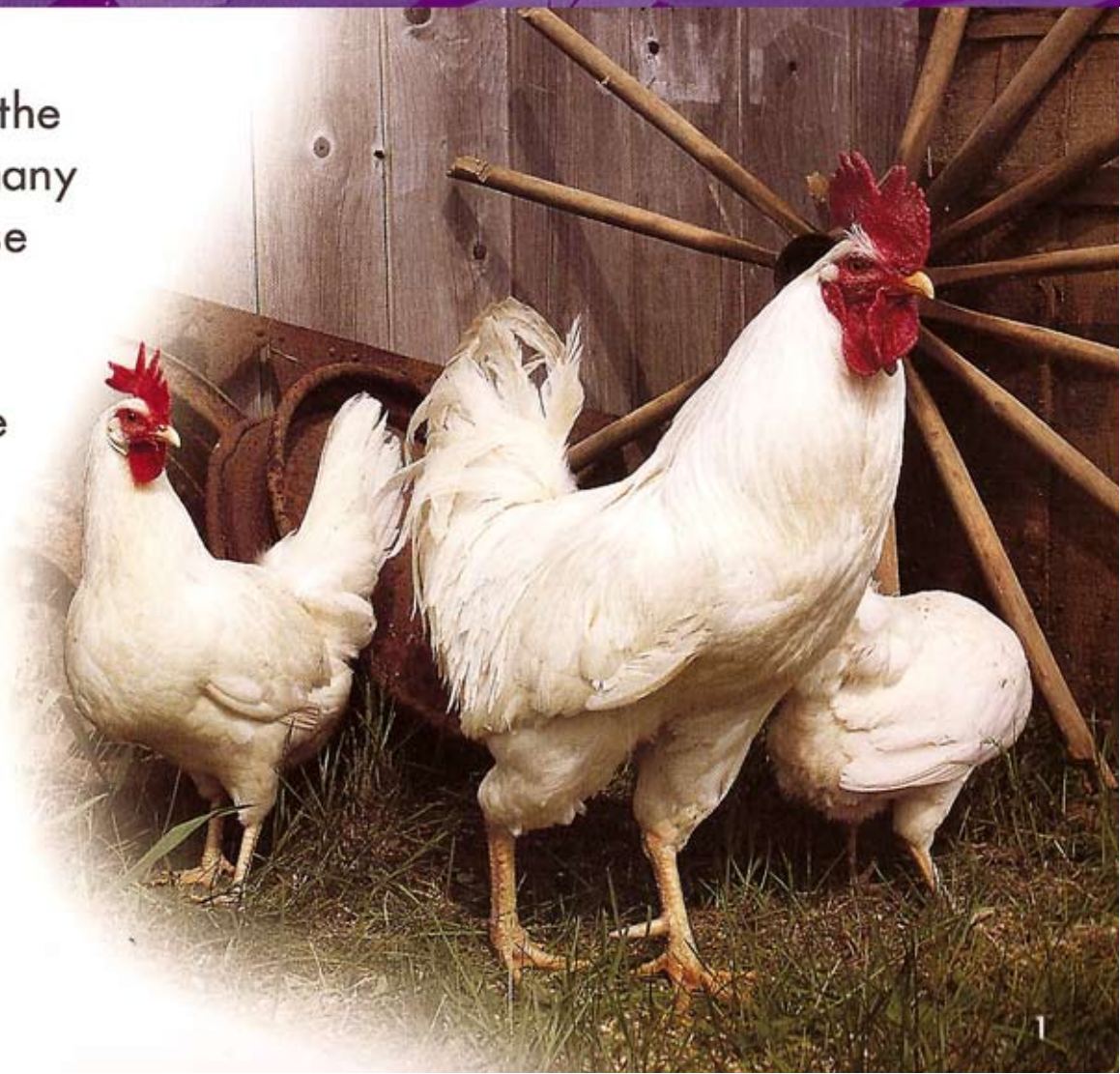


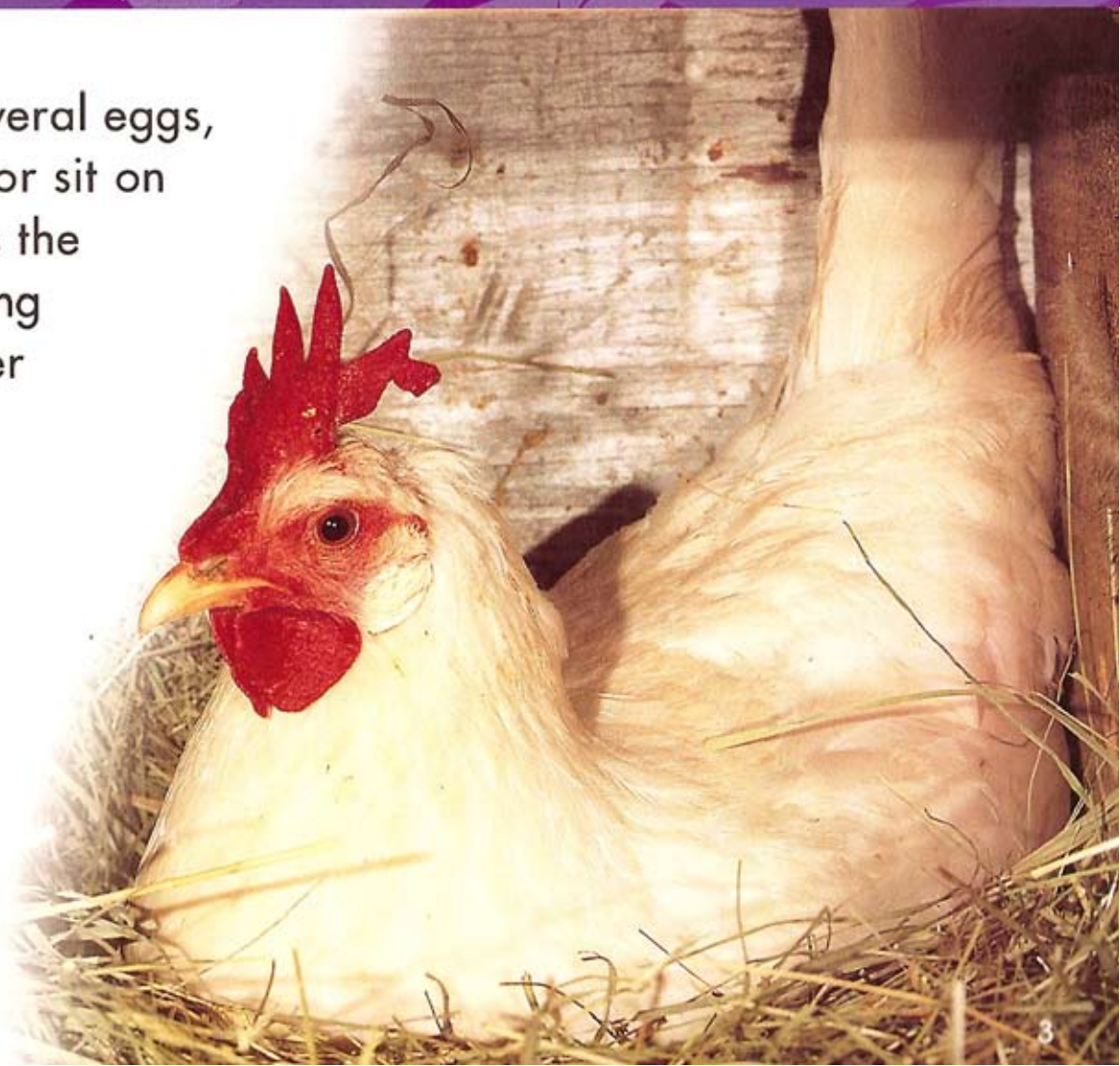
Chickens strut around the barnyard. There are many kinds of chickens. These are white leghorns. The male (rooster) is bigger than the female (hen). He has longer tail feathers, too.






Hens lay eggs even if there is no rooster around. If a hen mates with a rooster, he fertilizes her eggs. Then a chick will grow inside each fertilized egg.

After the hen lays several eggs, she begins to brood, or sit on them. Her body keeps the eggs warm. A brooding hen does not leave her eggs for long.





A chick begins as a tiny spot on the yolk. In a few days, the body and tail form. The developing chick, or embryo, gets food from the yolk. It also gets some food and lots of water from the egg white.

The embryo grows fast. After two weeks, it has feathers. About a week later, cheeping sounds come from the egg. The chick is ready to hatch!



The chick uses a special “egg tooth” on its beak to poke a hole through the shell. Then it slowly works its way around the egg, chipping through the shell. For a small chick, this is a big job!





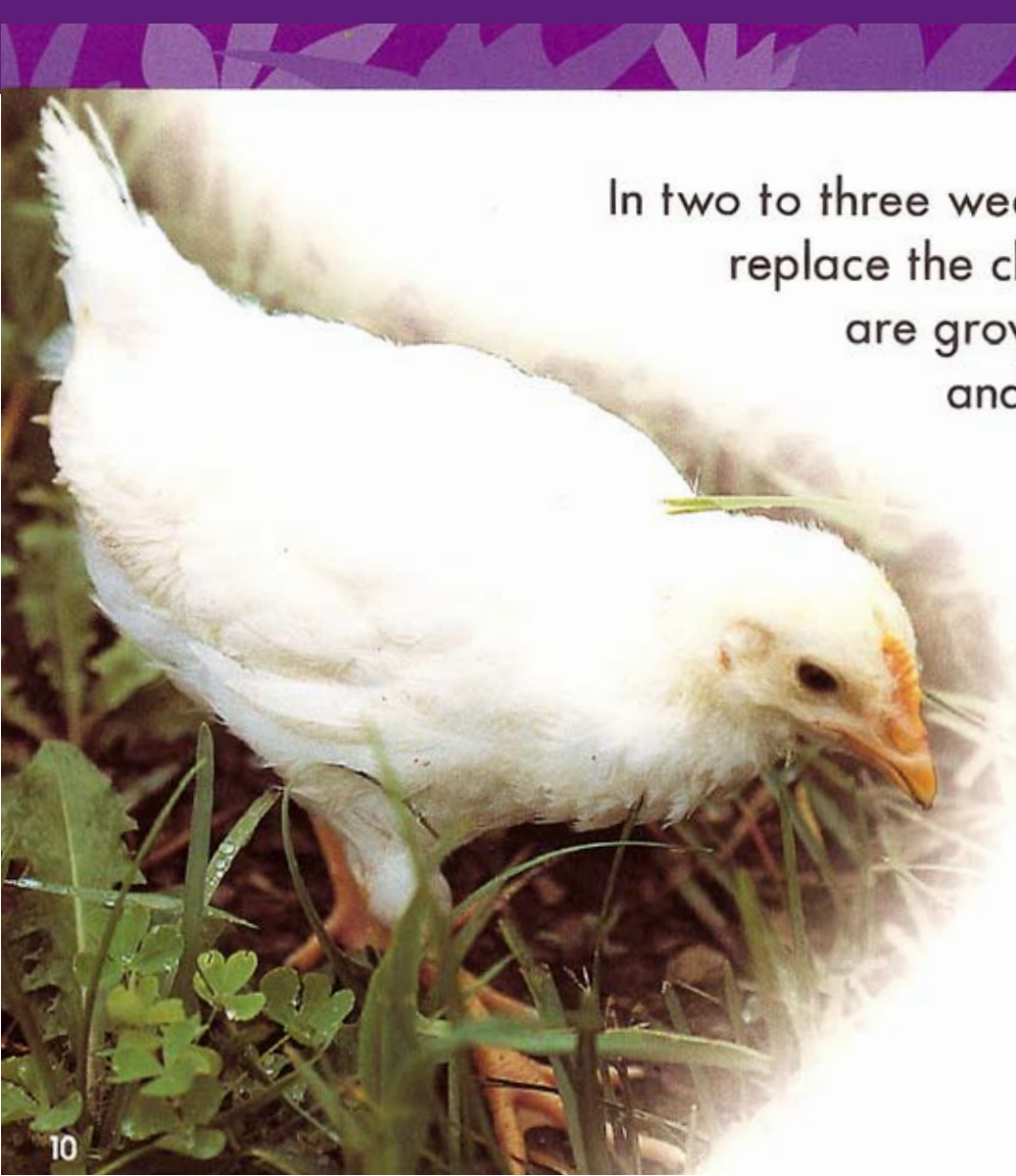
Finally, the little bird pushes the shell apart. Out it comes, weak and wet.

Young chicks stay close to their mother. They snuggle under her to keep warm. In a day or two they begin to walk and peck the ground, looking for grain and other food. The chicks are covered with soft downy feathers.



Their constant cheeping helps their mother find them.



A close-up photograph of a young white chicken chick. The chick has a bright yellow beak and feet. It is standing in green grass and is pulling at a piece of dry straw or grass. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green.

In two to three weeks, real feathers begin to replace the chicks' soft down. The chicks are growing up. They spend more and more time away from their mother.

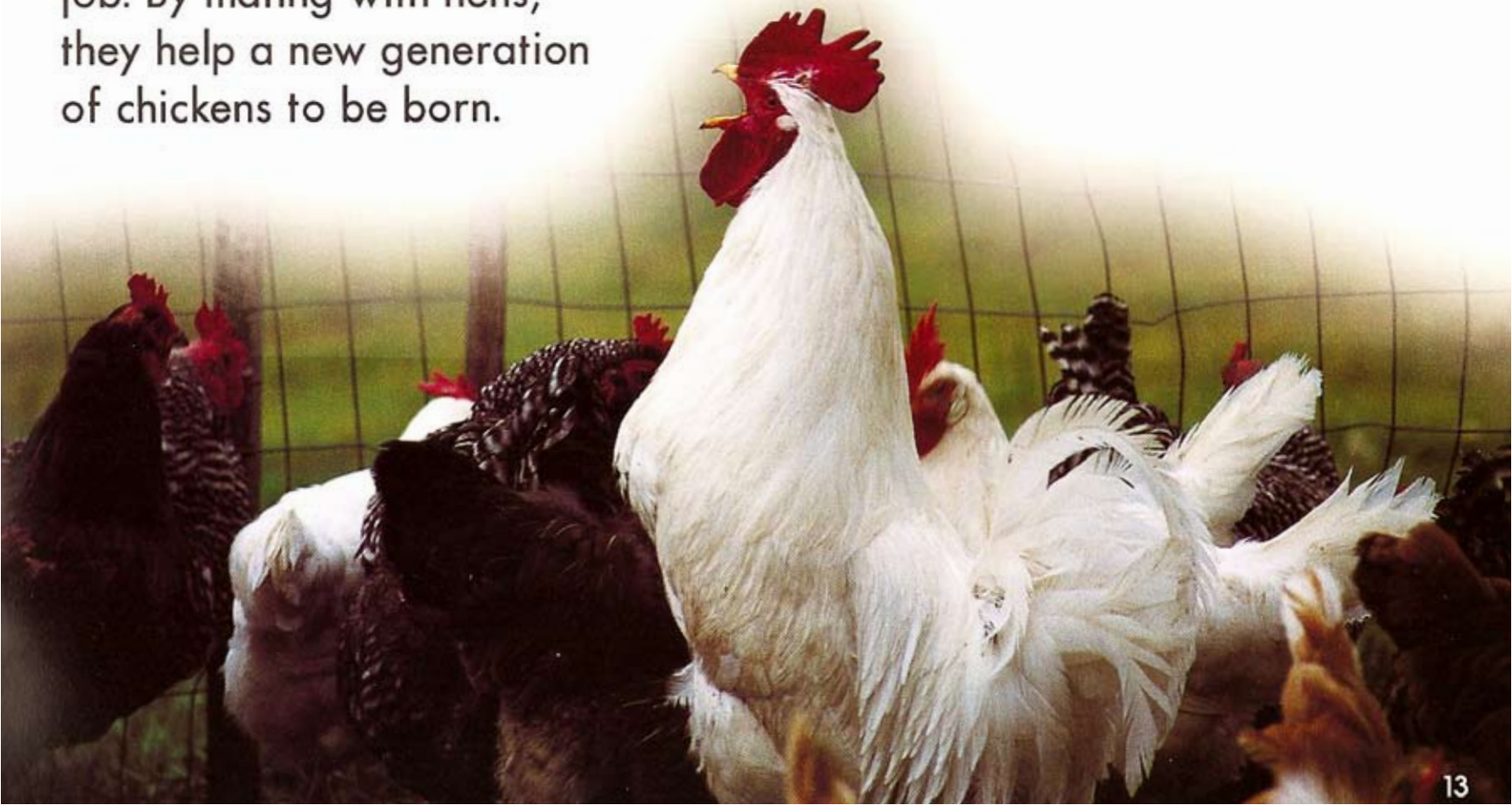
In just five months,
young hens will
be ready to start
laying eggs.





All chickens squawk and cluck, but roosters are the loudest of all. At dawn, a rooster puffs out his chest and crows as loudly as he can. He seems to be telling the world how important he is!

Roosters do have an important job. By mating with hens, they help a new generation of chickens to be born.

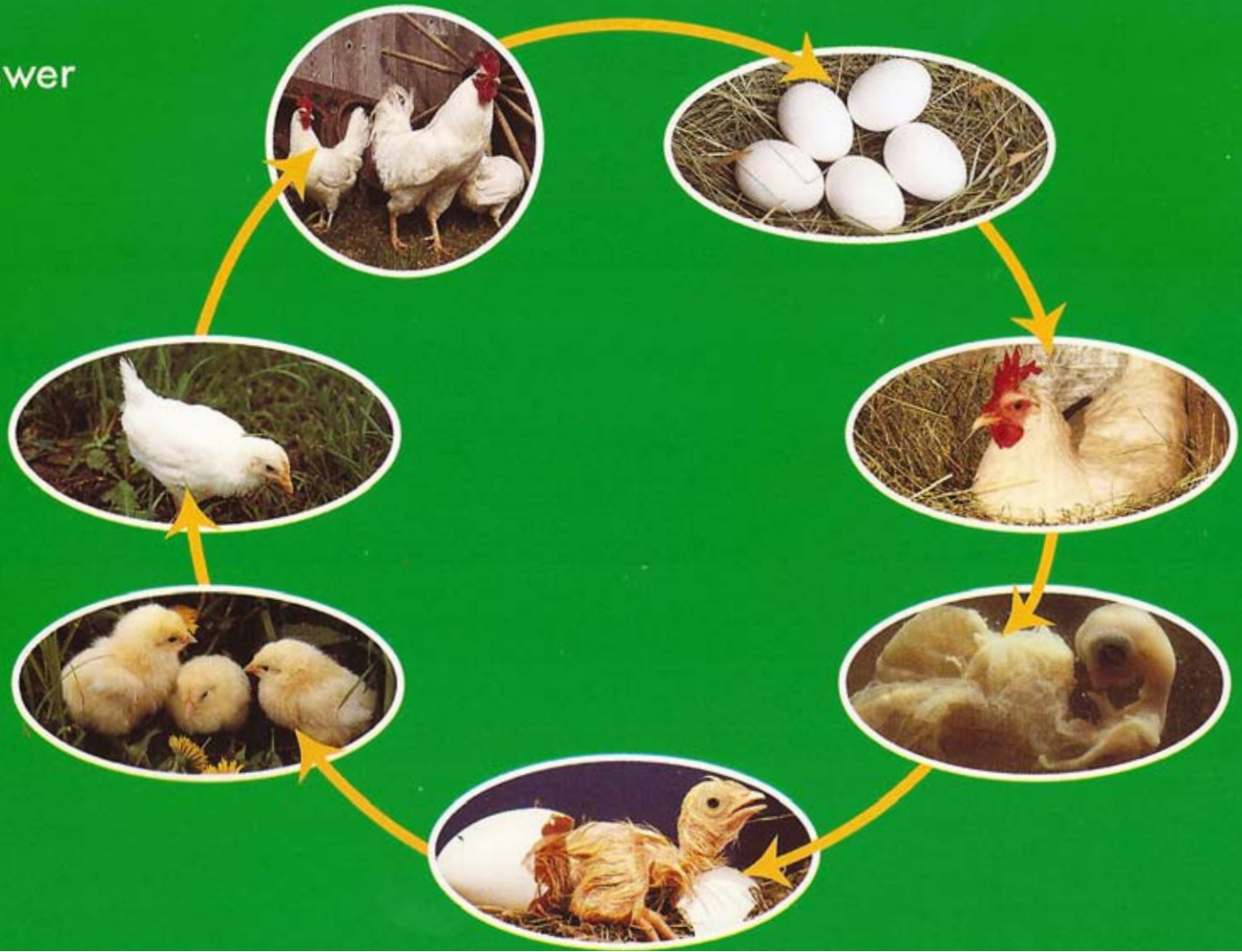


Can you put these in order?





Answer



CHOOSE FROM 12 TITLES IN THIS LIFE CYCLES SERIES!

CTP 3059 Monarch Butterfly

CTP 3060 Bean

CTP 3061 Sunflower

CTP 3062 Wood Frog

CTP 3063 Ladybug

CTP 3064 Chicken

CTP 3065 Jumping Spider

CTP 3066 Maple Tree

CTP 3067 Green Snake

CTP 3068 Hummingbird

CTP 3069 Horse

CTP 3070 Fighting Fish