

SAFARI MANDAN'S CANADIAN CHICKEN ADVENTURE

TEACHER GUIDE GRADES 1 - 4





SAFARI MAN DAN'S CANADIAN CHICKEN ADVENTURE

Acknowledgements

Funding for this project was provided by Chicken Farmers of Nova Scotia and the British Columbia Chicken Marketing Board.



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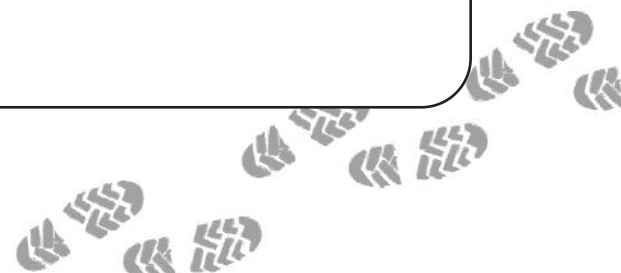
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Introduction

What do your students know about chickens?

- ✓ What do they look like?
- ✓ What kinds of sounds do they make?
- ✓ Where do they (usually) live?
- ✓ What kinds of things do they do? Eat? Need to survive?
- ✓ How long do you think it takes for an egg to hatch?
- ✓ What kinds of things do eggs need to hatch?
- ✓ What happens to an egg if it doesn't get these things?
- ✓ Once a chick is born, what kinds of things does it need to grow up healthy?
- ✓ Can you think of any other animals that are hatched from eggs?



This document has been written as a supplement for the Safari Man Dan's Canadian Chicken Adventure video. Curriculum connections are provided and many of the activities are designed to promote literacy and numeracy as well as to educate your students about the chicken industry. Also included is information and activities that address the biosecurity measures that are in place on chicken farms to ensure Canadians a safe food supply. Recommended resources have been provided to further enhance the information and activities in this teacher guide.

Curriculum Connections

This document provides information and activities designed to lead students in exploring how chickens are raised on a commercial farm in Canada. It is designed to assist teachers, while offering activities related directly to the following areas of Canada's provincial curricula:

- ✓ language and visual arts
- ✓ mathematics
- ✓ science and technology

Specifically:

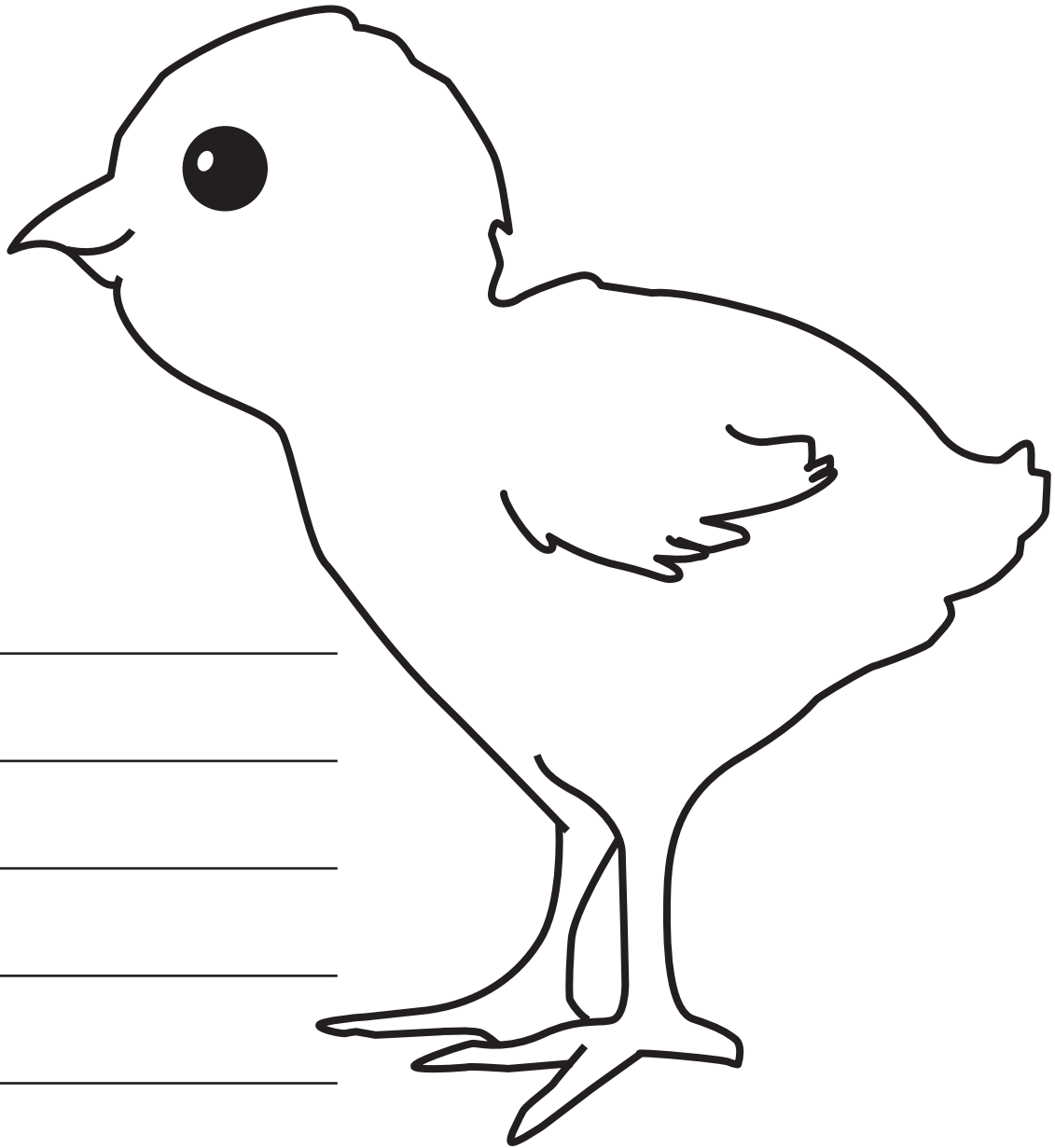
- to identify things that are essential for the survival of an animal (chickens)
- to educate children on the life cycle of chickens (gate to plate)
- to illustrate ways in which animals contribute to the environment (e.g. interdependence of food chains)
- select, read and view with understanding a range of literature, information, media and visual texts
- interpret, select, and combine information using a variety of strategies, resources, and technologies
- collect data based on first- and second-hand information, display results in more than one way, interpret data, and make predictions

ACTIVITY
1



SAFARI Man Dan

After viewing Safari Man Dan's video about Chickens, write down 5 things that you have learned about chickens on the lines provided. Colour the picture.








Babies and Chicks

Babies and chicks have the same needs. Use the following chart to outline how their caregivers (parent or farmer) meet these needs.

NEEDS	BABY	CHICK
Warmth		
Protection		
Water		
Food		
Safety		
Air		
Cleanliness		
Other		



ACTIVITY
3

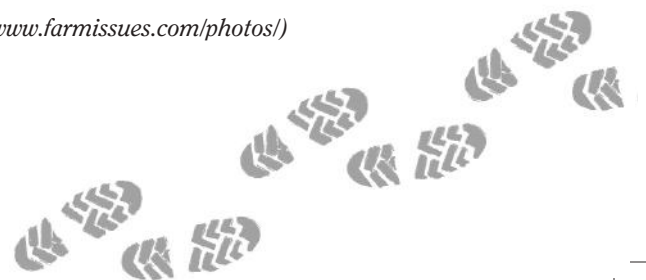
What's in a picture?

Using the pictures provided as a starting point for organizing your ideas, describe what happens on a chicken farm in Canada. Use appropriate vocabulary, including correct science and technology vocabulary, to communicate your ideas. Some of these words are in the list provided below.



Computers, chicken feed, fans, water lines, brooding stage, down, feathers, barn preparation, fully grown chickens.

Photo Credits: Ontario Agriculture Photo Library, Ontario Farm Animal Council (www.farmissues.com/photos/)



ACTIVITY 4

Chicken Farming in Canada

Complete the sentences below using words from the word bank at the side of the page.

Chickens raised for meat are called _____ chickens. They are not kept in cages and do not lay eggs. The birds are kept in climate-controlled barns to protect them against hot summers, cold winters, predators and _____. Farmers thoroughly clean out their _____ after each flock of chickens leave. After the walls and floors are disinfected, they lay down fresh wood shavings and _____ for bedding. The _____ in the barn is raised to 33 degrees so that it's warm enough for the young chicks. Lights are left on all the time at first and are gradually turned off for _____ periods of time. Before the farmer receives the chicks, they are _____ at the hatchery when they are just a day-old. This ensures that they will be protected from disease. In order to make sure that the water is _____ for his chickens, the farmer uses a filtration system. Chicks access this water through drinker _____. These lines start at a lower level for the young birds but are gradually _____ higher as the birds grow.

The chickens eat feed made from _____, soybeans and vitamins and minerals. The birds can eat whenever they like from _____ in the barn. An _____ alerts the farmer in case of emergencies, such as a power failure or malfunctioning of the heating system. _____ provide fresh air for the chickens in the barn. A _____ makes regular trips to the farms to make sure that the growing chicks are healthy. A broiler chicken is grown and ready for market when they weigh _____. In order to reach this weight, the chickens will have eaten _____ of feed during its life.

Word Bank

2.2 kilograms
alarm system
disease
barns
fans
feeders
grains
broiler
longer
4 kilograms
nipples
raised
fresh
straw
temperature
vaccinated
veterinarian

ACTIVITY 5

Do the Chicken Dance

Here's an exercise that's fun to do... Spread hula hoops on the gym floor. Make sure to have at least the same number of hoops as students plus a few more. Have each student stand in a hoop. Play the Chicken Dance song. Have students do the movements - flapping their wings, wiggling their tails, etc.

Listed below are suggested moves for the song:

At the start of the music, shape a chicken beak with your hands. Open and close it four times, during the first four beats of the music.

Make chicken wings with your arms. Flap your wings four times, during the next four beats of the music.

Make a chicken's tail feathers with your arms and hands. Wiggle downwards during the next four beats of the music.

Clap four times during the next four beats of the music. Repeat this process four times.

At the chorus, run, hop, skip or gallop to a vacant hula hoop. If each student moves, then all students will have a new hoop to go to.

The dance repeats, progressively getting faster and faster, until the music stops.

Note: You can download the Chicken dance tune from the internet from sites such as <http://www.whydidthechickencrosstheroad.com/sounds/chicken-dances/>.



ACTIVITY
6

Henrietta's Scrambled Eggs

Help Henrietta Hen unscramble her eggs. Write the unscrambled words on the lines below.
Re-write these words in alphabetic order.



1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Answers: 1.hen, 2.chicken, 3.incubator, 4.feather, 5.hatch, 6.shell, 7.temperature, 8.water, 9.broiler, 10.biosecurity

ACTIVITY
7

Chicktionary

Here is a list of chicken-related terms. What other words have you learned that you can add? Make a word wall with these terms. Use them to play BINGO, Jeopardy, Memory, Matching games.

- Chick:** A baby chicken (male or female) to about 7 days of age.
- Pullet:** A young female chicken.
- Cockerel:** A young male chicken.
- Cornish Hen:** A small meat chicken.
- Broiler:** A meat chicken raised to the weight of 2.65kg or under.
- Roaster:** A larger meat chicken raised to the weight of over 2.65kg.
- Flock:** A group of birds that is raised by the farmer. There are an average of 30,000 birds in a flock.
- Chicken Producer:** Farmers, the people that raise chickens.
- Bedding:** Straw or wood chips, covering the floor of the barn.
- Drinkers:** Automated water lines. (they allow the birds 24-hour access to water.)
- Feeders:** Automated feed pans which dispense chicken feed (they allow the birds 24-hour access to feed.)

ACTIVITY 8

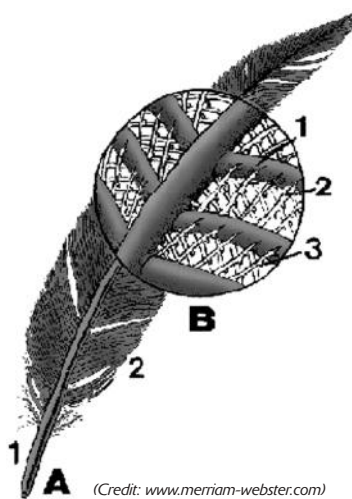
Birds of a Feather



Conduct an investigation to determine how the down that covers the baby chicks turns into feathers. What is the purpose of feathers? What are the characteristics of feathers that allow them to do their job? Examine a chicken feather. Use a magnifying glass to see it up close. Draw a diagram of the feather.

Are all chicken feathers the same or do they vary depending on the part of the body it comes from (tail, wing)? Do feathers float? If so, why? What do humans use chicken feathers for?

Feathers from geese, ducks, chickens, and turkeys are soft and trap heat; thus, they are sometimes used in high-class bedding, especially pillows, blankets and mattresses. They are also used for filling winter clothing such as quilted coats and sleeping bags. Poultry feathers have long been used for making arrows and darts. Colourful feathers are used to decorate fishing lures.



(Credit: www.merriam-webster.com)

Feathers act as a protective covering for fowl, protecting it from cold, rain, sun and injury. It is important for the feathers to be relatively broad, with a web of good firm texture, a strong shaft, the barbs, barbules, and barbicels* closely and tightly knitted together. Note the difference between tail and wing feathers and downy fluffs.

Feather Image: A: 1. shaft 2. vane;
B: 1. barb 2. barbule 3. Barbicels

Shaft: the stem or central axis of a feather

Barb: any of the side branches of the shaft of a feather

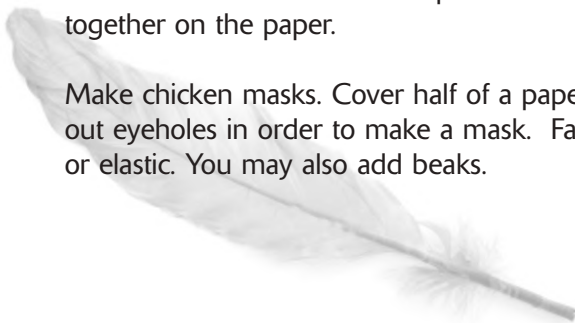
Barbule: a minute barb; especially : one of the processes that fringe the barbs of a feather

Barbicel: any of the small hook-bearing processes on a barbule of a feather

Feather Art

Design your own art by using the feather as a brush. Make sure to use one feather for each colour of paint and allow the colours to "bleed" together on the paper.

Make chicken masks. Cover half of a paper plate with feathers, then cut out eyeholes in order to make a mask. Fasten ties made of yarn, string or elastic. You may also add beaks.



ACTIVITY 9

Chicken:

More Than Just A Good Meal

Besides meat and feathers, other uses for chicken parts include fertilizers, candy, paints, tempera paints and glazes, pottery paints containing egg whites, cake mixes, powdered eggs, soups and coffee, egg clarifiers, shampoos/conditioners and table eggs.

Scavenger Hunt - Check out how many of the above products you have at home. Look at the labels. Bring labels to school and prepare posters with them to illustrate these additional uses of chickens/eggs.



ACTIVITY
10

Don't Count your Chickens....



Broiler chicken eggs are hatched in incubators. Write a report to share with your classmates that describes how an incubator works. What physical conditions in the incubator facilitates the hatching of the eggs? How long do the eggs stay in the incubator? Demonstrate to your fellow students the technique for reading a thermometer. Locate the temperature of an incubator on the thermometer. Why is humidity an important factor to consider in an incubator? Why do chicken eggs have to be turned regularly and often when in the incubator? How does a baby chick hatch from its egg?

ACTIVITY
11

Thank a Farmer

Write a thank you note to a chicken farmer for providing us with a safe and healthy food supply.

A letter needs: a greeting, a body, and a closing.

The greeting is who the letter is written to. If you don't personally know a farmer, just write Dear Farmer.

The second part of a letter is the body, which is the part of the letter where you thank the person. Explain why you are thankful. Perhaps you might mention some of the things that the farmer does to keep your food safe. Farmers take their responsibility of caring for animals seriously, because healthy animals mean healthy food!

The third part is the closing, which is where you write 'Sincerely,' and then sign your name so that the person receiving the letter knows who is thanking them.

ACTIVITY
12

Write a note to Farmer George....

Pretend you are a baby chick at the egg hatchery. You are just a day old and are about to move to your new home at Farmer George's Chicken Farm. Write a note to Farmer George listing all the things that you will need in order to grow into a healthy broiler chicken.

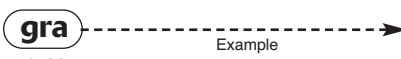
ACTIVITY
13

Chicken Chatter

Combine pairs of word segments to make words. The first part of the word will be in the left-hand column. The second part of the word will be in the right hand column. Use each word segment only once.

flo
ha
al
incu
poul
sh
chi
fa
str
cle
fee
gra
pro
wa
roo
broi

ell
arm
cess
aw
cks
cken
rm
ders
ter
bate
tch
ins
ster
an
try
ler



ACTIVITY
14

Chicken Idioms

An idiom is a phrase where the words together have a meaning that is different from the dictionary definitions of the actual words. One example is: *'Mad as a wet hen'* meaning 'very angry'.

Match the following idioms with their meanings. Write the correct letter on the line.

- ___ 1. Spring chicken
- ___ 2. Like a chicken with his head cut off
- ___ 3. Chicken feed
- ___ 4. Chicken out
- ___ 5. Chicken-hearted
- ___ 6. Go to bed with the chickens
- ___ 7. Counting your chickens before they're hatched
- ___ 8. Pecking order
- ___ 9. Mad as a wet hen
- ___ 10. Chickens come home to roost



- a** depending on something before you actually get it
b very angry
c to get out of doing something because of fear
d a young woman
e a small sum of money
f cowardly
g go to bed at sundown
h in a hurried or disorganized way
i facing the consequences of your mistakes
j the way people are ranked in relation to each other

Use each of the idiom phrases above in a sentence to show that you understand the meaning .

e.g. "John must be at least ten years older than Ruth and she's no spring chicken."

Answers: 1d, 2h, 3e, 4c, 5f, 6g, 7a, 8j, 9b, 10i

ACTIVITY
15

Check your Knowledge

1. How many chickens are raised in Canada per year?

- A. 10 million
 B. 100 million
 C. 600 million

2. How much chicken are Canadians eating?

- A. More than five years ago
 B. Less than 5 years ago
 C. The same as five years ago

3. About how many days does it take for an egg to hatch in an incubator?

- A. 15 days
 B. 21 days
 C. 35 days

4. What do chickens eat?

- A. meat
 B. vegetables
 C. grain

5. Since 2005, Canada's per capita consumption of chicken is:

- A. 5.3 kgs
 B. 15.1 kgs
 C. 31.7 kgs



Answers: 1. C, 2. A, 3. B, 4. C, 5. C

ACTIVITY
16

Chicken Farms

	B							S		
A				K					I	
		C						E		
C									D	
			B				S			

To find out where meat chickens are raised, unscramble the letters below to fill in the missing spaces and complete the words above.

ORRLIE
RE EPT N
ALMIT
TRLOLONE
NRA

Answer: Broilers are kept in climate controlled barns

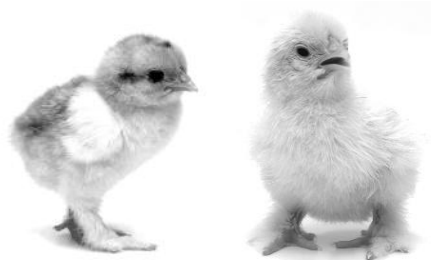
ACTIVITY
17

Fact vs. Fiction

Have students read two different books about hens or chickens - one fiction and one fact. Discuss with them the differences between the chickens described in the fiction book, including their physical characteristics, their personalities and the book written from fact.

Have the students use a Venn diagram to record these similarities and differences.

(See literature list on back cover for book suggestions).



ACTIVITY 18

Biosecurity



Why is it important in the poultry industry?



It is necessary to keep the birds healthy by controlling poultry diseases. In less than a day a single microbe can reproduce and multiply to a number greater than the number of people on earth. Keeping the harmful microbes off the premises and out of the poultry barn is the key to a flock's health and survival. It is possible to keep harmful germs from poultry by using a defense health plan called "biosecurity."



What biosecurity measures are in place on a chicken farm?



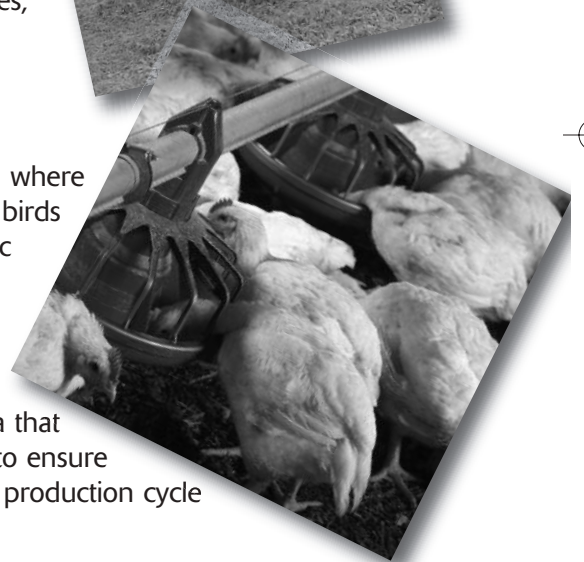
- Restricting access by people and animals to poultry barns.
- Disinfecting equipment and vehicles before they come onto the property. Some of the equipment needing careful attention includes chicken hauling crates, delivery trucks, etc.
- Taking proper barn management and hygiene precautions (e.g. barn is locked at all times to control visitors).
- Visitors must wear protective biosecurity coveralls, head cover, gloves, masks and boots while inside the poultry barn.



Can people get the Avian Flu from eating chickens?



No. There are no known cases of this. This disease originated in Asia where humans were living in the same house with a large number of birds; birds were purchased at 'live markets'. Canadian chicken farmers and public health experts combine efforts to ensure safe food.



What is Safe, Safer, Safest?



This is an on-farm program set up by the Chicken Farmers of Canada that has been designed to meet rigorous government standards in order to ensure that food safety standards are met through every step of the on-farm production cycle of chicken farming.

Now it's your turn. Conduct your own research to answer the following:

1. Explain how the biosecurity measures listed above prevent the spread of disease on the poultry farm.
2. Identify what other locations involved in producing chicken for your plate might have to take special steps to stop the spread of disease (or contaminate this food source).
3. Check out what other types of farms practice biosecurity in Canada.
4. What does a farmer do if a chicken gets sick?
5. Who makes sure that the Safe, Safer, Safest program is being followed?




**ACTIVITY
19**

Meat on the Menu

Share of Meat Consumption in Canada (%) 1971- 2008

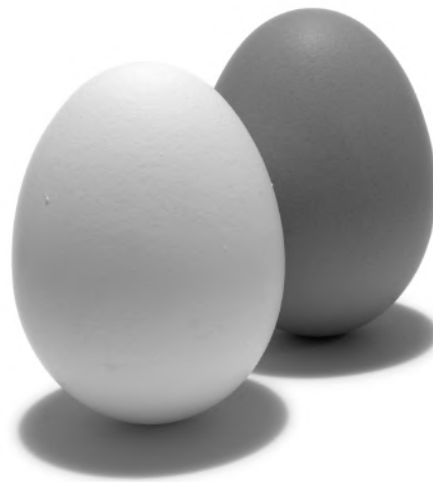
	Chicken	Beef	Veal	Pork	Lamb	Fowl	Turkey	Total	
1971	14.6	51.2	2.4	25.8	1.0	1.2	4.0	100.0	1971
1976	13.8	42.4	2.1	33.6	1.5	1.7	4.8	100.0	1976
1981	17.5	41.8	1.6	32.7	0.7	1.4	4.3	100.0	1981
1986	21.2	40.8	1.7	29.8	1.0	1.1	4.4	100.0	1986
1991	24.2	37.1	1.6	28.8	1.0	1.7	5.1	100.0	1991
1996	26.9	34.4	1.5	30.1	0.9	1.6	4.7	100.0	1996
2001	31.0	31.2	1.3	29.4	1.0	1.8	4.3	100.0	2001
2006	34.0	32.0	1.1	25.1	1.3	1.6	4.8	100.0	2006
2008	34.0	31.5	1.1	25.3	1.2	1.8	5.1	100.0	2008

Source: Statistics Canada

- Identify at least 3 trends related to Canadian meat consumption since 1971. Can you suggest reasons for the change in eating habits?
- Construct a pie graph to illustrate the statistics in Canadian meat consumption in 1971. Construct a second pie graph to illustrate the statistics in 2008.
What other types of graphs might you use to show the same trends?
- Construct a line graph to illustrate the changes in chicken consumption from 1971 to 2008. Construct a line graph to illustrate the changes in beef consumption from 1971 to 2008. Construct a line graph to illustrate the changes in pork consumption from 1971 to 2008. Compare the trends in Canadian meat consumption shown by these graphs.
Are there any other meats which have changed significantly in their consumption during this time period?

Enrichment Activities

1. Draw a map of the life cycle of a Broiler Chicken, including hatchery, farm, processing plant, store. Describe what happens at each place.
2. Baked? Barbecued? Fried? Wings? Breast meat? Legs? Thighs? How do you like your chicken? Is there another favourite way that you like your chicken prepared that is not on the list? Conduct research among your friends and family to find out their preferences. Tally the results of your survey. Prepare a graph that illustrates your research and share it with your classmates. What other types of graphs might you have used to do the same?
3. An acrostic poem is one where you choose a word or name and use each letter in the name as the beginning of a word or line that tells something about the topic. Write an acrostic poem using one of the following words to show what you've learned about chicken farms.
'chicken' 'chick' 'broiler'
4. Write a letter to a chicken farmer asking him something about chicken farming - e.g. how much food would a broiler chick require from the time they are born until they go to market? Then go to this web-site and send your letter: www.chicken.ca. Click on the tab "For Kids & Teachers", then the "Dear Chicken Farmer" button. Share the answers with your class.
5. Create an advertisement for Canadian Chicken using a mixture of opinion and fact from what you have learned.
6. Construct a timeline outlining the life cycle of a broiler chicken. Label the places where each stage takes place.
7. Conduct an investigation to determine how a chicken is different from other birds. Check out different breeds of broilers. What is the difference in their characteristics? Do they require any special care? Do they have special uses.
8. The Canadian chicken industry directly employs more than 15,000 people who work on chicken farms or in related areas such as processing. Brainstorm and generate a list of all the jobs involved in getting chicken meat to your dinner plate.



Internet Resources

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada - www.agr.gc.ca
 British Columbia Chicken Marketing Board - www.bcchicken.ca
 Canadian Federation of Agriculture - www.cfa-fca.ca
 Chicken Farmers of Canada - www.chicken.ca
 Chicken Farmers of Nova Scotia - www.nschicken.com
 Chicken Farmers of Ontario - www.cfo.on.ca
 Chicken Farmers of Saskatchewan - www.saskatchewanchicken.ca
 Chicken Producers of Alberta - www.chicken.ab.ca
 Les Éleveurs de volailles du Québec - www.volaillesduquebec.qc.ca
 Manitoba Chicken Producers - www.chicken.mb.ca
 Ontario Farm Animal Council - www.ofac.org
 Ontario Agri-Food Education - www.oafe.org
 Virtual Farm Tours - www.virtualfarmtours.ca

Print Resources

All About Food - Farm Visit Guide - *available for download at* www.oafe.org
 Chicken Farmers of Canada Information Kit - *available to order from* www.chicken.ca
 Farm Animals and Me - *available to order from* www.oafe.org
 Teacher's Tool Kit - *available for download at* www.oafe.org

Literature

Big Chickens Fly the Coop - Leslie Helakoski - *ISBN 0525479155*
 Chicken Little - Steven Kellogg - *ISBN 0688070450*
 Chickens Aren't the Only Ones - Ruth Heller - *ISBN 0698117786*
 Chickens to the Rescue - John Himmelman - *ISBN 0805079513*
 Little Red Hen - Paul Galdone - *ISBN 0899193498*
 Chicken - Life Cycle Series - David Schwartz - *ISBN 1574715542*
 Chickens - JoAnn Early Macken - *ISBN 1433923955*
 Chicks and Chickens - Gail Gibbons - *ISBN 0823419398*



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