

Chickens

Beverley Randell and Clive Harper



PM

Chickens

Level 20

Running Words 550 **Text Type** Information Report

Curriculum Areas English (Literacy, Literature, Language); Science (Biological Sciences)

Retelling to Encourage Critical Thinking About the Content

Ask each student to retell the information report in their own words.

Record the retelling for further discussion and reflection.

Questions to Reinforce Meaning and Stimulate Discussion

Literal

- 1 Which are bigger, roosters or hens?
- 2 Where does a hen lay her eggs?
- 3 What do chickens eat?

Inferential

- 4 Why does a hen only leave her eggs for a short time to get food or water?
- 5 Why are chicks slow to push their way out of the shell?
- 6 Why do chicks run back to their mother if they are frightened or in danger?
- 7 Why do some people give their chickens fruit and vegetable scraps?
- 8 Why do chickens sleep up on a perch rather than on the ground?

Applied Knowledge

- 9 Why are chicks wet when they first come out of the egg?
- 10 Why do some families keep chickens in their backyards?

Links with Other PM Guided Reading Books

Level 20	Information Report	<i>Horses</i>
Level 20	Information Report	<i>Sheep</i>
Level 20	Information Report	<i>Goats</i>
Level 20	Information Report	<i>Cattle</i>
Level 20	Information Report	<i>Alpacas</i>

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Chickens

Chickens are birds that are often kept on farms.

Chickens have feathers all over their bodies.

Their feathers can be white, black or brown.

Some chickens have **speckled** feathers.



Chickens have wings, but they cannot fly as well as some other birds.

Most chickens have a red **comb** on top of their head.

They have flaps of skin, called **wattles**, that hang down on both sides of their beaks.



comb

wattles

Roosters are male chickens,
and hens are female chickens.

Baby chickens are called chicks.

Roosters are bigger than hens
and they have longer tail feathers.

They have spikes called spurs on their legs, too.



This rooster is much bigger than the hen beside it.

In every group of chickens,
there is a pecking order.

Stronger chickens can peck or fight weaker chickens.
They decide which chickens can be first
to eat, drink and find a place to sleep.

Most of the time, a rooster is at the top
of the pecking order.

Early in the morning, the rooster crows very loudly.



Chicks

A mother hen lays her eggs
in a nesting box.

Baby chicks grow inside some of the eggs.
The hen sits on the eggs
to keep them warm.



During this time, the hen hardly leaves the nest. She will only leave her nest for a short time to get food and water.

After about three weeks, the baby chicks begin to **hatch**. Inside the eggs, the chicks peck the shells with their beaks. They make a hole in the shell and slowly push their way out.

