



Get ready to flap your wings as we dive into the world of hens! Hens, or female chickens, are one of the most commonly found animals on farms all over the world. These amazing birds come in many shapes, sizes and colors, ranging from small bantam hens to large, fluffy ones with feathers that look like they're wearing a pair of pants! Their bodies are covered in feathers and they have a red or pinkish piece of flesh called a comb on top of their heads.



From their feathery appearance, let's hop over to the topic of what hens munch on. Hens eat a variety of things including grains, seeds, vegetables and even small bugs! They are also known to peck at the ground in search of tasty morsels hidden in the soil. This healthy diet helps them to produce the eggs that we humans enjoy.

Speaking of eggs, it's time to crack open the life cycle of these fascinating creatures. The life of a hen begins as an egg, which after being incubated for about 21 days, hatches into a cute little chick. These chicks grow rapidly and within five months, they are grown hens laying eggs of their own. Hens can live for several years, and they continue to lay eggs for most of their lives.



Eggs are a big part of why humans and hens have such a cluck-tastic relationship! Humans have been keeping hens for thousands of years, not just for their eggs, but also for their meat. Hens have also been known to form bonds with humans, recognizing their faces and voices. So, whether they're providing breakfast or being our feathery friends, hens sure are egg-ceptional animals!



Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

- 1) What are the bodies of hens covered in?
A. Spikes
B. Scales
C. Fur
D. Feathers
- 2) Why do hens peck at the ground?
A. They are searching for food
B. They are digging holes to bury their eggs
C. They are looking for rocks
D. To dull their beak
- 3) Which is NOT something hens usually eat?
A. Seeds
B. Grains
C. Soil
D. Vegetables
- 4) Where can hens be commonly found?
A. In the ocean
B. In the desert
C. On farms
D. In the forest
- 5) Can hens recognize human faces and voices?
A. Yes
B. No
C. They can recognize voices but not faces
D. They can recognize faces but not voices
- 6) What is the piece of flesh on top of hens' heads called?
A. Crumb
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- 7) How long does it take for a hen's egg to hatch?
A. About 21 days
B. About 7 days
C. About 1 day
D. About 45 days
- 8) How soon can hens start laying eggs of their own?
A. Within two months
B. Within one year
C. Within one month
D. Within five months
- 9) For how long do hens live?
A. About 6 months
B. Only 1 year
C. Several years
D. Up to 50 years
- 10) How long can hens continue to lay eggs?
A. They only lay eggs once
B. For two years only
C. For one year only
D. For most of their lives

Determine if the statements is something the animal would say (W) or it it is not something the animal would say (N).

- 11) "I started laying eggs the moment I was born."



- 12) "I'm considered fully grown after only 5 months."
- 13) "When I go about my day, I also enjoy eating little bugs hidden in the soil."
- 14) "Did you know we form bonds with humans? We recognize their faces and voices."
- 15) "To keep myself nourished, I enjoy munching on grains, seeds, veggies, and at times even tiny bugs."
- 16) "I don't like to eat bugs."
- 17) "I stop laying eggs early in my life."
- 18) "The red thing on my head, called a comb, helps me stay cool in hot weather."
- 19) "All of us hens look exactly the same, shapes and colors."
- 20) "I refuse to eat vegetables."
- 21) "It only takes me 21 days to go from an egg to a chick."
- 22) "I cannot recognize human faces, my eyes and memory are bad."
- 23) "You can find us hens all over the world, we live on almost every farm!"
- 24) "My body is covered in feathers!"
- 25) "I grew into an adult hen in just a few weeks."
- 26) "Did you know some of us are small while others are big and fluffy!"
- 27) "Humans have been keeping up hens for centuries."
- 28) "We hens are completely bald and have no feathers at all."
- 29) "I don't produce eggs, you're thinking of chickens."

Determine if the statement is a fact or opinion based on the information in the article.

- 30) It takes about 21 days for a hen's egg to hatch into a little chick.
- 31) Hens are the best animals to have on a farm.
- 32) Hens have a diet which includes things like grains, seeds, vegetables, and even small bugs.
- 33) Hens are better pets than cats or dogs because they can lay eggs.
- 34) Hens, which are female chickens, are animals we commonly see on farms.
- 35) The best thing about hens is that they are friendly towards humans.
- 36) Hens have the ability to recognize human faces and voices.
- 37) The thing on top of a hen's head, usually red or pink, is called a comb.
- 38) The best part about hens is their fluffy feathers.
- 39) Small bantam hens are cuter than the larger ones.

Determine if the statement is true or false.

- 40) Hen eggs take about 3 weeks to incubate.
- 41) Chicks grow into hens after just 1 month.
- 42) Hens peck at the ground to search for food.
- 43) Hens are only found on farms in the United States.
- 44) One of the foods that hens eat are small bugs.
- 45) Hens diet consists of only seeds.



- 46) Hens in captivity can live for up to 50 years.
- 47) Hens lay eggs within the first month of their lives.
- 48) Hens lay eggs for most of their lives.
- 49) Hens can recognize human faces and voices.

Determine if the sentence is a declarative(d), exclamatory(e), interrogative(i) or imperative(m).

- 50) Hens like to scratch the ground with their feet to find food.
- 51) It's astonishing; a hen can live for 5 to 10 years if kept healthy!
- 52) Isn't it incredible that hens communicate with their chicks even before they are hatched!
- 53) Hens can remember over 100 different faces of people or animals, their memory power is amazing!
- 54) It's fantastic that hens sleep most of the time, they only lay eggs during the day!
- 55) Hens come in many different colors, such as brown, white, and black.
- 56) How long do hens live?
- 57) A hen can lay over 200 eggs a year, imagine the number of omelettes you can make!
- 58) Hens have sharp claws on their feet, which help them defend themselves.
- 59) Can hens fly?
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- 62) It's shocking to know that hens start laying eggs at about five months old!
- 63) Did you know a group of hens is called a brood, wow that's a cool term!
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| 2. _____ | 27. _____ | 52. _____ |
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|------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. <u>D</u> | 26. <u>true</u> | 51. <u>exclamatory</u> |
| 2. <u>A</u> | 27. <u>true</u> | 52. <u>exclamatory</u> |
| 3. <u>C</u> | 28. <u>false</u> | 53. <u>exclamatory</u> |
| 4. <u>C</u> | 29. <u>false</u> | 54. <u>exclamatory</u> |
| 5. <u>A</u> | 30. <u>fact</u> | 55. <u>declarative</u> |
| 6. <u>C</u> | 31. <u>opinion</u> | 56. <u>interrogative</u> |
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| 24. <u>true</u> | 49. <u>true</u> | |
| 25. <u>false</u> | 50. <u>declarative</u> | |

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