Birds Hatch From Eggs

Birds lay eggs. The eggs must be kept warm. Usually the mother bird sits on the eggs, but some bird parents, such as doves, take turns keeping the eggs warm. Some father birds keep the eggs warm without help from the mothers. The emperor penguin father holds the penguin egg between his feet and keeps it warm with his body.

Inside the egg the baby bird has everything it needs to form and grow. The shell protects it. The baby bird gets big and grows a sharp tooth on its beak called an egg tooth. When the baby bird is ready to hatch, it uses its egg tooth to break the shell. The egg tooth falls out after the bird hatches. Some birds, such as ducklings, can walk, swim, and find their own food right after they hatch. Other birds, such as robins, hatch without feathers and are blind and weak. They need their parents to take care of them until they can get food on their own.



- 2. The emperor penguin father holds the egg between his_____
- 3. Inside the egg the baby bird has everything it _____.
- 4. The shell _____ the baby bird.
- 5. The ______ helps the baby bird break the shell.
- 6. A duckling can _____, and find its own food.
- 7. Some birds need their ______ to take care of them.

Brainwork! Use the back of this paper to list three kinds of birds.

Inside a Chicken's Egg

An egg has many parts. Each part helps the chick grow.

Color the egg. Cut out the word cards. Fold the word cards on the dotted lines. Glue them in the correct places.



Teacher: A Chick Hatches by Joanna Cole (Wm. Morrow, 1976) is a good resource. Photographs of a developing chick are accompanied by informative text.

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