

CHICK EMBRYOLOGY – LESSON 7

Time Needed

- Flexible depending on the age of the students and level of discussion: 10-60 minutes

Skill/Grade Level

- Can be adapted for K-12 students

Core Area

- Agriculture
- Animal production

Life Skills

- Participation in group discussion
- Sharing experiences and ideas

Educational Standards

- AA-2: Participate in conversation, discussion and group presentations
- OF-3: Identify the major external parts of production animals



Objectives/Outcomes

- Students will learn the names for the external parts of adult chickens

Introduction to Content

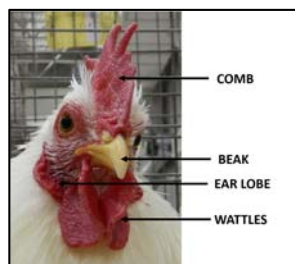
This lesson will give an overview of the main parts of an adult chicken.

Curriculum

The information needed for this lesson are included in the leaders manual. The separate PowerPoint can be used to teach the anatomy to the class.

Background Information

While eggs are an important, inexpensive and nutritious food item they are a means of reproduction in birds, including the chicken. There are different parts of an egg, and each is important to the development of the embryo.



- The **beak** is the bird's horny projecting jaw used to forage for feed
- The **comb** is the fleshy growth on top of a chicken's head. In a healthy chicken, most are red, but there are breeds with other colors. The comb is important in body temperature regulation.
- The **wattles** are the fleshy lobe or appendage hanging down from the throat or chicken of some breeds of chickens. As with the comb, the wattles are typically red and important in body temperature regulation.

The earlobes of a chicken are the noticeable areas of colored skin on the sides of the head. In general, the earlobe color typically correlates with the breed's egg color. For most breeds, chickens with white earlobes may lay white shelled eggs and those with red ear lobes may lay brown shelled eggs. There are several breeds that are exceptions to this correlation.

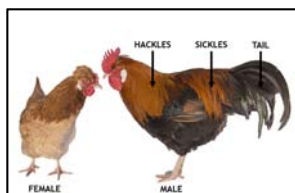
Learn more at www.kentucky4h.org or contact your county extension office.



CHICKEN EMBRYOLOGY – Lesson 7

Examples of those breeds that do not follow this rule include:

- Red Caps: Has red earlobes but lays white-shelled eggs
- Lamonas: Red earlobes but lays white-shelled eggs
- Dorkings: Red earlobes but lays white-shelled eggs



For adult chickens, the feathers can be used to tell the males from the females.

- Males have tail feathers while females do not.
- Males pointed hackle feathers while females have rounded hackle feathers.
- Males have pointed sickle feathers over the back. Females do not have sickle feathers. Instead they have rounded cushion feathers on the back.

The exception is breeds with 'hen-feathering' Such as the Sebright chickens. In such breeds, the male chicken has the same plumage as the females. So, the males have rounded feathers rather than pointed feathers typical of males.

Apply

Share: What did you learn?

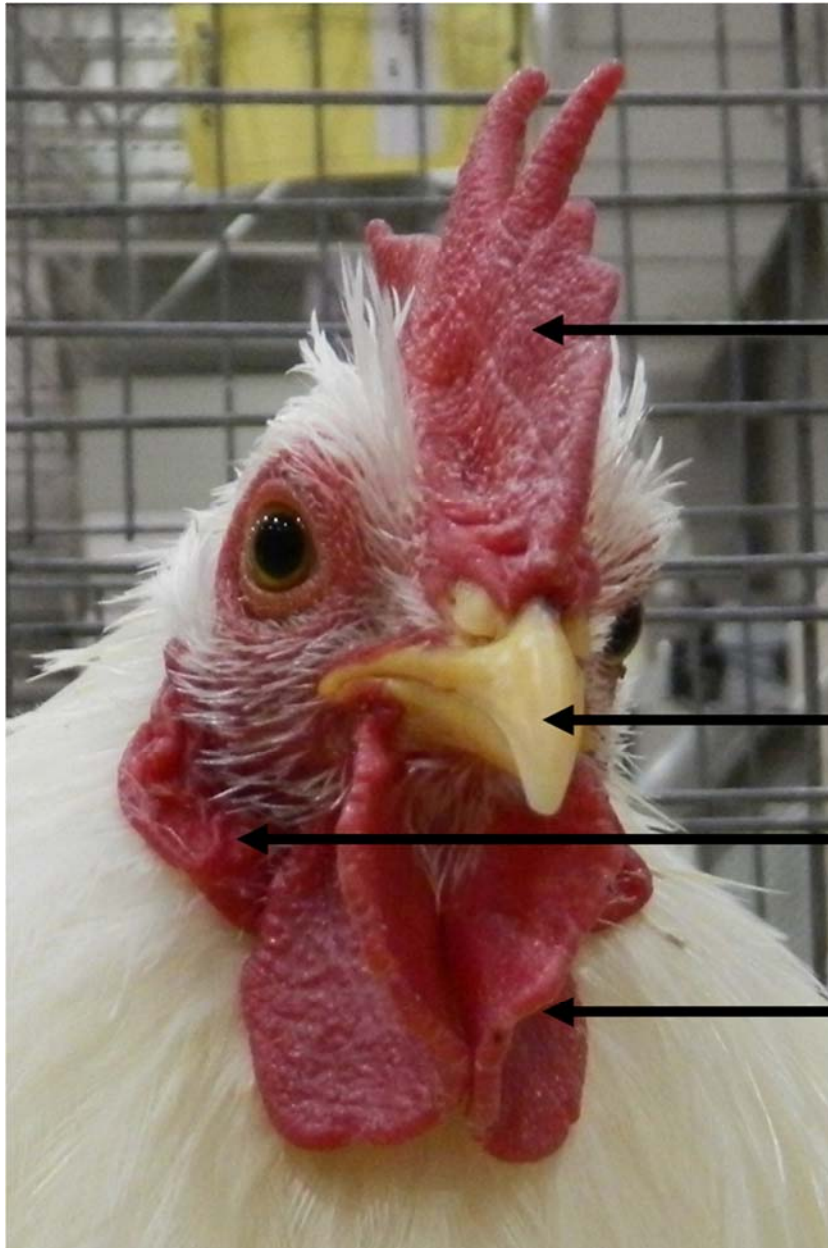
Process: What part of the activity taught you the most?

Generalize: What was the most important thing you learned?

Authors

Dr. Jacquie Jacob, Poultry Extension Project Manager, Department of Animal and Food Sciences, University of Kentucky

PARTS OF AN ADULT CHICKEN



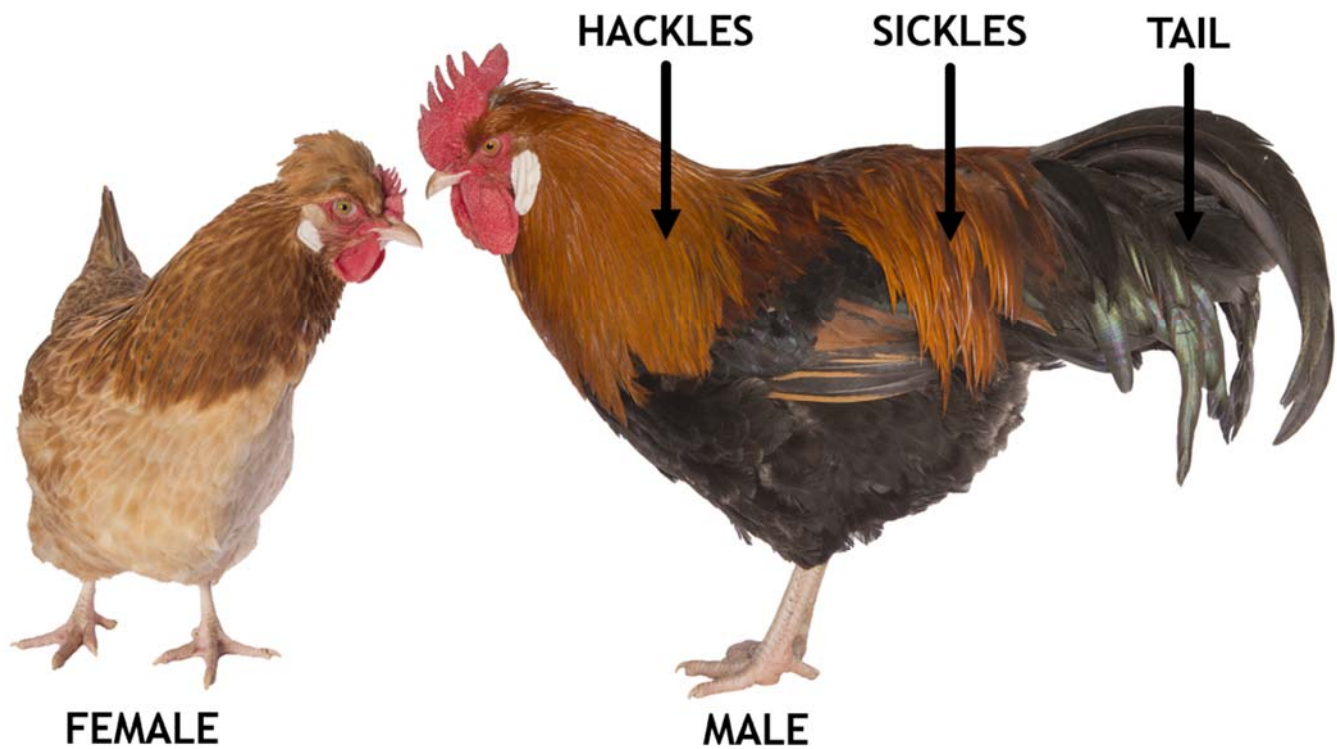
COMB

BEAK

EAR LOBE

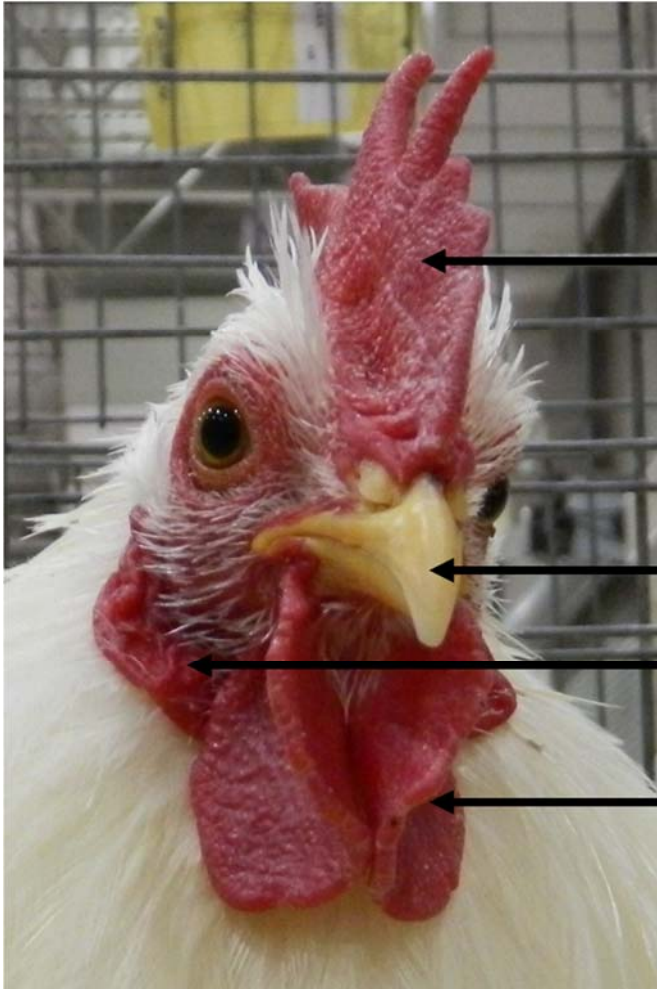
WATTLES

PARTS OF AN ADULT CHICKEN



PARTS OF AN ADULT CHICKEN

NAME: _____

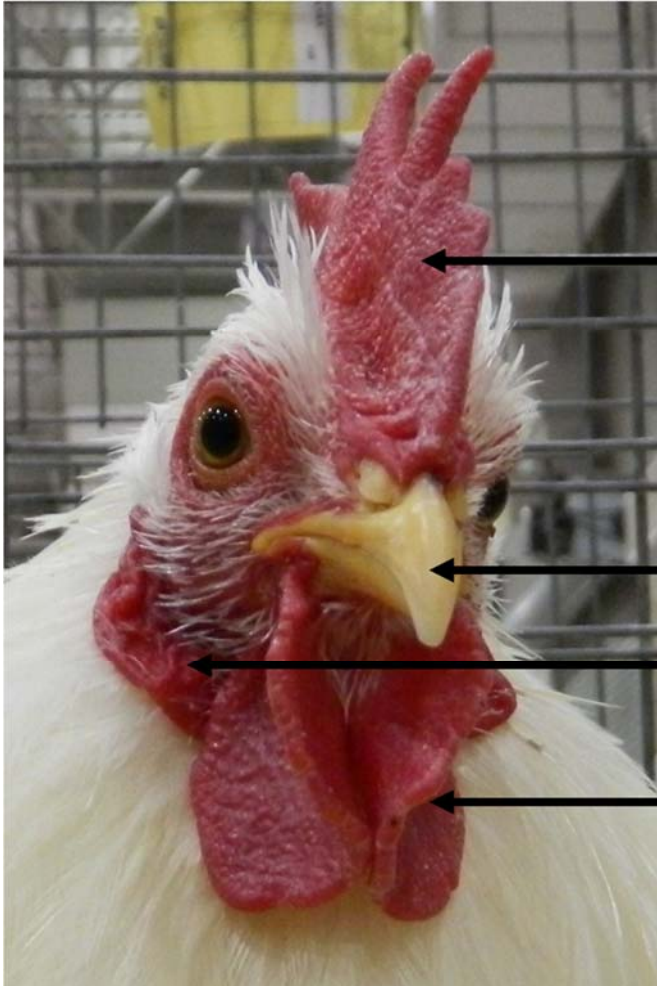


POSSIBLE ANSWERS:

Beak
Comb
Earlobe
Wattles

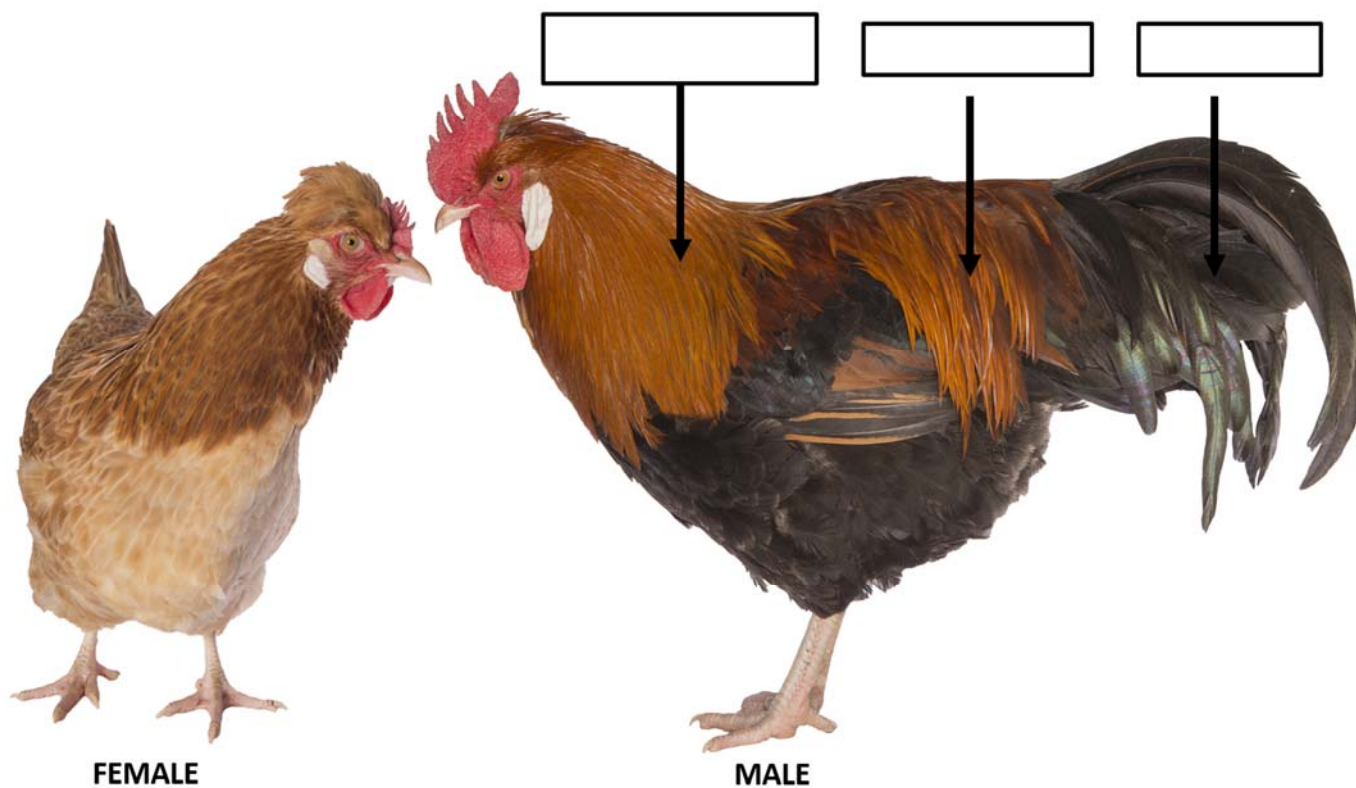
PARTS OF AN ADULT CHICKEN

NAME: _____



PARTS OF AN ADULT CHICKEN

NAME: _____



POSSIBLE ANSWERS

Hackles

Sickles

Tail

PARTS OF AN ADULT CHICKEN

NAME: _____

