



# STEMsational Ag: The Virtual Farm

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY



## Module 4: Chicken Coop, Chicken Soup UNIT 1: BIRDS LOVE BUGS Kindergarten – Grade 2



National Institute of Food and Agriculture  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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I AM *true*  
**BLUE**  
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*Fermentation Science*

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Module 4: Chicken Coop, Chicken Soup  
UNIT 1: BIRDS LOVE BUGS  
**Kindergarten – Grade 2**



## **Kindergarten – 2nd Grade:**

### **Introduction to the Unit:**

In this unit, you will explore the essential question What would happen to our chickens if there were no bugs?

### **Pre-assessment:**

*Directions for teachers in the classroom:*

- ▶ Hand the child a blank piece of paper with boxes (fold paper to make boxes)
- ▶ Ask the students to draw in each box one thing they believe chickens eat
- ▶ Near the children or walk and monitor drawings discussing what the child is drawing and labeling or writing what the child says
- ▶ Older children can do this writing on their own

*For individual learners:*

- ▶ Take out a blank piece of paper and fold it multiple times to create “boxes” on the page



- ▶ Draw in each box one thing you believe chickens eat
- ▶ Show an adult what you drew and discuss your drawings with them

### **Purpose:**

- ▶ Children will learn what chickens eat and realize the different bugs and critters they eat are found in our backyard.

### **Student Learning Outcomes for the Unit:**

- ▶ The students will demonstrate an understanding of chickens' diet
- ▶ The students will explore different bugs and critters chickens eat

### **National Agricultural Literacy Outcomes**

#### **Plants and Animals for Food, Fiber & Energy, Theme 2**

#### **T2.K-2**

Identify examples of feed/food products eaten by animals and people

### **Vocabulary Words:**

- ▶ **Vegetarian:** a person or animal who eats no meat or fish but only eats vegetables, fruits, nuts, and grains
- ▶ **Chicken:** The chicken is a bird that people all over the world raise for its meat, eggs, and feathers. It belongs to the group of domesticated, or tame, birds called poultry
- ▶ **Natural Environment:** the place where an animal or plant normally lives
- ▶ **Insects:** a small animal whose body is divided into three parts
- ▶ **Omnivore:** an animal that feeds on plants and other animals

### **Materials Needed:**

- ▶ White paper
- ▶ Writing utensil
- ▶ Small books of stapled white paper



## Activity 1: Introduce Vocabulary Words

- ▶ Use the “Birds Love Bugs PowerPoint” below to introduce vocabulary words. Give opportunity for discussion and turn and talk during the vocabulary words/slides
- ▶ Introduce Vocabulary Words:
  - **Vegetarian:** a person or animal who eats no meat or fish but only eats vegetables, fruits, nuts, and grains
  - **Chicken:** the chicken is a bird that people all over the world raise for its meat, eggs, and feathers. It belongs to the group of domesticated, or tame, birds called poultry
  - **Natural Environment:** the place where an animal or plant normally lives
  - **Insects:** a small animal whose body is divided into three parts

## Birds Love Bugs



## chicken

The **chicken** is a bird that people all over the world raise for its meat, eggs, and feathers. It belongs to the group of domesticated, or tame, birds called **poultry**. **Chickens** have short wings and a heavy body. This makes it hard for them to fly very far.







## vegetarian



**definition:** a person or animal who eats no meat or fish but only eats vegetables, fruits, nuts, and grains.



## omnivore

**definition:**  
an animal that feeds on plants and other animals.



## insects

**definition 1:** a small animal whose body is divided into three parts. **Insects** also have three pairs of legs and usually one or two pairs of wings. ... Bees, ants, butterflies, beetles, and flies are kinds of **insects**.





## natural environment



**definition:**  
the place where an  
animal or plant  
normally lives

## poultry



**definition:**  
**Poultry** are birds  
that people raise  
for meat, eggs, and  
feathers.

## flock



**definition:**  
The word **flock** refers to a  
group of animals, like birds  
or **sheep**, that have  
congregated together





## rural

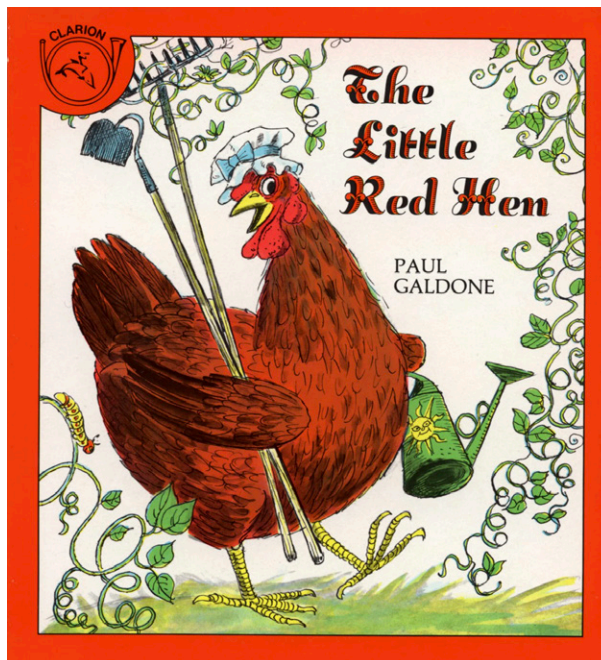


**definition:**

Areas which are not towns or cities. They are often farming or agricultural areas. These areas are sometimes called "the country" or "countryside".

## Activity 2: Read "The Little Red Hen"

- ▶ Read the book, "The Little Red Hen"
- ▶ While reading, start to think about what chickens eat
- ▶ Did you know that chickens are not really vegetarians, and they eat bugs, insects, and other small animals to give them protein?



<https://youtu.be/2E72TZy0LNo>





### Activity 3: "Chickens!"

View the video screenshots and follow the narration from the video, "Chickens!"

## kids learning videos presents... Chickens!

Also available online at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wYKJkHcaMzE>



Each chicken sound has a specific meaning, like their own language.



A chicken has more bones in its neck than a giraffe!





Chickens were domesticated around 8,000 years ago. Now you can find chickens on farms and as pets all over the world.



Chickens are all over the world. They live on every continent except Antarctica.



There are 25 billion chickens in the world, meaning there are more chickens than any other kind of bird. This also means there are way more chickens on earth than humans; there are only 7 billion humans on the planet.



Baby chickens are called chicks. They're born from eggs and take 21 days to hatch.



Hens, or female chickens, will sit on their eggs to keep them warm enough for the chicks to come out healthy.



Hens will also talk to their chicks while they're still in the eggs. Each chicken sound has a specific meaning, like their own language.





Did you know that chickens have great memories? They can remember over 100 different people or animal faces.



Chickens can be all kinds of colors, shapes, and sizes. Male chickens, called roosters, are often more colorful than the females.



Almost all chickens have small heads compared to their bodies, with scaly legs and sharp claws.





Chickens have full color vision and dream a lot like humans do.



You may have seen a chicken peck at its food before, so silly looking! Chickens eat worms, insects, seeds, grains, fruits and veggies, and all kinds of other foods.



Did you know that chickens are the closest living relative to the T-Rex?



Wow!  
Chickens are  
awesome!



What's your  
favorite  
thing about  
chickens?

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### Activity 4: Review What Bugs That Chickens Eat

- ▶ Revisit the PowerPoint slides from Activity 1 to see what bugs and critters eat
- ▶ **If you are in a classroom environment:** students should work together in partners or cooperative groups to create a small book (use white stapled paper) showing what chickens eat in their diet to produce healthy eggs
- ▶ **If you are an individual learner:** you can either create a small book (use white stapled paper) on your own or make one with a friend or family member. Show what chickens eat in their diet to produce healthy eggs

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### Post-Assessment: Which items in this list do chickens eat?

- |            |             |             |
|------------|-------------|-------------|
| ▶ Banana   | ▶ Popsicles | ▶ Flies     |
| ▶ Crickets | ▶ Candy     | ▶ Mosquitos |
| ▶ Worms    | ▶ Fleas     | ▶ Sticks    |

Check your answers using the Post-Assessment Answer Key on the next page.



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## Answer Key

- ▶ Banana: no
- ▶ Crickets: yes
- ▶ Worms: yes
- ▶ Popsicles: no
- ▶ Candy: no
- ▶ Fleas: yes
- ▶ Flies: yes
- ▶ Mosquitos: yes
- ▶ Sticks: no