

Count Your Chickens

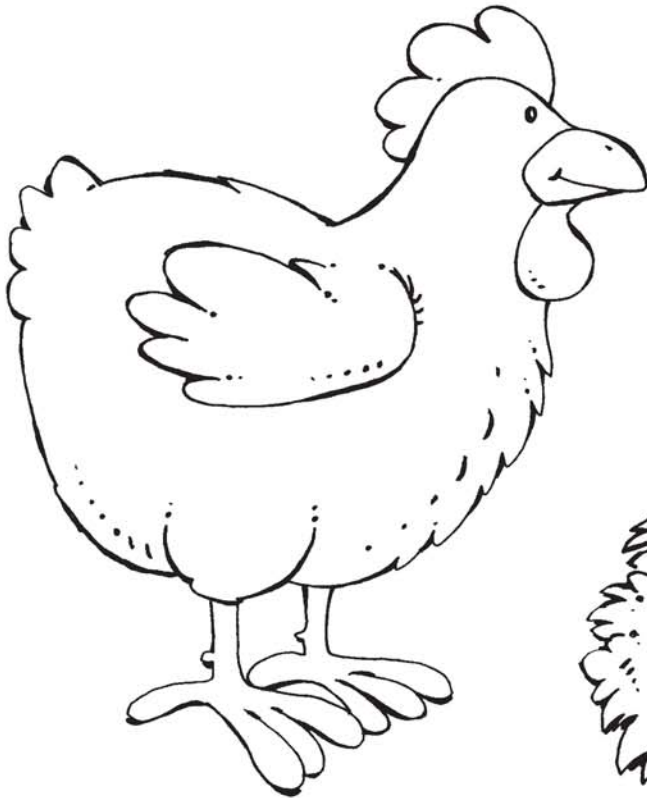
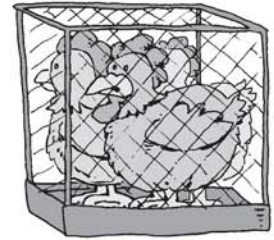
On small, family farms, chickens are free to build nests and take care of their eggs. They are called **free-range** chickens. That means they are free to roam around the farm.

Hens are *egg-cellent* moms! They turn their eggs as many as five times an hour. They need to make sure the eggs don't get too hot or too cold. They watch over their eggs closely to keep them safe.

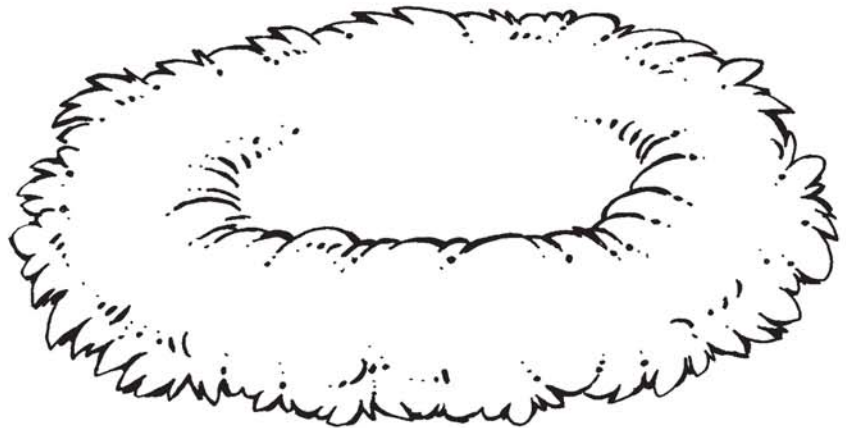
On most big farms, mother hens are

not allowed to take care of their eggs. Sadly, they can't even build nests. They have to live crowded together in tiny cages with crooked floors. As soon as a hen lays her eggs, the eggs roll down the floor. Then they are taken away.

Ask your family to look for **free-range** eggs at the store. Read the carton.



This mother hen lives on a family farm. Draw three eggs in her nest. Then color in the picture.



Let's move ahead three weeks. The eggs are hatching! Draw a hen with her baby chicks.