

ChickQUEST

21-DAY CALENDAR

A Classroom Journey
Through the Life Cycle
of Chickens

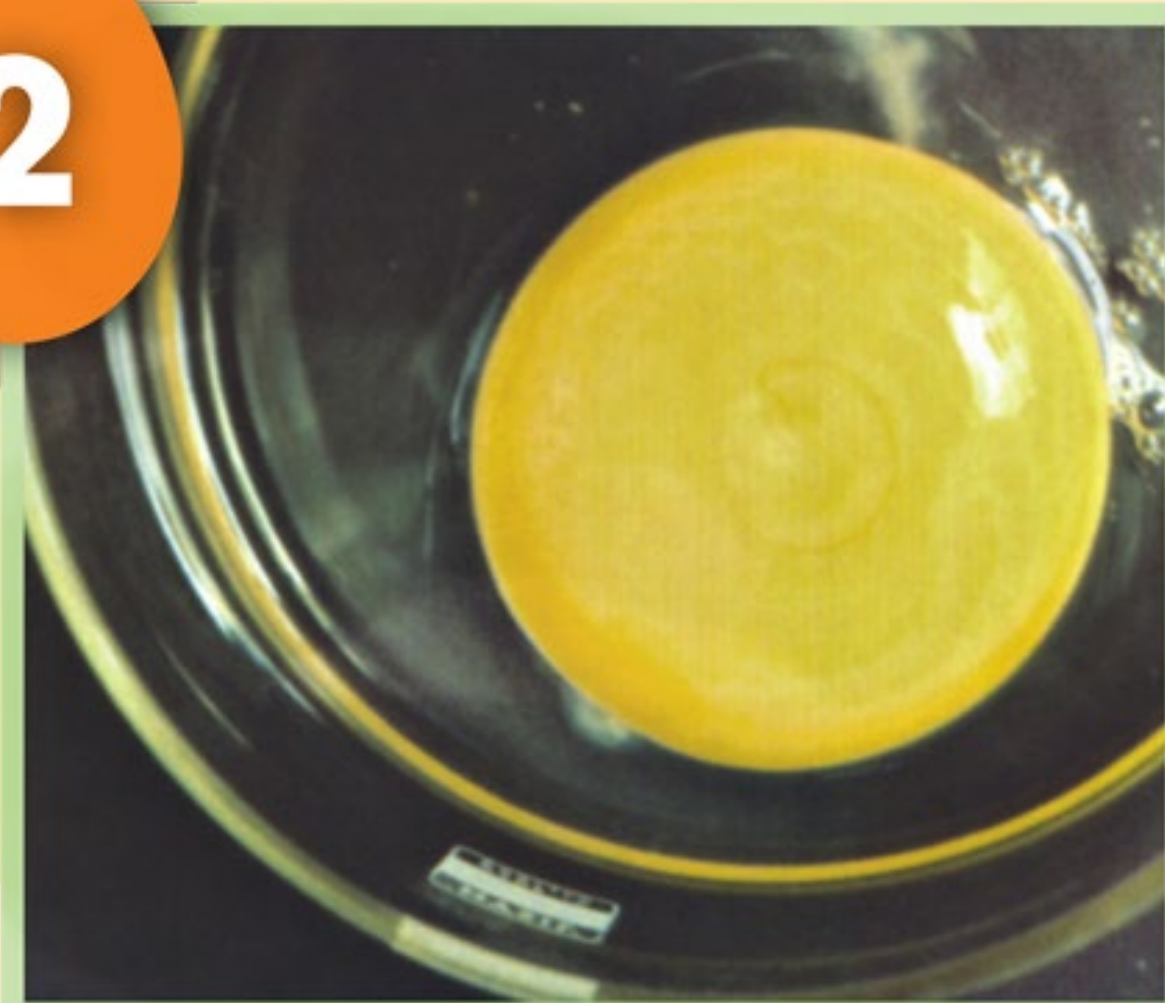


1

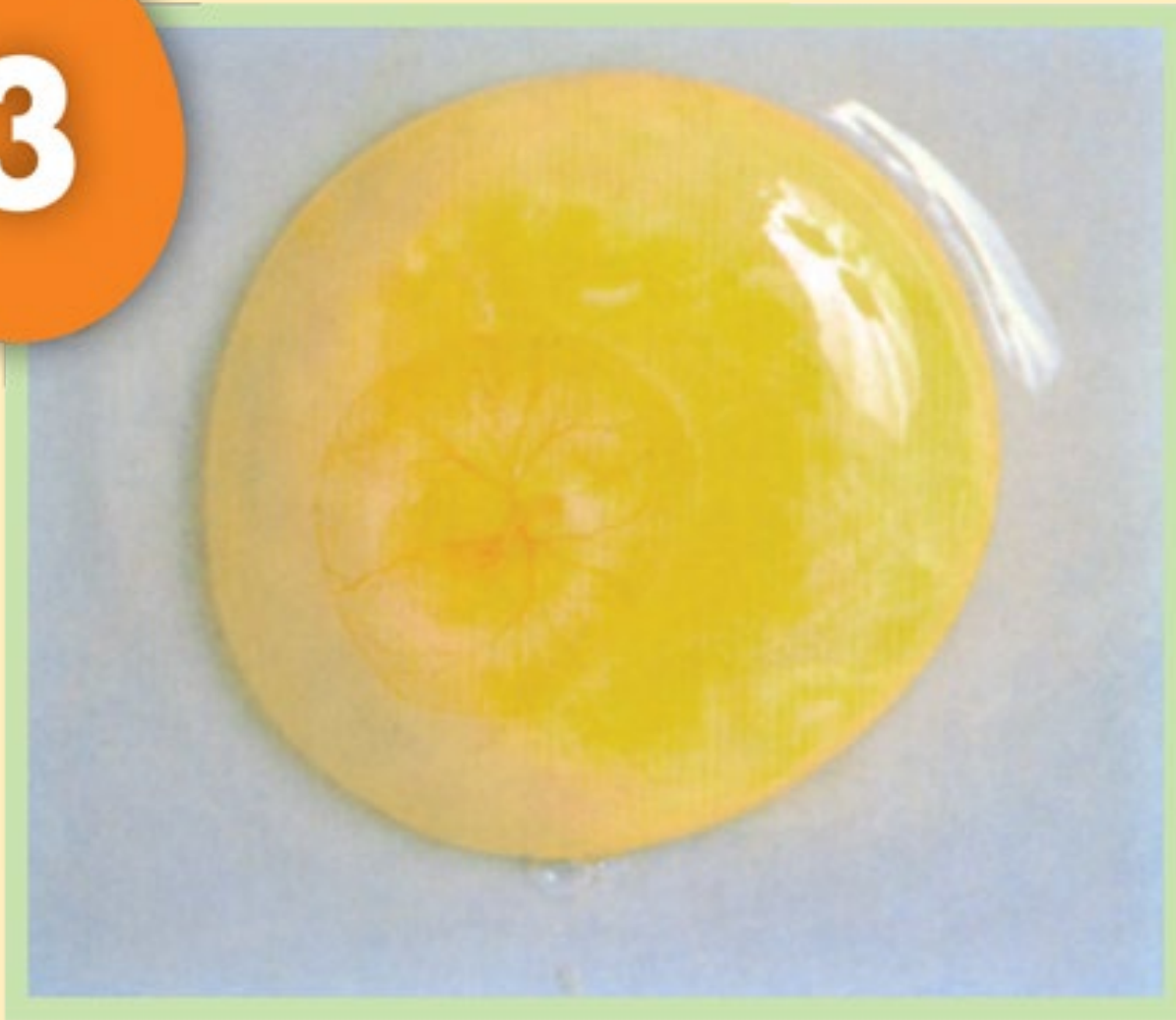


Look for the donut shape. Embryo is starting to develop.

2



Fine red lines are blood vessels, the start of the circulatory system.

3

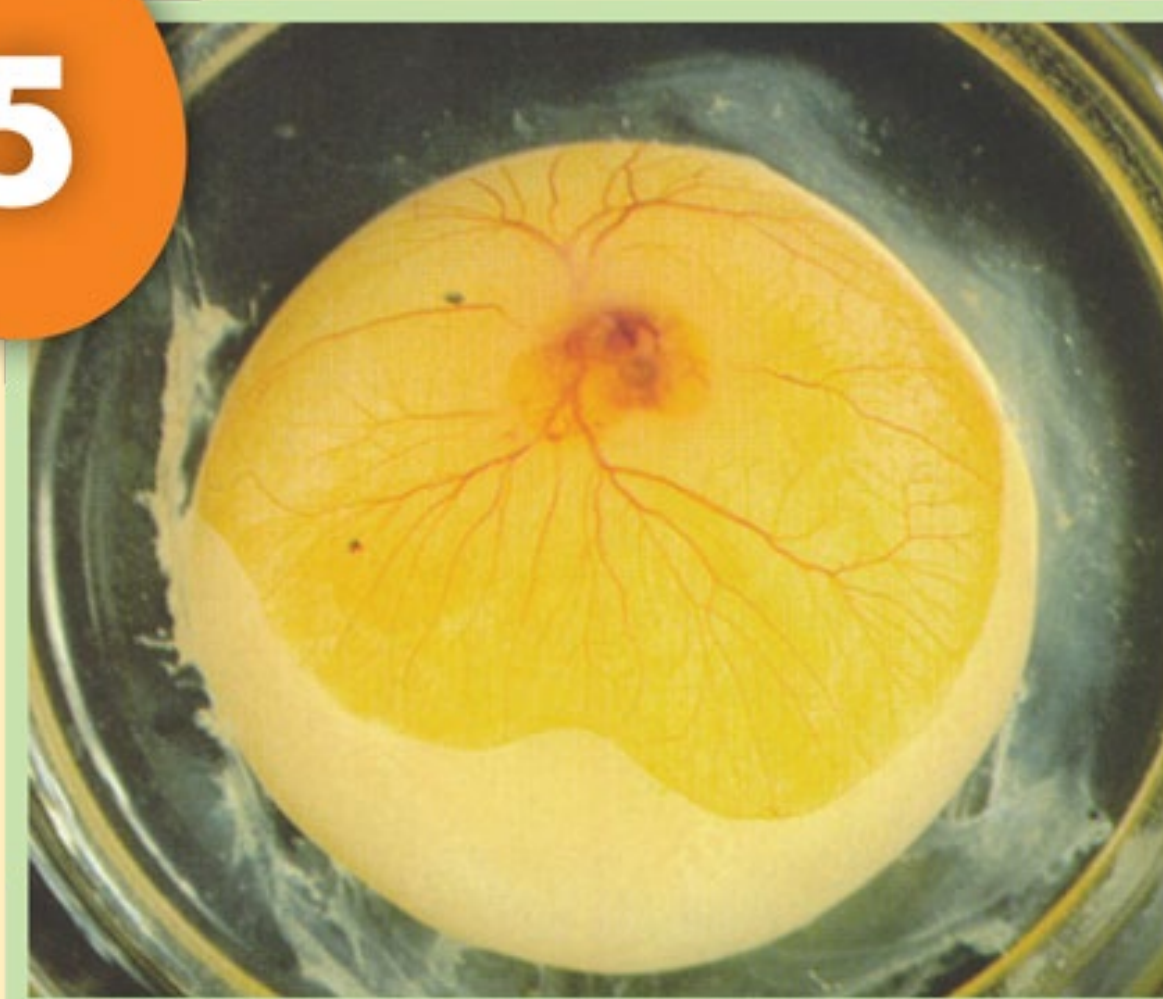
Heart begins to beat. Blood vessels are easily seen.

4



Brain divides into three parts. Both eyes are visible.

5



Limbs and tail begin to form. Embryo looks like the letter C.

6



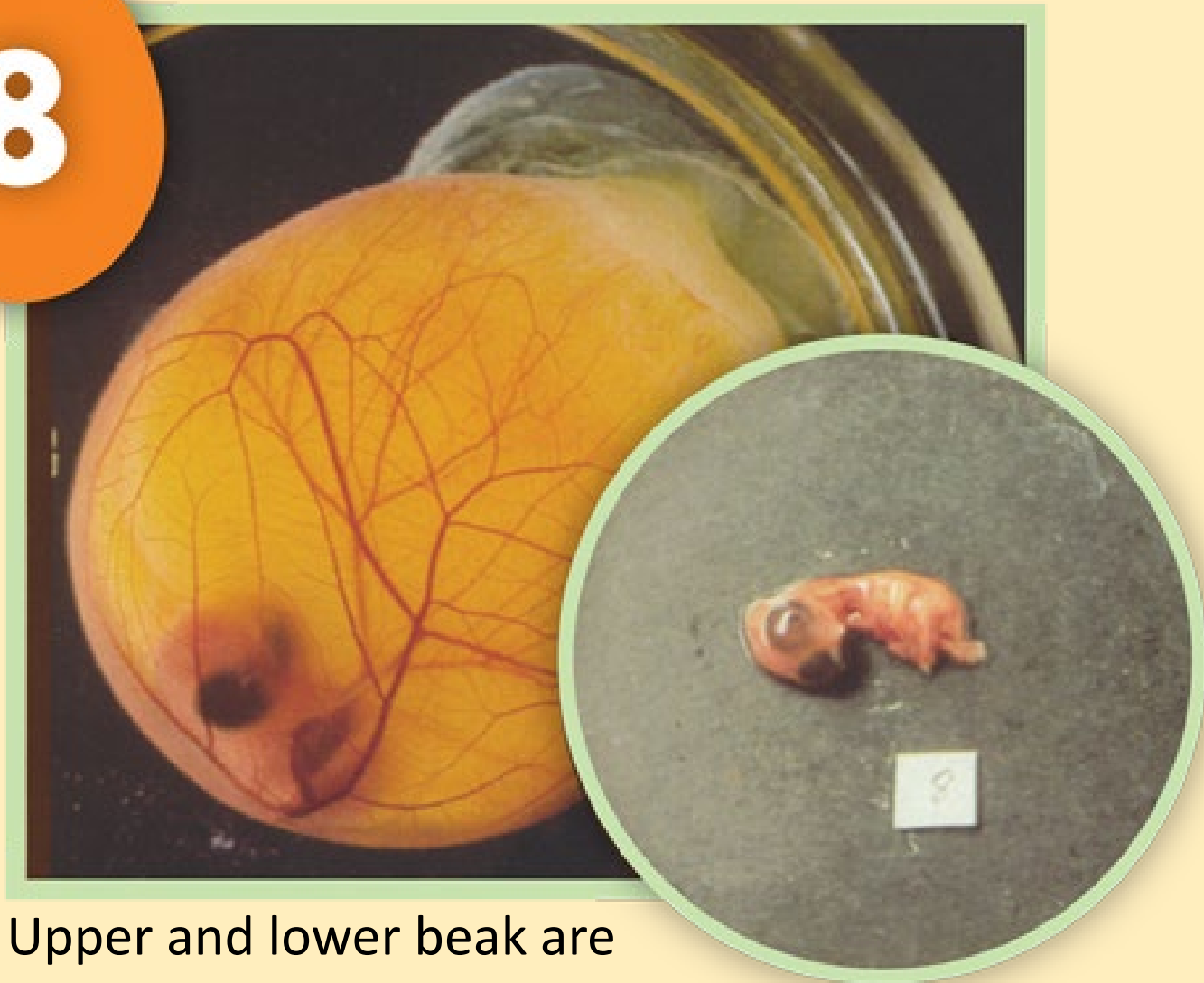
Heart, brain, and eyes are prominent. Beak appears. Voluntary movement begins.

7



Egg tooth appears at tip of beak. Comb growth begins.

8



Upper and lower beak are equal in length. Wings and legs are easy to see. Neck is longer.

9



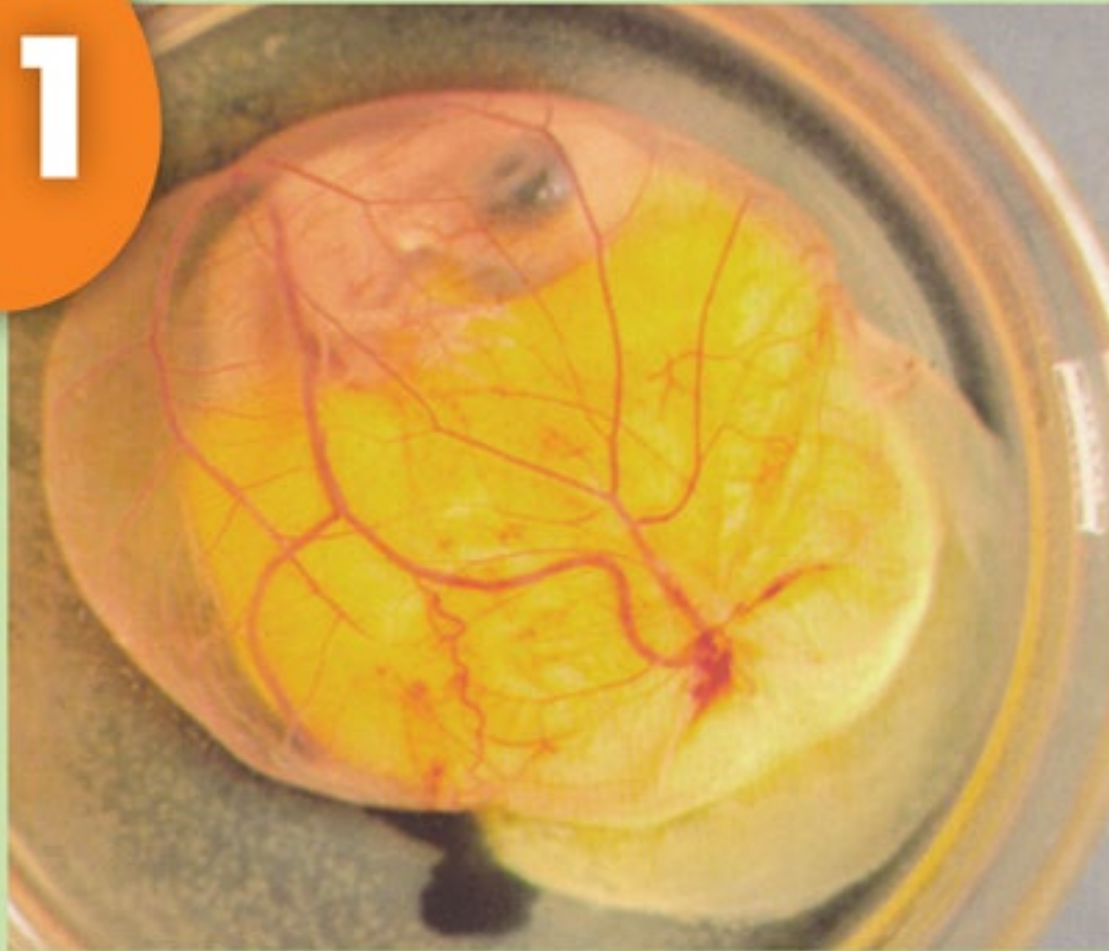
Toes and feathers begin to form. Mouth opening appears.

10



Egg tooth forms at tip of the upper beak. Down feathers appear.

11



Eyelids grow over eyes. Tail feathers appear.

12



Ear opening can be seen.
Toes are fully formed. Down feathers appear
on neck, thighs, and wings.

13



Toenails and leg scales form as embryo continues to grow.



14



Embryo turns head toward wider end of egg. Down feathers cover body.

15



There is little change in appearance. The down is increasing in size.



16



Embryo grows rapidly and prepares to hatch. Albumen has been absorbed. Yolk continues to provide nutrients.



17



The air cell is getting longer. The beak under the wing points toward the air cell.



18



The chick is preparing to hatch. The remaining yolk is absorbed through the navel.

19



Beak pips into the air cell and chick begins to breath.



20



Yolk has been absorbed. Embryo becomes a chick, breathing in the air cell. Pipping begins.



21



Using its pipping beak as a hammer, the chick breaks the shell and enlarges the opening. Now it can breathe fresh air and continue freeing itself.



4-H 167P 21-Day Calendar

www.4Hchickquest.org

Copyright © 2009, Ohio State University Extension

Photographs courtesy of University of Guelph Department of Animal and Poultry Science. Image of the hatched chick is from Big Stock Photo.

Paper copies of this poster and other Ohio State University Extension, 4-H Youth Development publications are available through local OSU Extension offices and online at extensionpubs.osu.edu. Ohio residents get the best price when they order and pick up their purchases through local Extension offices.