

CHICK, HEN, AND ROOSTER ANATOMY

Focus Lesson: Chick, Hen, and Rooster Anatomy

Materials:

Flash cards for students
Large paper for 3 column chart
Markers
Colored pencils
Books in Reading List.

Time: 1 hour

Common Core Standards:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.2.1

Ask and answer such questions as *who*, *what*, *where*, *when*, *why*, and *how* to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.2.7

Explain how specific images (e.g., a diagram showing how a machine works) contribute to and clarify a text.

Thinking Skill:

Compare/Contrast

Objective:

Students will compare and contrast the different anatomies of chicks, hens, and roosters, and discuss why we need all three forms of chicken.

Connection:

Ask students about experiences they've had with children who are younger than them. What makes a baby different from you? They are smaller, they can't talk the same way, they are developing. Are you going to have the same set of teeth forever? No, you will lose these teeth and grow new ones (some of you may have already started this process!)

What experiences have you had with young animals? Has anyone owned a puppy? When an animal is born, it looks different than its parents.

Today, we're going to be studying the differences between chicks, hens, and roosters. Chicks, hens, and roosters are all chickens, but there are certain characteristics that help us tell them apart.

Explicit Instruction:

Teacher presents pages from *Chicks and Chickens* by Gail Gibbons. If possible, students should have their own copies of the books. Alternatively, project these images for larger display.

Ask students for initial observations. "What do you see?" "Where are these animals?" "What is the purpose of this image? Why do you think the author included it in the book?"

"Adult chickens are called hens and roosters. They are drawn and labeled with different parts of their bodies. In the corner is a chick, or baby chicken. Chicks, hens, and roosters are the same in many ways, but they are also different. We will be exploring those differences today."

Begin with the Hen diagram, and complete all Hen vocabulary before moving on to Rooster or Chick. Model flash card writing with drawn images for students. (Creating flash cards with both words and images will help different types of learners succeed). On one side, write the vocabulary term. On the opposite side, write a description or definition, and draw a picture.

Guided Practice:

Allow students to begin creating flash cards on their own as teacher walks throughout to offer assistance and guidance.

Ask for student volunteers to show their flash cards for each of the different vocabulary terms. When students are in front of the class, highlight strengths in the cards they've made. This will inform the process of volunteers while also helping guide the practice of other students as they create flashcards. Repeat until all hen vocabulary is complete. Then move on to rooster.

Model the first 2 rooster terms (one different from hen, one the same as hen) for students. This time, students must check to see if they have already completed that term for hen. If so, this is a shared trait between hens and roosters. Put a star (or create your own symbol) on any flashcards shared by hens and roosters.

Independent Practice:

Continue creating flash cards (or starring previously made cards) for the rest of the rooster vocabulary. Then, move onto chicks, creating a new symbol to identify traits present in all 3 organisms.

As students complete this process, show them how to sort their flash cards. Anything shared by all 3 organisms in one pile, just hens and roosters in another, or just possessed by 1 of 3 organisms.

Reflection – Group Share:

Each student should journal 1 or 2 findings from the flash card comparison.

Create a large 3-column table (Chicks, Hens, and Roosters) and record student observations as they respond to the prompts below.

Discuss the following questions

What do all chicks, hens, and roosters have in common?

What are some ways to tell a hen from a rooster?

What are some ways to distinguish a chick from an adult?

Finally, why are roosters, hens, and chicks different from each other? What is the importance of having both hens and roosters?

Reading List:

Chicks and Chickens by Gail Gibbons

Teacher Note: Additional resource on chicken anatomy would be useful.