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From their feathery appearance, let's hop over to the topic of what hens munch on. Hens eat a variety of things including grains, seeds, vegetables and even small bugs! They are also known to peck at the ground in search of tasty morsels hidden in the soil. This healthy diet helps them to produce the eggs that we humans enjoy.

Speaking of eggs, it's time to crack open the life cycle of these fascinating creatures. The life of a hen begins as an egg, which after being incubated for about 21 days, hatches into a cute little chick. These chicks grow rapidly and within five months, they are grown hens laying eggs of their own. Hens can live for several years, and they continue to lay eggs for most of their lives.



Eggs are a big part of why humans and hens have such a cluck-tastic relationship! Humans have been keeping hens for thousands of years, not just for their eggs, but also for their meat. Hens have also been known to form bonds with humans, recognizing their faces and voices. So, whether they're providing breakfast or being our feathery friends, hens sure are egg-ceptional animals!



**Solve each problem.**

**Use the article to answer the question.**

- 1) What are the bodies of hens covered in?  
A. Spikes  
B. Feathers  
C. Fur  
D. Scales
- 2) Why do hens peck at the ground?  
A. To dull their beak  
B. They are looking for rocks  
C. They are digging holes to bury their eggs  
D. They are searching for food
- 3) Which is NOT something hens usually eat?  
A. Vegetables  
B. Seeds  
C. Grains  
D. Soil
- 4) Where can hens be commonly found?  
A. In the forest  
B. On farms  
C. In the desert  
D. In the ocean
- 5) Can hens recognize human faces and voices?  
A. They can recognize faces but not voices  
B. They can recognize voices but not faces  
C. No  
D. Yes
- 6) What is the piece of flesh on top of hens' heads called?  
A. Crest  
B. Crumb  
C. Crown  
D. Comb
- 7) How long does it take for a hen's egg to hatch?  
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C. About 1 day  
D. About 7 days
- 8) How soon can hens start laying eggs of their own?  
A. Within two months  
B. Within one month  
C. Within five months  
D. Within one year
- 9) For how long do hens live?  
A. Several years  
B. Up to 50 years  
C. About 6 months  
D. Only 1 year
- 10) How long can hens continue to lay eggs?  
A. For most of their lives  
B. For one year only  
C. For two years only  
D. They only lay eggs once

**Determine if the statements is something the animal would say (W) or it it is not something the animal would say (N).**

- 11) "I started laying eggs the moment I was born."



- 12) "I'm considered fully grown after only 5 months."
- 13) "When I go about my day, I also enjoy eating little bugs hidden in the soil."
- 14) "Did you know we form bonds with humans? We recognize their faces and voices."
- 15) "To keep myself nourished, I enjoy munching on grains, seeds, veggies, and at times even tiny bugs."
- 16) "I don't like to eat bugs."
- 17) "I stop laying eggs early in my life."
- 18) "The red thing on my head, called a comb, helps me stay cool in hot weather."
- 19) "All of us hens look exactly the same, shapes and colors."
- 20) "I refuse to eat vegetables."
- 21) "It only takes me 21 days to go from an egg to a chick."
- 22) "I cannot recognize human faces, my eyes and memory are bad."
- 23) "You can find us hens all over the world, we live on almost every farm!"
- 24) "My body is covered in feathers!"
- 25) "I grew into an adult hen in just a few weeks."
- 26) "Did you know some of us are small while others are big and fluffy!"
- 27) "Humans have been keeping up hens for centuries."
- 28) "We hens are completely bald and have no feathers at all."
- 29) "I don't produce eggs, you're thinking of chickens."

**Determine if the statement is a fact or opinion based on the information in the article.**

- 30) It takes about 21 days for a hen's egg to hatch into a little chick.
- 31) Hens are the best animals to have on a farm.
- 32) Hens have a diet which includes things like grains, seeds, vegetables, and even small bugs.
- 33) Hens are better pets than cats or dogs because they can lay eggs.
- 34) Hens, which are female chickens, are animals we commonly see on farms.
- 35) The best thing about hens is that they are friendly towards humans.
- 36) Hens have the ability to recognize human faces and voices.
- 37) The thing on top of a hen's head, usually red or pink, is called a comb.
- 38) The best part about hens is their fluffy feathers.
- 39) Small bantam hens are cuter than the larger ones.

**Determine if the statement is true or false.**

- 40) Hen eggs take about 3 weeks to incubate.
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- 44) One of the foods that hens eat are small bugs.
- 45) Hens diet consists of only seeds.



- 46) Hens in captivity can live for up to 50 years.
- 47) Hens lay eggs within the first month of their lives.
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**Determine if the sentence is a declarative(d), exclamatory(e), interrogative(i) or imperative(m).**

- 50) Hens like to scratch the ground with their feet to find food.
- 51) It's astonishing; a hen can live for 5 to 10 years if kept healthy!
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- 54) It's fantastic that hens sleep most of the time, they only lay eggs during the day!
- 55) Hens come in many different colors, such as brown, white, and black.
- 56) How long do hens live?
- 57) A hen can lay over 200 eggs a year, imagine the number of omelettes you can make!
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|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____  | 26. _____ | 51. _____ |
| 2. _____  | 27. _____ | 52. _____ |
| 3. _____  | 28. _____ | 53. _____ |
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- |                  |                        |                          |
|------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. <u>B</u>      | 26. <u>true</u>        | 51. <u>exclamatory</u>   |
| 2. <u>D</u>      | 27. <u>true</u>        | 52. <u>exclamatory</u>   |
| 3. <u>D</u>      | 28. <u>false</u>       | 53. <u>exclamatory</u>   |
| 4. <u>B</u>      | 29. <u>false</u>       | 54. <u>exclamatory</u>   |
| 5. <u>D</u>      | 30. <u>fact</u>        | 55. <u>declarative</u>   |
| 6. <u>D</u>      | 31. <u>opinion</u>     | 56. <u>interrogative</u> |
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| 18. <u>true</u>  | 43. <u>false</u>       |                          |
| 19. <u>false</u> | 44. <u>true</u>        |                          |
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| 25. <u>false</u> | 50. <u>declarative</u> |                          |



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