

Chicken



Vertebrate - has a backbone

Bird - covered in feathers, lays hard eggs on land, warm blooded, has lungs, has wings.

Habitat

Now domesticated, the chicken has been bred from wild Red Jungle Fowl, which lives in Asian jungles.



Where



Diet

OMNIVORE

Eats seeds, fruit, insects, worms and small mice.

Protection from predators

Jungle Fowl are camouflaged to blend in with their surroundings and some domestic chickens still have similar colours. They can fly short distances to escape predators and prefer to roost (sleep) in trees, where it is safer. Leopard cats are top predators of Jungle Fowl, and in the UK, foxes will eat chickens.



Behaviour

Jungle fowl and chickens prefer to be active at dawn and dusk: they are

Crepuscular

Chickens forage for their food, like their wild counterparts. They use their feet to uncover food and their beaks to pick it up. They also use their beaks to preen their feathers.

Interesting facts

There are over 25 billion chickens in the world, compared to around 7 billion people!

Chickens know who's boss: they work out a 'pecking order' within their social group.

Chickens can recognise and remember over 100 faces of people or animals.



A male chicken is called a cockerel, a female is called a hen and the babies are called chicks.

You can tell the colour of a chicken's eggs by its earlobes! (Red earlobes = brown eggs; white earlobes = white eggs)

[Discover the chicken's family tree](#)

[Make a hatching chick](#)