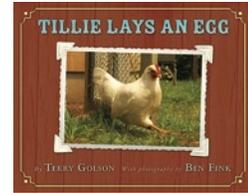


Teachers Page for
Tillie Lays an Egg
by Terry Golson
(Scholastic, 2009)



Concepts learned while reading

1. Days of the week.
2. Counting—for the littlest ones, simply count the eggs or the chickens. Older children can count every chicken image they see on the page.

Activities to do after reading

1. Watch the animals on the HenCam! <http://www.HenCam.com/>
2. Have each child draw a picture of a chicken. There are many breeds of chickens. Some examples are in *Tillie Lays an Egg*. Go to the hens' bio page at <http://www.HenCam.com/henbios.htm>. I list the breed of each hen seen in the book. Note that different breeds not only have a variety of feather colors, but also legs can be white, yellow, black, red or brown. Combs can be big, little, or not there at all. Let the children get creative!
3. Give names to your flock—one of the fun things about having chickens is coming up with names. Some people name their hens after famous women, like Eleanor Roosevelt and Betsy Ross. Others name them after favorite book characters, or spices, or breakfast cereals. Have fun!
4. Write/draw/discuss the next Tillie adventure. Will she go to a fair? Your school? What silly place will she lay her egg?
5. Create a Venn diagram that compares Tillie and the other hens.
6. Have a book nook with chicken books (see my favorite chicken books at <http://www.chickenkeeping.com/fun.htm>)
7. Older kids can make use of the informational pages at <http://nationalzoo.si.edu/Animals/KidsFarm/InTheBarn/Chickens/default.cfm> and [http://www.ces.purdue.edu/CES/Marion/4HSchoolEnrichment/whats inside booklet.pdf](http://www.ces.purdue.edu/CES/Marion/4HSchoolEnrichment/whats_inside_booklet.pdf)
8. Hatch your own chicks!

Ways to use HenCam in the classroom

1. Watch the animals on the HenCam. <http://www.HenCam.com/>
2. Turn HenCam into a science station. Have children write down observations about what the animals are doing. How often do they eat, sleep, and rest? What else do they do?
3. Do the animals behave differently when the weather changes? What happens when it is wet? Cold? Dark? Sunny?
4. Preschoolers can learn to keep a chart. Keep a list of the different hens. Each time a child sees a hen on the screen, they can mark the chart, or mark it each time a hen is seen eating, or in a nesting box.
5. Classrooms that do a hatching program usually give the chicks away before they feather out and become adults. The HenCam is a way to introduce mature chickens to the students.

Fun craft projects and other things

1. Make a chicken mask. Glue on feathers.
2. Make a yellow chicken crown. Glue on cutouts of eggs, chicks. Add feathers.
3. Do the chicken dance. Here is the dance on The Lawrence Welk Show <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6UV3kRV46Zs>
4. Make a chicken “purse” from a plate. <http://www.freepreschoolcrafts.com/easter-chick-purse-from-paper-plate/>

I welcome your ideas! Please email me at terry@terrygolson.com

I do school and library visits!

I also have a presentation on backyard chicken keeping suitable for nature centers and organizations.

Terry Golson