

**Title:** History of keeping chickens

**Subject Area:** History

**Key Stage 2**

**NC link:** 2a, 1a,

**Learning Objective:**

- Children look at how the keeping of chickens has evolved over time.
- Children consider how chickens originated in Asia.
- Children discuss and evaluate Why has keeping chickens been so popular in the past? And why is chicken keeping so popular today?
- Children record their ideas and present them to the class.

**Resources:**

- Photocopies of the sheet 'History of chickens' for each child.
- Map to illustrate the spread of chickens.

**Starter**

Talk through the timeline for the History of keeping chickens, perhaps with a map to illustrate how chickens spread.

Now Chickens are the most common bird in the world. The population in 2003 was 24 billion, according to the *Firefly Encyclopedia of Birds*.

Compare this with the world population of around 6.5 billion people.

**Main Teaching Activity:**

In pairs allow children to discuss the two questions;

- Why has keeping chickens been so popular in the past?
- Why is chicken keeping so popular today?

Individually encourage them to record their ideas on the sheet.

**Plenary**

Discuss ideas including:

- Keeping chickens in the past; chicken is a small enough animal to eat in one sitting, no need to waste food due to it going off (no fridges).
- Keeping chickens today; health and empathy issues.

**Differentiation,**

As a challenge, give children extra space to extend their ideas. To make it easier for weaker children allow bullet points.

# History of chickens



Wild chickens are thought to have their origins in Thailand, South-east Asia. They are believed to have descended from the wild Asian Red Jungle fowl.

7000 BC

7000bc

In around 7000bc they were domesticated (tamed).

5000 BC

5000 bc

People in China are also keeping chickens (they had got them from Thailand). The Chinese ate the chickens and they also ate their eggs.

3000 BC

3000bc

Chickens spread to India.

2500 BC

2500bc

Chickens are spreading to West Asia and Africa. Chickens were kept by the Egyptians, there have been chicken bones found in tombs from the Old Kingdom. About this time chickens were also kept in Europe.

Chickens have been very popular ever since; the Romans loved them, the Victorians kept them and chickens/eggs are still one of the staple food in Britain today.

Write below why you think that keeping chickens have been so popular in the past.

Now write why you think that keeping chickens is popular today.